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PUEBLO BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSIONERS’ MESSAGE

Pueblo County Commissioners are responsible for balancing a budget of more than $200-million. Commissioner Garrison Ortiz, Chairman of the Board, along with Commissioner Chris Wiseman, Chair Pro-tem, and Commissioner Eppie Griego work hard to adhere to the highest level of transparency in government for Pueblo County employees and taxpayers.

Pueblo County Commissioner Garrison Ortiz was sworn into his second 4-year term on January 12, 2021. He was named Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners on January 8, 2019. Commissioner Ortiz represents Pueblo County on several boards and commissions, as well as creating and serving on the Pueblo County Jail Task Force and City-County Trash Task Force. In 2017, he was named Outstanding Professional of the Year by the Latino Chamber of Commerce, received the Pueblo County Sheriff’s Commendation for Outstanding Service, Dedication and Professionalism, and was named the Top 25 Most Influential Young Professionals in Colorado Business in 2018. In 2019, he was a recipient of the 40 Under 40 Emerging Leaders by the Latino Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner Chris Wiseman was sworn into his first four-year term on January 8, 2019. Commissioner Wiseman has extensive experience in government work. Wiseman was a longtime general manager for the Colorado State Fair. He also served as Colorado’s Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture. Commissioner Wiseman looks forward to ensuring that everyone in Pueblo County finds a job that pays a good livable wage. Commissioner Wiseman is looking forward to improving roads and infrastructure within our community, as well as working to maintain Pueblo County facilities and keep them up to date.

Commissioner Eppie Griego was sworn into his first 4-year term on January 12, 2021. Commissioner Griego is a lifelong Pueblo resident who is hard working family man who continues to fight for the best interest of all Pueblo County residents. As a dedicated public servant, Commissioner Griego served on the Pueblo County Planning and Zoning Commission for 11 years, most recently as the Commission’s Chair. Commissioner Griego is excited to serve his hometown as we enter a crucial phase in economic recovery and development. Griego continues to make Pueblo a great place to raise, educate, and grow a family.

Pueblo Board of County Commissioner (BOCC) meetings are open to the public and are held in-person and virtually every Tuesday and Thursday at 9 a.m. at the Pueblo County Courthouse, located at 215 W. 10th Street in downtown Pueblo. The meetings are streamed live on the County’s Facebook page facebook.com/PuebloCounty. Public comment is accepted during BOCC meetings. Public comments are limited to 3-minutes per speaker. Written public comment is accepted and will be read allowed by the County’s Public Information Officer if citizens are not able to attend BOCC meetings. Public comment should be emailed to uhernik@pueblocounty.us 24 hours prior to the meeting.

We encourage you to explore http://county.pueblo.org, as well as this booklet to learn more about Pueblo County government, our community and the programs and services we offer. Please remember you can access all public documents, meeting agendas, minutes and more online. If you have any questions about our community or the services we provide, feel free to call the main switchboard at 719-583-6000 to be directed to the appropriate department, or email us at citizensupport@pueblocounty.us.
Pueblo County is governed by the Pueblo County Board of Commissioners, who are elected by the voters to represent Pueblo County. The board serves as the administrative and policy-setting authority of Pueblo County and provides services outlined in the Constitution of the State of Colorado, including approving an annual balanced budget, overseeing the provision of government services, land use management, engineering, fleet, housing and human services, and veterans.
ELECTED OFFICIALS

FRANK BELTRAN  |  ASSESSOR
beltran@pueblocounty.us  |  719-583-6597
The Assessor values all real and personal property within Pueblo County for tax purposes and gathers and maintains all property records in Pueblo County such as ownership, legals and lot sizes.

GILBERT “BO” ORTIZ  |  CLERK & RECORDER
ortiz@pueblocounty.us  |  719-583-6507
The Clerk and Recorder is responsible for recording deeds, registering automobiles, issuing marriage licenses, registering voters, administering elections, and maintaining records for the Board of County Commissioners.

BRIAN COTTER  |  CORONER
cotterb@pueblocounty.us  |  719-583-4673
The Pueblo County Coroner’s Office conducts specialized death investigation, toxic chemical and HAZMAT training. Death notifications are made in person unless out of area mutual aid is required.

KIRK TAYLOR  |  PUEBLO COUNTY SHERIFF
taylork@pueblocounty.us  |  719-583-6125
The Pueblo County Sheriff’s Office is composed of professionals whose commitment is to control crime, problem solve, reduce the perception of fear, and ultimately improve the quality of life by working in a partnership with its citizens.

RANDY REEVES  |  SURVEYOR
reevers@pueblocounty.us  |  719-253-0874
The Surveyor conducts surveys of county boundaries, accepts maps of surveys within the county for filing, and examines all maps and plats before recording with the County Clerk and Recorder.

DEL OLIVAS  |  TREASURER
olivasd@pueblocounty.us  |  719-583-6015
The Treasurer’s Office is responsible for the collection of all real estate, personal property, manufactured housing, and state assessed taxes. The Treasurer is also the custodian of all county funds.

JEFF CHOSTNER  |  DISTRICT ATTORNEY
chostner@pueblocounty.us  |  719-583-6030
The Tenth Judicial District Attorney’s Office represents the people’s interests in prosecuting criminal cases, seeking justice for victims, and advocating measures to reduce criminal behavior in Pueblo County.
The County Manager is responsible for implementing policies and priorities set by the Board of County Commissioners, and recommending improved management practices and standards for sound, effective county management. The County Manager is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the county, to include supervision of the department directors, the Economic Development and Geographic Information Systems and 1A Project Manager.

The Budget & Finance Office develops an annual financial plan for Pueblo County, monitors actual performance against budget goals throughout the year, and maintains a governmental accounting and financial reporting system.

Community Corrections offers high level planning and administrative services in the areas of community corrections, alternatives to incarceration and jail overcrowding relief in order to ensure the safety of the citizens of Pueblo County and to ensure that tax dollars are wisely spent.

The County Attorney’s Office provides legal advice and representation to elected officials, county departments, and other agencies when authorized by the Board of County Commissioners. The office handles all civil matters for Pueblo County.

The Fleet Department maintains nearly 300 vehicles, passenger cars, light trucks, vans, light duty utility equipment, and law enforcement vehicles. Fleet also maintains over 250 pieces of heavy equipment trucks and other specialty equipment.

The Department of Human Services provides social, housing and human services, including protective services for children and adults, income maintenance, medical and food assistance to eligible individuals and families and self-sufficiency services to assistance recipients.
Human Resources provides personnel and benefits services to county employees. Services include recruitment, selection and orientation, compensation and benefits, position classification, training, employee recognition, and employee related programs.

The CSU-Extension provides assistance and programs for citizens in five main areas including: agriculture, horticulture, family and consumer science, natural resources, and 4-H youth programs.

The IT Department provides technology tools and services that directly support and augment the services delivery of the elected offices and other mandated county functions and duties.

The Planning and Development Department is responsible for current and long range planning activities as well as zoning activities including: liquor and marijuana licensing and compliance.

The Purchasing Department establishes consistent, fair, and equitable procedures within Pueblo County. The department is mandated by Colorado state statutes for the Board of County Commissioners.

The Public Works Department is responsible for the maintenance and improvement of the county’s transportation infrastructure, parks, buildings, grounds, and facilities.

The Retirement Department assures the steady and healthy growth of retirement funds, which in turn provides income to retiring county employees.

The Public Information Department works directly with the County Commissioners to convey specific messages to the public via social media and the press. The PIO coordinates all press conferences for Pueblo County Government and the Commissioners.
OpenGov brings transparency to how taxpayer dollars are spent by transforming complex financial data into an interactive, digital format that the public can view very easily online. The tool gives constituents the same financial information Pueblo County government leaders use when making decisions. Users can explore and compare data without having to pull report after report. One of the benefits of the online information is that it is quick to use and users are able to get answers to their questions within minutes by analyzing any line item they would like. Tax payers can also create their own Pueblo County budget and go through the process of balancing a budget.

With OpenGov, county employees spend 75% less time on monthly reporting. Staff can now quickly dive into the details to find a specific answer without having to run multiple reports to get the information. There is better data from which to base initial department budgets. OpenGov is very helpful in identifying where trends have been, and how to estimate future years. It’s very quick to look at trends and make comparisons between line items and between departments to see where the county needs to focus financial energies. It has helped department heads not only better understand their own financial statements, but it has led them to be more interested in looking at the numbers and tracking their own budgets in real time.

WWW.COUNTY.PUEBLO.ORG/GOVERNMENT/COUNTY/DEPARTMENT/BUDGET-FINANCE/OPENGOV

BUDGET & FINANCE

Pueblo County’s Budget & Finance Office works with the county’s elected officials and department directors to develop an annual financial plan for Pueblo County. The Budget and Finance Office monitors actual performance against budget goals throughout the year and maintains a governmental accounting and financial reporting system.

The annual financial plan depicts and measures anticipated revenues and expenditures in order to support the county’s objectives, maintain financial stability and comply with statutory requirements. Throughout the year, accurate, useful and timely financial information is made available to both external users and internal management. The office also maintains an adequate system of internal controls to protect the county’s assets and to monitor the receipt and disbursement of public funds in compliance with statutory requirements.

2022 BUDGET TIMELINE

BUDGET & FINANCE OFFICE WORKS TO FINALIZE 2020 FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND TO PREPARE THE COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT, WHICH IDENTIFIES AVAILABLE RESERVES GOING FORWARD.

JANUARY THROUGH AUGUST 2021

JANUARY  FEBRUARY  MARCH  APRIL  MAY  JUNE

JUNE 14, 2021
PUEBLO COUNTY RECEIVES $9,937,094 IN APRA FUNDS
Pueblo County adopted a balanced budget totaling $386-million for 2021. The large increase over previous years mostly relates to ARPA funding and anticipated capital projects. The budget is supported by $116-million in Property, Sales and Specific Ownership taxes which assist in the operations of most departments and programs. $95-million in state and federal dollars will go mostly toward social programs assisting underprivileged residents of the community. $15-million in other revenues are for fees and other direct charges that assist in funding specific programs. $146-million will be supported by anticipated debt issuances for the jail and Joe Martinez Blvd projects as well as 1A voter approved projects.

BALANCED BUDGET
To view the full 2022 Pueblo County Budget, go to:

HTTP://COUNTY.PUEBLO.ORG/GOVERNMENT/COUNTY/DEPARTMENT/COUNTY-BUDGET
MARIJUANA TAX DEFINITIONS

PUEBLO COUNTY 6-PERCENT SALES TAX

Pueblo County charges a 6-percent sales tax on retail marijuana purchases. The tax is collected by the retailer at the time of sale and is paid to Pueblo County by the retailer. Pursuant to ballot issue 1B passed by the voters the collection of marijuana retail sales tax increased from 3.5% to 6%. The county collects the City of Pueblo’s share of the revenue. Under a new agreement the City of Pueblo allows the County to keep a portion of their sales tax. The money is kept outside of the general fund for public safety initiatives.

15% ALLOCATION OF STATE OF COLORADO 10% TAX

Colorado charges a 15% sales tax on retail marijuana purchases. The tax is collected by the retailer at the time of sale and is paid to the State of Colorado by the retailer. The State of Colorado, on a monthly basis, shares back 10% of the state’s 15% sales tax to local governments.

The share each local government receives is based on the percentage of total statewide retail marijuana sales occurring within its borders.

1% STATE COLLECTED MEDICAL & RETAIL MARIJUANA SALES TAX

Pueblo County levies a 1% general sales tax (not specific to marijuana) which is collected by the state on its behalf. Because medical and retail marijuana are sold within Pueblo County, the sales are subject to the general 1% sales tax, just like a pair of jeans or a new TV.

PUEBLO COUNTY MARIJUANA EXCISE TAX

Excise tax is collected on the first sale of wholesale retail marijuana that is grown in Pueblo County. The tax is paid by the retail marijuana grower to Pueblo County on a monthly basis. Pueblo County started collecting excise tax on the first sale of wholesale retail marijuana that is grown in Pueblo County. The rate in 2022 is 5%.

CONSUMER

SALES TAX

PUEBLO COUNTY 6%
STATE 5%
(COUNTY GETS 10% SHARE)
GENERAL COUNTY SALES TAX 1%

NO TAX

FIRST TRANSFER EXCISE TAX

PUEBLO COUNTY 5%
STATE 15% (NO COUNTY SHARE)
PUEBLO WEST/CO. CITY 4%

FIRST TRANSFER EXCISE TAX

PUEBLO COUNTY 5%
STATE 15%
PUEBLO WEST 3%
CO. CITY 5%

FIRST TRANSFER EXCISE TAX

PUEBLO COUNTY 5%
PUEBLO WEST/CO. CITY 4%

DISPENSARIES

MARIJUANA INFUSED PRODUCTS

CULTIVATOR

8 2022 PUEBLO COUNTY BRIEFING
A marijuana oversight committee was formed to foster a transparent and effective review of the incoming marijuana taxes and how that money will be spent.

**PUEBLO COUNTY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

In 2021, Pueblo County awarded an estimated $4.3-million in scholarships to local students using marijuana excise tax money; the largest disbursement in Pueblo County history. In addition, the County paid $450,726 to the Pueblo Hispanic Education Foundation (PHEF), to leverage Pueblo County Scholarship dollars to access grants from the Colorado Department of Higher Education – Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative. State grants added approximately $417,000 to the scholarship fund for local students.

A ballot issue passed in 2015 by Pueblo County voters stipulates the first 50-percent of marijuana excise tax dollars are required to go toward scholarships. The second half must go to capital infrastructure projects. The hope is to serve as many kids as possible through the scholarship program. Students are able to apply for scholarship funds from November through February, and then students apply with the agencies providing scholarships. Candidates are considered for scholarship awards based upon several criteria including: GPA, financial need, essay, and community service.
THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF TAXES COLLECTED FROM MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES IN PUEBLO COUNTY. THESE ARE RETAIL SALES TAX AND AN EXCISE TAX.

SALES TAX

Pueblo County’s retail marijuana sales tax was originally 3.5%. This was raised to 6.0% in 2020. These taxes are based on purchase price and collected from the consumer at the point-of-sale.

Legal obligations of Sales Tax – original 3.5% is used to underwrite salaries of the county employees who work on marijuana business and to pay any administrative costs incurred by this county department. A portion of these taxes are shared with the City of Pueblo for dispensaries located within the city limits.

The additional 2.5%, which the county began collecting in 2020, was designated in the resolution to be set aside for public safety projects. This has been further designated by the Pueblo County Commissioners to pay for renovation of the Pueblo County Jail. Once this project is complete, the county commissioners will fund other public safety related projects. The City of Pueblo has allowed the County to retain 100% of city retail sales tax above 3.5% to be used for public safety projects. The County shares a portion of sales taxes generated in Pueblo West with the Pueblo West Metro District and is reflected as an expense on the left of this page.

Funds are also used to assist in funding the following agencies and projects:
- Medal of Honor Convention
- Gang Alternative Program
- CSU-Pueblo Fountain Creek Study
- SRDA CDOT FTA
- Sangre de Cristo Arts and Conference Center
- Latino Chamber of Commerce
- PEDCO
- Pueblo Zoological Society
- Harp Authority
- Human Relations Commission
- Southern Colorado Harm Reduction Association
- Bessemer Historic Society
- YMCA
- Contribution to Rye Fire Department
- Animal Control
- Pueblo City/County Health Department
- Pueblo West Metropolitan District

2020 GENERAL FUND MARIJUANA RELATED REVENUE

- Medical Licensing Fees | 278,900
- Retail Licensing Fees | 1,325,066
- Application Fees | 10,500
- Licensing Penalties | 136,605
- Retail Marijuana Sales Tax | 2,984,751
- Marijuana Tax State of CO 10% of 15% | 1,230,688

TOTAL | 5,966,510
**EXCISE TAX**

Pueblo County is able to levy, collect and enforce a county excise tax on the first sale, or transfer of unprocessed retail marijuana. The excise tax rate was designed to increase by one percent each year, with an initial 2016 rate of 1% and a final phased-in rate of 5% in 2020 going forward. The 4.0% is calculated based on the contract rate of the product. This means that the tax is collected after harvest when the product is taken to the next phase of its product cycle. This tax is collected at this point even if the grow facility and dispensary are part of the same organization.

Legal obligations of Excise Tax: At least 50% of the collected funds are directly used to fund scholarships for Pueblo County Residents. The remaining 50% has been spent on a series of projects voted on by taxpayers.

Once these projects are complete, Pueblo County Commissioners will determine which projects to fund. The projects must provide a community benefit.

**TAX PAYER VOTED PROJECTS**

- Safe Routes to School – **Completed**
- Pueblo County Marijuana Impact Study
- Passenger Rail Feasibility Study
- Sangre de Cristo Arts and Conference Center – **Planning**
- Golf Carts for Desert Hawk Golf Course – **Completed**
- Zinno Subdivision Water Project
- Beulah School Playground – **Completed**
- State Fairgrounds Streetscape
- River Trail Master Plan Update – **Completed**
- Confluence Park
- Pueblo West Trails to School – **Completed**

**EXCISE TAX COLLECTIONS SINCE 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Tax Rate</th>
<th>Collections</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>359,780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1,164,706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1,987,408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>3,212,217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>5% MAX</td>
<td>6,833,546</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COUNTY OVERVIEW
COMMUNITY PROFILE & DEMOGRAPHICS

1861 DATE OF INCORPORATION
2,398 TOTAL SQUARE MILES
64,314 HOUSEHOLDS
7.0% UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
85.2/100 COST OF LIVING

$164,600 MEDIAN VALUE OF OWNER-OCUPIED HOUSING
$46,783 MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME
$1,247 MEDIAN MONTHLY MORTGAGE
$829 2021 CERTIFIED ASSESSED TAXABLE PROPERTY VALUATION

168,424 TOTAL PUEBLO COUNTY POPULATION
109,412 PUEBLO CITY
31,849 PUEBLO WEST
2,347 COLORADO CITY
1,345 BEULAH
879 BLENDE
708 AVONDALE
572 SALT CREEK
314 VINELAND
268 BOONE
197 RYE

37 MEDIAN AGE
50.7% 49.3%

DATE OF INCORPORATION
TOTAL SQUARE MILES
HOUSEHOLDS
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
COST OF LIVING
MEDIAN VALUE OF OWNER-OCUPIED HOUSING
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME
MEDIAN MONTHLY MORTGAGE
2021 CERTIFIED ASSESSED TAXABLE PROPERTY VALUATION
TOTAL PUEBLO COUNTY POPULATION
PUEBLO CITY
PUEBLO WEST
COLORADO CITY
BEULAH
BLENDE
AVONDALE
SALT CREEK
VINELAND
BOONE
RYE
MEDIAN AGE
50.7% 49.3%

DATA SOURCED FROM CENSUS.GOV V2019

HIGH DESERT CLIMATE
Mild winters with hot/dry summer days and cooler summer nights

ELEVATION 4,692’

AVERAGE SEASONAL TEMPS

47° 66° 91° 68°
16° 35° 57° 36°

300+ DAYS OF SUNSHINE
15” Annual Rainfall
25” Annual Snowfall
91° July High
16° January Low

2022 PUEBLO COUNTY BRIEFING
The Pueblo Means Business initiative is a virtual resource for business permitting in Pueblo and will help make Pueblo the quickest and easiest place in the country to stand up a business. The first floor in the former Wells Fargo Building on W. 8th Street is getting a $1-million makeover and will house all permitting agencies in the area, therefore making it a one-stop-shop for businesses to relocate and easier for anyone who wants to stand up a business.

“When we say we want to bring more jobs and economic development to our community the one thing that all businesses here downtown or spread out across our county have in common is they all go through the front door of business permitting. I think it’s important we recognize that the front door with business permitting—whether it be regional city or county planning and zoning or any permitting entity along the trail, to get a certificate of occupancy all of those entities are bringing economic development and growth and progress to Pueblo County,” said Pueblo County Commissioner Garrison Ortiz, who is leading the effort.

Permitting agencies located inside the former Wells Fargo Building will all work from a single computer permitting module. With an online one-stop-shop for businesses, Pueblo Means Business will be able to assist those looking to start a business with the initiation of building permits regardless of location within Pueblo County. The online shop will also ensure consistent business permitting standards.

“This will be a city-county collaboration that will lead to better services for the citizens of Pueblo County and we can better serve our constituents,” said Commissioner Chris Wiseman.

The initiative is a major recruiting tool. The goal is to have projects permitted on time and on budget. When business leaders look to relocate to Pueblo or start a business those are the two major components they look at, and Pueblo is going to send a message that our community does those two things very well.

“Sending that message nationally will put Pueblo even further on the map concerning economic growth for years to come,” said Ortiz.

The goal is to ensure that Pueblo captures more growth and economic development. The process will make sure the hard work is put in to clean up the business permitting process, make it more efficient & more timely, and in return bring more jobs and more businesses to our community.

“I think it will be a benefit to people who are not familiar with the development process. I think some of the professionals they know how to navigate the ins and outs but some of the residents who haven’t been through this process before that one stop shop will be beneficial to them,” said Pueblo Mayor Nick Gradisar.

The Pueblo Means Business initiative is expected to be up and running in 2022.
In 2016, Pueblo County voters approved Ballot Question 1A, which allowed the county to keep about $66-million in tax revenues in exchange for building a specific list of projects. There are 20 projects in the 1A Community Improvement Program. The “financial spout” for the $66-million will begin to fill county coffers in 2021. The program will not raise taxes on voters. Instead it allows Pueblo to capture expiring tax incentives from Vestas Wind Towers, Black Hills Energy, and Grupos Cementos de Chihuahua of America Inc. Due to rapidly rising construction costs and eagerness to get projects started, in February 2019, Pueblo County Commissioners authorized a $14-million debt issuance to start groundwork for the first round of projects. Commissioners worked hard to structure a responsible financing package. The following projects were funded through the first funding tranche:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>TRANCHE 1 FUNDING</th>
<th>ORIGINAL PROJECT ESTIMATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Charles Mesa Road Improvements</td>
<td>$3,187,541</td>
<td>$5,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HARP Expansion Design</td>
<td>$957,288</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airport Improvements</td>
<td>$280,000</td>
<td>$280,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Minnequa Improvements</td>
<td>$2,500,000</td>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beulah Park Improvements</td>
<td>$120,000</td>
<td>$120,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest Chief Study Plan</td>
<td>$850,000</td>
<td>$7,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado City Community Center</td>
<td>$302,811</td>
<td>$165,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rye Mountain Park</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCulloch Blvd. Widening-Nichols Road</td>
<td>$431,000</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pueblo West Safe Routes to School</td>
<td>$275,000</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Sports Complex Design-Runyon</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>$8,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Street Improvements</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Several rounds of tranche funding will be issued which allows for projects to get underway when they are ready and breaks up bigger projects into manageable phases. A list of all the 1A projects and their descriptions is available at http://county.pueblo.org/1a-projects.

**SOLAR ENERGY**

PSCO and 16 parties, including Pueblo County, the Governor’s Energy Office, Trial Staff of the PUC, Utility Consumer Advocates, the Colorado Office of Just Transitions, Solar Energy Industry, Colorado Oil and Gas, Walmart, the Cities of Boulder, Denver and Pueblo asked the PUC to approve a Settlement Agreement that would close Comanche 3 in December 31, 2034, but would also pay taxes to Pueblo County for an additional 6 years through 2040.

The Settlement adopts the requests made by Pueblo County in testimony submitted to the PUC by Chair Garrison Ortiz. Pueblo County suggested that the tax payments be reduced if PSCO built a replacement zero emissions facility within Pueblo. PSCO has agreed to spend over $680 million dollars on a zero emissions technologically advanced new facility within Pueblo County, upon approval by the PUC.

As a result of the Settlement, Pueblo County can move forward on many of its 1A projects approved by the voters in 2016. Tax Payments from Comanche 3 are used to pay for most of those projects.

PSCO has also agreed to spend up to $2 million dollars to study what innovative technologies will help the Company work toward a 90% emission reduction and which sites within Pueblo could be used.

The Company has committed to filing with the PUC a stand-alone Pueblo Just Transition Plan for Comanche 3 by June 1, 2027 that would provide the details of the type of technology, the location and the investment.

“This is a certainly a step in the right direction in meeting the needs for our community,” said Pueblo County Commissioner Chris Wiseman.

“The fact that PSCO will be spending money on an evaluation for future uses of Comanche 3 fits well into what the county will be doing with its community board,” said Wiseman.

The community board will be made up of people from industry and private citizens that will help develop a document that does a strong evaluation for alternative uses for Comanche 3 as well as other locations in Pueblo County.

“This could be huge for the County and make us a leader in low emissions and or carbon free dispatchable generation,” said Wiseman.

The PUC will conduct hearings on the Settlement starting December 6th and the final decision to accept or reject the settlement rests with them.
The extension of Joe Martinez Boulevard and the construction of a new Net Zero Jail in Pueblo County will be the biggest project in Pueblo County history. The two will be done simultaneously. The new jail, which is expected to break ground in early 2022, will be a one of its kind and first in the nation to achieve net zero emissions.

"Whether it be current inmates in the jail, the facilities worker who goes to work on the sewer pipes on a daily basis or the man or woman who goes in and they’re outnumbered 98 inmates to one, everybody deserves better," said Pueblo County Commissioner Garrison Ortiz.

The new detention facility will have about 67-beds and will be located on donated land about a mile off Pueblo Boulevard off of an access road. The cost of construction will be about $90 million. The donated land will give the jail opportunity for future expansion years down the road.

"The Board of County Commissioners has a statutory duty to fund and operate a county jail. Overcrowding and deteriorating conditions at the detention center make it difficult to ensure the safety of inmates and staff. Unfortunately, most of the county’s legal exposure stems from the County Jail," said County Attorney Cynthia Mitchell.

The extension of Joe Martinez Boulevard will be a four-lane road and will connect Purcell Boulevard in Pueblo West to 24th street off Pueblo Boulevard. The extension will relieve traffic on Highway 50 and bring more economic opportunity to Pueblo. The extension is also expected to break ground in early 2022. The expansion of Joe Martinez will cost about $27 million. Once complete the extension will make way for economic development opportunities, including new businesses, a charging plaza for electric vehicles, and a trail system for people to enjoy.

Financing for the jail will be done through new revenue from marijuana sales tax, which increased from 3.5-percent to 6-percent in 2020, and revenue from refinancing Pueblo County debt. The financing to pay for the Joe Martinez Extension will come from the 1A ballot initiative in 2016 approved by Pueblo County voters.

"You can see the county’s debt profile for the next 30 years, even with this debt issuance. I feel good knowing that we can do this project without putting future Board of County Commissioners in a tight spot," said Ortiz, who has worked to lead the efforts.
PUEBLO COUNTY’S WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Pueblo County’s Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) works with Colorado’s Energy Office (CEO) WAP to improve the energy efficiency of all residential structures throughout southeastern Colorado. Energy costs weigh heavily on low-income households. The WAP program provides energy upgrades to income-qualified homes to help keep energy costs low. Funding for this program is provided by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the State of Colorado, the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP), and local utility rebate programs. WAP services include a variety of measures that improve the energy efficiency of a home. These cost-effective services reduce wasted energy and lower costs while improving the overall comfort and safety of a home year-round. Contact Pueblo County’s Weatherization Assistance Program at 719-583-6315.

APPLICATIONS CAN BE PICKED UP AND DROPPED OFF AT THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES OFFICES:

405 W. 9th Street | 201 W. 8th Street | 2631 East 4th Street

WEATHERIZATION SERVICES

Qualified and/or licensed technicians perform all work. During all processes; safety precautions and procedures are adhered to while following DOE and CEO requirements. Weatherization services installed by qualified technicians may include the following:

ATTIC INSULATION

Loose-fill insulation may be blown into the attic space to achieve an R-value that improves the energy efficiency of the home. Attics of all types are evaluated and insulated as appropriate.

BASEMENT/CRAWLSPACE INSULATION

Insulation may be installed in unfinished basement areas where the exposed foundation is accessible. Crawlspace underfloor insulation or foundation perimeter may be installed.

SIDEWALL INSULATION

Exterior wall insulation may be installed to empty wall cavities using a drill and fill method through the exterior surface. Staff uses appropriate methods to drill, plug, seal, patch and paint to closely match the original surface material. If the exterior cannot be drilled, alternative methods may be required. These can include drill and fill through the interior wall surface material.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Combustion appliances are tested and inspected to ensure safe operation. Furnaces found to pose a health and safety risk may be replaced.
PUEBLO COUNTY RECREATION

FULTON HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CENTER

Fulton Heights Park can be found nestled in the middle of the small community of Salt Creek, just east of Pueblo. The Fulton Heights Community Center is adjacent to this park. The Community Center offers a gymnasium, fitness equipment and a computer lab. Visitors to Fulton Heights Park will find a playground, picnic tables, and outdoor charcoal grills.

1331 Santa Rosa St. Pueblo, CO 81006 (719) 583-4997

RYE MOUNTAIN PARK

Residents can schedule FREE reservations for Rye Mountain Park in Rye, CO. There are three pavilions at Rye Mountain Park that require a reservation. The smaller day sites do not require a reservation. Trash receptacles are provided at each pavilion.

PAVILION #1
This is the oldest covered pavilion and is located in the middle of the park near the creek. Two BBQ grills are provided and this pavilion has 8-10 tables that seat approximately 60 people. The restrooms are located across the street.

PAVILION #2
This is the smallest covered pavilion and is located in the upper area of the park. Three BBQ grills are provided and this pavilion seats approximately 50 people. There are restrooms and a water pump.

PAVILION #3
This is the largest of the pavilions and has a metal cover. Included for use with this pavilion is the playground and the ballfield. Four BBQ grills are provided and this pavilion seats approximately 70 people. Restrooms are available.

DESERT HAWK GOLF COURSE

Desert Hawk Golf Course is a pleasure for golfers of any skill level to play. The course is challenging while providing a relaxing, picturesque backdrop. The course tests player’s accuracy with fairways, water hazards, and sand traps. The goal is to provide players with a quality experience that includes exceptional service and a comfortable atmosphere.

251 S. McCulloch Blvd. 81007 (719) 547-2280
www.deserthawkgolfcourse.com

McHARG PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

McHarg Park, located just off US Hwy 50, in the small plains community of Avondale. This park is home to the McHarg Park Community Center, which offers residents and visitors a gymnasium, game room, fitness equipment and a computer lab.

409 2nd Street Avondale, CO 81022 (719) 947-4180

PLEASE VISIT PUEBLO COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION WEBSITE FOR A LIST OF ALL SUMMER ACTIVITIES OR CALL (719) 583-2960
HUMAN RESOURCES

Pueblo County understands that when you choose your next employer, it is a very important decision. There are many factors to consider when selecting employment. The county wants to make that decision a little easier because you are not just making a decision about your career, you are making a decision to join a family. Pueblo County employees are fortunate enough to be the recipients of many outstanding benefits that are hard to beat by other organizations. The county is committed to attracting, developing, and retaining a talented workforce by offering good paying, stable jobs and is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Pueblo County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender variance, marital status, genetic information, military status, disability, or any other status protected by law or regulation. Employees receive a very generous benefit package to include four health plans as well as dental, vision, and life insurance. Pueblo County offers a Property Tax Work-Off Program that allows seniors to work as a temporary employee at various businesses throughout Pueblo County up to an amount that can help offset the cost of their property taxes. It is Pueblo County’s mission to make the employee’s experience before, during and after your employment with Pueblo County a very smooth one.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Full-time employees receive comprehensive health insurance. Pueblo County pays a portion of employees’ monthly insurance premiums. Pueblo County employees have several health insurance plans to choose from including HMO, PPO, high and low deductible plans. Dental, vision and supplemental retirements plans are also available.

VACATION LEAVE ACCRUAL

Regular full-time employees accrue vacation leave according to their years of service.

SICK LEAVE

Regular full-time employees accrue eight hours per month sick leave. Eligible employees can use sick leave for absences due to their own illness or injury or that of an immediate family member.

BEREAVEMENT LEAVE

Regular full-time employees take time off due to the death of an immediate family member defined as a spouse, parent, child, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew or cousin.

RETIREMENT

Pueblo County’s Defined Benefit Plan provides a fixed income stream for life. The plan has an advantage over 401K plans in that 401K’s have no guaranteed minimum or maximum benefits. Contributions to Pueblo County’s retirement plan are 100-percent tax deferred, thus decreasing the taxable income for each of our employees. Employees contribute 8.25-percent of their monthly paycheck to their Defined Benefit Plan. Pueblo County contributes 9.25%. There are currently more than 600 former Pueblo County employees receiving pension benefits sponsored by Pueblo County.

PAID PARENTAL LEAVE

Regular full-time employees can receive a maximum of four weeks of paid time off to be used within a four-month period for the birth, adoption or placement of a child/children in foster care. The policy is not exclusive to mothers. Pueblo County’s new paid parental leave policy includes fathers, same-sex couples, adoptive and foster parents, as well as extended family taking care of newborns placed in their care.
The Clerk and Recorder is responsible for recording deeds, issuing marriage licenses, registering motor vehicles, registering voters, administering elections and maintaining records for the Board. The Clerk and Recorder’s office is made up of several departments, which includes Recording, Motor Vehicle, Elections and Clerk to the Board.

Due to COVID-19, the Motor Vehicle Office is open to the public by appointment and for walk-ins. Walk-ins are allowed if they are in need of tab replacements, a private sale of a vehicle, duplicate titles and plate replacements. To make an appointment, go to https://county.pueblo.org/pueblo-county-appointment-requests. Visitors must check in on the first floor in the rotunda. Each visitor is highly encouraged to wear a mask if not vaccinated. Extra precautions have been put in place to help keep the public and employees safe as well as to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

The Motor Vehicle Office multiple Renewal methods. We have a Motor Vehicle Kiosks located at the southside King Soopers and the Pueblo West Safeway. The Colorado DMV website https://mydmv.colorado.gov allows to renew your plates, first time vehicle registration, request a duplicate title, request a duplicate registration card, add/change vehicle address, replace tabs and more. To get started, choose the Vehicle Services or choose an option from the quick start menu.

The mission of the County Clerk’s Office is to build the trust and confidence of the citizens of Pueblo County, while working together as employees and servants of the public by:

- Offering services in the most efficient, professional and courteous manner.
- Due to the rapid growth of the community, the office envisions increased workloads, new mandates and exceeded demand for quicker service.
- Serving the public according to the statutory and constitutional limits of the law, pertaining to the office.
- Continued training and education of the staff of the County Clerk and Recorder’s Office to better perform their duties.
- Due to the diversity and complexity of the election law, the Elections Department requires wisdom, courage and the desire to remain focused on its vision of free impartial elections despite the changes in society and its laws.
- The Office of the County has been bestowed the sacred honor of protecting and promoting public trust and confidence through its conduct of accurate and fair elections. The office is responsible for the integrity of the process, which demands that these must be placed above personal and partisan gain.

**SKIP THE LINE!**

**COLORADO MV Express**

The fast, easy way to renew your license plates.
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
District 1 Commissioner Eppie Griego
719-583-6549
griegoep@pueblocounty.us
Administrator Paul “Jake” Villegas
719-583-6911
villegasj@pueblocounty.us
District 2 Commissioner Garrison Ortiz
719-583-6595
ortiz.garrison@pueblocounty.us
Administrator Rochelle Cruz
719-583-6545
cruzer@pueblocounty.us
District 3 Commissioner Chris Wiseman
719-583-6536
chris.wiseman@pueblocounty.us
Administrator Deniece Armijo
armijod@pueblocounty.us

PUEBLO COUNTY OFFICES & DEPARTMENTS
215 W. 10th Street Pueblo, CO 81003
Pueblo County Courthouse Switchboard
719-583-6000
County Manager
719-583-6535
genios@pueblocounty.us
Public Information Officer
719-583-6534
uhernik@pueblocounty.us
Assessor’s Office
719-583-6597
beltran@pueblocounty.us
Budget & Finance
719-583-4411
huggins@pueblocounty.us
County Attorney
719-583-6630
co.atty@pueblocounty.us
Coroner
719-583-4673
jensenn@pueblocounty.us
CSU-Extension
719-583-6566
billings@pueblocounty.us

Economic Development & GIS
719-583-6240
edgis@pueblocounty.us
Facilities & Recreation
719-583-6002
olguine@pueblocounty.us
Human Resources
719-583-6505
humanresources@pueblocounty.us
Information Technology Systems
719-583-6031
Planning & Development
719-583-6100
planning@pueblocounty.us
Public Trustee
719-545-0821
doug@puebloopt.com
Public Works
719-583-6040
manseaut@pueblocounty.us
Purchasing
719-583-6095
purchasing@pueblocounty.us
Retirement
719-583-6026
thompson@pueblocounty.us
Surveyor
719-583-0874
reevesr@pueblocounty.us
Treasurer
719-583-6015

CLERK & RECORDER
Deputy Clerk
719-583-6515
mearsb@pueblocounty.us
Motor Vehicle
719-583-6507
ADA Plates
719-583-4571
Elections
719-583-6620
pueblovotes.com
Recording
719-583-6625
county.pueblo.org/recording
Marriage Licenses / Real Estate
719-583-6628
county.pueblo.org/marriagelicenses

HUMAN SERVICES
Director’s Office
719-583-6962
405 W. 9th St.
Pueblo CO 81003
Child Welfare Division
719-583-6901
405 W. 9th St.
Pueblo CO 81003
Adult Protection Division
719-583-6853
201 W. 8th St.
Pueblo CO 81003
Long-Term Care Team
719-583-6900
201 W. 8th St.
Pueblo CO 81003
Medicaid Transportation
719-583-6924
201 W. 8th St.
Pueblo CO 81003
USD A Food Programs
719-583-6316
2631 E. 4th St. Pueblo CO 81003
Veteran Services
719-583-6113
2631 E. 4th St.
Pueblo CO 81003
Weatherization
719-583-6313
2631 E. 4th St.
Pueblo CO 81003
Pueblo Area Agency on Aging
719-583-6317
2631 E. 4th St.
Pueblo CO 81003

LEAP
719-583-6356
2631 E. 4th Street
Pueblo CO 81003

Pueblo County Sheriff’s Office
Main Office / Detention Center
719-583-6125
909 Court Street
Pueblo CO 81003

Emergency Services Bureau
719-583-6200
101 W. 10th Street
Pueblo CO 81003

Public Relations
719-583-6222

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Health Department
719-583-4300
101 W. 9th Street
Pueblo CO 81003

Judicial Building
719-404-8700
501 Elizabeth Street
Pueblo CO 81003

Municipal Court
719-562-3810
200 S. Main Street
Pueblo CO 81003

Driver’s License
719-543-5164
827 W. 4th Street
Pueblo CO 81003

Pueblo City Hall
719-553-2489
1 City Hall Place
Pueblo CO 81003

Pueblo Police Dept.
719-553-2538
200 S. Main Street
Pueblo CO 81003

Catholic Charities
719-544-4233
429 W. 10th Street
Pueblo CO 81003

Posada
719-545-8776

Community Soup Kitchen
719-545-6540
422 W. 7th Street
Pueblo CO 81003

USDA Food Bank
719-583-6199
2631 E. 4th Street
Pueblo CO 81001

COUNTY MAP

1 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
2 PUEBLO COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE/JAIL
3 DHS FAMILY SERVICES CENTER
4 CSU EXTENSION
5 FLEET DEPARTMENT
6 PUEBLO COMBINED COURT
7 DISTRICT ATTORNEY
8 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
9 HEALTH DEPARTMENT
10 EMERGENCY SERVICES BUREAU
11 HISTORIC COURTHOUSE
12 HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES
13 PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
14 WELLS FARGO BUILDING