

Pertinent Notes from Lake County Commissioners' Meeting (07-06-16)

- Colorado Central Telecom (Maisey Ramsey provided an update on their grant application)
Cost of two new tower locations: ` \$400,000
Funding grant application submitted at end of June; 25% funding match included \$25,000 from Lake County Commissioners + \$5,000 from Leadville Lake County Economic Development Corporation (remainder will come from Colorado Central Telecom); dealing with Forest Service on permission to add a tower to Granite site (may be mid-September before there's an FS response).
- Marijuana (Sheriff Rod Fenske + Paul Clarkson, Lake County Building and Land Use)
--When Amendment 64 passed in Colorado, the state constitution was amended, making it a *constitutional right* to buy/use/grow marijuana and also making it difficult for law enforcement to obtain a warrant (required to inspect sites suspected of violating legal requirements).
--The state is still in learning mode on marijuana, still working on much-needed guidelines to clarify grey areas.
--Lake County prohibited retail sales; City of Leadville allowed three retail locations (+ grow operations). No tax benefit for Lake County; Leadville receives excise tax revenues.
--County Commissioners passed an ordinance and a resolution (framework to apply for medical marijuana facility). ***Commissioners invited input from the community on this subject for future consideration.*** Please visit their Website to find their contact information in the directory at www.lakecountycolorado.com.
--Paul Clarkson said he would need a *strong* reason to go in and inspect a property suspected of violating the building code (which changes every 3-6 years). Suspicions about plumbing, water and/or electrical violations are probably not enough. "Uninhabitable" property is defined by law.
--Doctors can prescribe large amounts of medical marijuana (e.g., 100 plants -- or more). [Need land use specialist for Lake County to help figure out permits/usage issues.]
--Lessors can prohibit growing marijuana on their property, but any violations are civil issues (not criminal), so the sheriff has no enforcement power.
--Gordon Acres is zoned for business usage -- with some unintended consequences.
--PanArk can set up covenants through its Homeowners Association (HoA trumps Land Use Code), but enforcement is through the HoA (not the sheriff). The same would be true for regulating RV parking on private property.
- Short-term (vacation) rentals in Lake County
--Short-term rentals (less than 30 days) must have a sales tax license from the state and from Lake County + pay 1.9% lodging tax (which goes to the Lake County tourism panel).
--The process of registering short-term rentals (to insure compliance) began a little over 2 years ago. There are 65 short-term rentals in Lake County + management companies.
- Fire protection in southern Lake County
--Commissioners are focusing on a *reservist/volunteer program* in conjunction with the Colorado Mountain College Fire Academy.
--Commissioner Bruce Hix has urged the Lake County Commissioners to budget funds required for another application to DOLA for a southern Lake County fire station.