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Join via phone at 1-719-359-4580 Meeting ID: 247 196 8228
Meeting Passcode: gn1PxN

AGENDA

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Call to Order/Roll Call**
3. **Agenda Consent**
 - A. Approval of Agenda
4. **General Business**
 - A. EMERGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 2026-06, AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF KIOWA, COLORADO, APPROVING A DONATION OF \$4,000.00 TO THE EAST CENTRAL COUNCIL OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (ECCOG) FOR THE PROJECT SMILE NUTRITION PROGRAM
5. **Adjourn**

Agenda Approved By:

Tammy Hart
Mayor, Town of Kiowa

Date Posted:

May 13, 2026

Time Posted: 4:00pm

MEETING PROTOCOL AND STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

Public Participation

Public comment is encouraged and will be listed as an agenda item at every regular Board of Trustees meeting.

Each individual wishing to be heard during the public comment period will be given up to three (3) minutes to make a comment.

The public comment period will not be used to make political endorsements or for political campaign purposes.

Questions from the Board will be for clarification purposes only. Public comment will not be used as a time for problem solving or reacting to comments made but, rather, for listening to the comments of citizens without taking any formal action.

The Board may direct the Town Administrator to provide information requested by a speaker during the public comment period.

Speakers are not allowed to make belligerent, accusatory, impertinent, slanderous, threatening, abusive, or disparaging comments.

The Mayor/Chairman may elect to defer public comment on a specific issue that appears on the regular agenda until that specific item is addressed.

The Mayor/Chairman may call for order when sidebar conversations occur in the audience. Those conversations are distracting from the Board addressing the topics at hand.

Members of the public who do not follow proper conduct after a warning in a public meeting may be barred from further participation at that meeting or removed from the Board Chambers pursuant to the Kiowa Municipal Code and Colorado Revised Statutes.

**EMERGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 2026-06
TOWN OF KIOWA, COLORADO**

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF KIOWA, COLORADO
APPROVING A DONATION OF \$4,000.00 TO THE
EAST CENTRAL COUNCIL OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (ECCOG) FOR THE
PROJECT SMILE NUTRITION PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Town of Kiowa (“**Town**”) is a home rule municipality, and the Town’s Board of Trustees (“**Board**”) is authorized by Section 14.05 of the Town’s Home Rule Charter (“**Charter**”) to budget for the amount of money the Board may have available to donate on behalf of the Town for public, charitable, or other purposes; and

WHEREAS, per Charter Sec. 14.05(3), “The Board shall provide in each annual budget for the amount, if any, of money that the Board may have available to donate for public, charitable or other purposes. Any gift of donation the Board may make, on behalf of the Town, shall be by ordinance;” and

WHEREAS, the Board, by Resolution 2025-13, adopted the Town’s budget for the 2026 fiscal year, as amended by Town Ordinance 2025-06 (“**Budget**”), and authorized the appropriation of Town funds for contributions and sponsorships; and

WHEREAS, the East Central Council of Local Governments (**ECCOG**) is a voluntary association of local government officials, private sector and stakeholder representatives that provides public services to Cheyenne, Elbert, Kit Carson, and Lincoln counties (together, “**East Central Counties**”); and

WHEREAS, ECCOG supports and funds the East Central Area Agency on Aging (the “**Agency**”); and

WHEREAS, the Agency utilizes ECCOG funds, as well as other state, county, and local funds, to plan for, monitor, and fund an array of home and community based services and programs, including the Project SMILE Nutrition Program (“**SMILE Project**”), for the East Central Counties; and

WHEREAS, the SMILE Project provides multiple benefits and opportunities to senior residents in the East Central Counties, including two prepared meals each week to senior residents aged 60 and older in the East Central Counties who may need assistance accessing or affording nutritious meals; and

WHEREAS, the Agency and ECCOG have exhausted state and federal funds allocated to the SMILE Project for the 2025-2026 program year, and are lacking funds to cover the costs of raw food and field staff necessary to provide the weekly meals for May and June 2026; and

WHEREAS, ECCOG has requested assistance from local governments, including the Town, to raise \$16,000.00 to cover the SMILE Project’s costs for May and June 2026 so that senior residents in Elbert County, including in the Town, may continue to receive two prepared meals per week; and

WHEREAS, without the additional funding requested by ECCOG, the SMILE Project will be unable to continue at its current operational level of providing two meals per week to senior residents; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that donating \$4,000.00 to ECCOG for the SMILE Project will support and benefit the senior residents in the Town of Kiowa and surrounding community that need assistance accessing or affording nutritious meals; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds and determines that an emergency exists due to the imminent funding shortfall for the SMILE Project that will be harmful to the health, welfare, and safety of the Town’s senior residents; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to donate \$4,000.00 out of the Town’s Budget to ECCOG for, and only to be used by ECCOG for, the SMILE Project for the purposes stated in these recitals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF KIOWA, COLORADO:

Section 1. The above-recitals are incorporated herein by reference and are adopted as findings and determinations of the Board of Trustees.

Section 2. The Board of Trustees hereby approves the Town making a donation of \$4,000.00 out of the Town’s Budget to ECCOG for, and only to be used by ECCOG for, the SMILE Project, and the Board authorizes and directs the Town Administrator to take all actions necessary and required to make the donation to ECCOG on behalf of the Town.

Section 3. Safety Clause. The Board of Trustees hereby finds, determines, and declares that this Emergency Ordinance is promulgated under the Town’s police powers, that an emergency exists, and that this Emergency Ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public’s health, safety, and welfare.

Section 4. Publication. The Town Clerk is hereby directed to cause publication of this Emergency Ordinance in full, in accordance with Section 6.04(3) of the Charter.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Emergency Ordinance is effective immediately upon adoption.

INTRODUCED, READ, AND ADOPTED FOR FINAL PASSAGE ON MAY 14, 2026.

TOWN OF KIOWA, COLORADO:

Tammy Hart, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sasha Davidson, Town Clerk

CERTIFICATION OF PUBLICATION

I hereby attest and certify that on the date set forth below the foregoing Emergency Ordinance was published in full in the Ranchland News, a newspaper of general circulation in the Town of Kiowa.

Date of Publication: _____

By: _____
Sasha Davidson, Town Clerk

EAST CENTRAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

COLORADO'S CENTRAL PLAINS



128 COLORADO AVE • Box 28 • Stratton, Colorado 80836 • 719-348-5562 • (FAX) 719-348-5887 • www.eccog.com

May 7, 2026

RE: ECCOG Project SMILE senior meal program assistance

Elbert County Commissioners
Box 7
Kiowa, CO 80107

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the Elbert County senior citizens and the Project SMILE meal program managed by ECCOG, we respectfully request your financial support. We have exhausted the state and federal funds provided to the program but lack \$26,000 to cover raw food and field staff costs for May and June before the new contract year begins in July. Elbert County is served by the Elbert kitchen who serves meals to Elbert, Kiowa and Elizabeth seniors. On average, over 400 meals are provided per month at a cost of \$21.00 per meal/person, which is \$8,400 monthly.

Food costs have increased significantly, as have our delivery costs, which has us at a cross-roads on whether to keep providing meals to those age 60 and higher until July. We asked the state AAA for an emergency allowance for more funds and were denied. We have adjusted our menus to simpler meals at lower costs; limited staff cooking hours per day per the state guidelines (to help us budget time and avoid surprise billing); asked for meat/food donations; began outreach for business sponsored meals; and notified the towns that we need their support also. For two days in May, we suggested potluck meals but those meals won't feed the home-bound seniors and the idea was met with some resistance due to people living on fixed income. Desserts have been removed permanently from the menu as cost saving measure also; those can be donated or purchased easily by the community members but are not required for our meals.

Therefore, I come to you with our request to provide two meals per week in June and to fill the shortfall of income in May. Normally, our payroll cost per month for all four counties and the raw food and delivery expenses total \$60,000 if costs were similar to April. We are cutting costs wherever we can and have asked for community support but we need your help first and foremost.

Could you provide ECCOG with **\$16,000** to cover expenses of May and June 2026? We will continue our cost saving methods going forward as the state's newest budget for ECCOG services is even less than last year.

Without your help, many of our field staff employees (most are over age 70) may be out of work who may then request assistance from the county through other services. We are working on donations of meat and cash from other sources to help the total budget shortfall. Just today, some seniors asked about attending the commission meeting to plead our case but I hope we can avoid that but maybe you find it would be helpful. I can arrange that and ask for time on your next agenda if you like.

Thank you for considering our request. Without your help, we may lose staff who must seek other employment, which is unavailable to senior citizens and many older adults will be hungry whether home bound or not.

Sincerely,

Candace Payne
Executive Director