

February 9, 2006

COHOPE Report

This month's meeting was largely devoted to the guest speaker, Dave Auburn, Jefferson County Commissioner for our district. Dave talked about some of the accomplishments of the Board of County Commissioners during 2005. A significant part of the discussion centered around budget/spending accomplishments. For 2005 the BCC achieved a 12% reduction in spending vs. the 2005 amended budget. This was achieved without a reduction in services. For 2006 they established Countywide zero based budgeting principles that have resulted in a 14% reduction in the 2006 adopted budget. Again, this is done without reducing services and in many departments additional services are being added. Proceeded with improvements and development projects at The Jefferson County Airport to promote high paying job growth. Job growth is a high priority with the BBC. Dave also pointed out significant improvements in the Jeffco web sites in order to get information out to the public in a more timely manner. Dave also put in a plug for volunteers to serve on county boards and commissions. Applications are now being taken for these positions. More information on positions open and on what boards/commissions is available at the Jeffco website - <http://jeffco.us>. More information on the 2006 Jeffco budget is available on the Jeffco website or at County libraries in the form of a 2006 Budget-in-Brief pamphlet. The Foothills representative at the meeting stated that Foothills has signed the contract with Exempla Health to use the Peak Recreation facility for some of their rehab activities. Exempla will be remodeling some office space, at their expense to support this activity. Foothills will be receiving an annual fee for providing use of this facility. COHOPE's Adopt-a-Highway application was accepted by CDOT so we will now be doing cleanup along a portion of Bowles Ave. The Jeffco Schools representative was not at the meeting but did get a few copies of the Jeffco Public Schools Annual Report to the meeting. This report is available on their website - <http://jeffco.k12.co.us> - for those interested in the performance of our Jefferson County Schools.