

the Board, supervised through County Administration, and appointed County Emergency Services Director independent of the Sheriff's Office."

County Administrator Jeff Greene said that over 95 percent of OEM center support is derived from county administration. Commissioner Amy Lathen said that this discussion has been on going "for years." Commissioner Dennis Hisey said a recent survey by the state office of emergency showed that of 38 Colorado counties it contacted, only eight had the OEM within the sheriff's department.

Eight citizens with many decades of professional and volunteer emergency response experience among them spoke at the meeting. All asked that the resolution be either tabled or killed. Their comments included:

- This seems to be more of a no-confidence vote of where the program is today.
- I think this resolution was not well thought out, and if approved today would not improve our current emergency management program.
- This is premature. The new sheriff is coming in soon and he should be given a chance.
- The Sheriff's Office was not solicited for any input into this decision and was not informed of this resolution until Sept. 18.
- HAZMAT volunteers can't be decommissioned to work for the Public Works director. They must work for the sheriff.
- Where are the transition plans? What equipment and personnel will be moved?
- Why has a dedicated group of experts not been appointed to study the feasibility of this move and provide a detailed report?
- Why decide this so quickly? You need to give ample advanced warning to all El Paso County residents and allow for a robust discussion.
- Why are all the budget figures in the proposed resolution labeled as "not applicable"?

- If the Emergency Services Division is not getting the job done, let me know how to correct it.

- I could give 30 days of testimony, but I am only allowed three minutes.

Public Services Director Jim

Reid explained that the OEM is a support function to dispatch resources for the first responders so they can do their jobs in

an emergency. "Nothing is really going to change," he said. The BOCC sets policy and funding, he said.

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## Why You Should Vote to Prevent Retail Marijuana in Palmer Lake

- The *Food & Drug Administration* says marijuana is not medicine. They say it is harmful to all who take it and it is addictive.
- The *Drug Enforcement Administration* says marijuana is properly categorized under Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act (CSA), 21", U.S.C. § 801, et seq. (a felony). "The clear weight of the currently available evidence supports this classification, including evidence that smoked marijuana has a high potential for abuse, has no accepted medicinal value in treatment in the United States, and evidence that there is a general lack of accepted safety for its use even under medical supervision."
- The *American Society of Addictive Medicine* opposes any change to law allowing increases in sales of dependence producing drugs, stating "This policy includes marijuana, a mood-altering drug capable of dependence as well as serious negative mental, emotional, behavioral and physical consequences."
- The *National Institutes of Health* says "marijuana is associated with addiction, respiratory disease, and cognitive impairment...neither the FDA nor the Institute of Medicine have found smoking marijuana to meet the modern standard for safe or effective medicine for any condition."
- The *Surgeon General* says "...intoxication with marijuana interferes with many aspects of mental functioning and has serious, acute effects on perception and skilled performance, such as driving and other complex tasks involving judgement or fine motor skills."

For more information on these facts go to [www.CALMPalmerLake.org](http://www.CALMPalmerLake.org)

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