



**ELBERT COUNTY, COLORADO BOARD OF COUNTY
 MINUTES OF THE
 Regular Meeting Held on January 25, 2017 at 9:00 A.M.
 Special Location: The Ag Building at the Fairgrounds**

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL: 9:05 AM

Richardson - Here Thayer - Here Willcox - Here

B. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Bill Harris

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion: Approval of Agenda as presented.

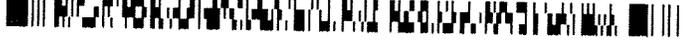
	Moved	2nd	Comments
Richardson	x		
Thayer		x	
Willcox			
	AYE	NAY	
Richardson	x		
Thayer	x		
Willcox	x		

D. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of CDS Vouchers
2. Approval of CDS Mylars
3. Acceptance of December Variance Report

Motion: Approval of Consent Agenda as presented.

	Moved	2nd	Comments
Richardson		x	
Thayer	x		
Willcox			
	AYE	NAY	
Richardson	x		
Thayer	x		
Willcox	x		



E. ELECTED OFFICIALS/DEPARTMENT HEADS/STAFF REPORTS

F. OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Public Trustee’s Report

Rick Pettitt, Elbert County Public Trustee gave the report for the 4th quarter Public Trustee’s activity.

Motion: Move Accept the Public Trustee’s Report

	Moved	2nd	Comments
Richardson	x		
Thayer		x	
Willcox			
	AYE	NAY	
Richardson	x		
Thayer	x		
Willcox	x		

2. Formal Proposal from Kansas State Bank for 5 year lease of three vehicles for the Elbert County Sheriff’s Office to an Action Item.

County Manager, Ed Ehmann, explained the leasing agreement and that this was part of the vehicle replacement program. He also explained what would happen to the vehicles at the end of the lease.

Motion: Move Proposal from Kansas State Bank for 5 year lease of three vehicles for the Elbert County Sheriff’s Office

	Moved	2nd	Comments
Richardson	x		
Thayer		x	
Willcox			
	AYE	NAY	
Richardson	x		
Thayer	x		
Willcox	x		

3. Formal Proposal from Kansas State Bank for 3-5 year lease of one vehicle for the Elbert County Coroner’s Office to an Action Item

Motion: Move Proposal from Kansas State Bank for a 3-5 year lease of one vehicle for the Elbert County Coroner’s Office

	Moved	2nd	Comments
Richardson	X		
Thayer		X	
Willcox			
	AYE	NAY	
Richardson	X		
Thayer	X		
Willcox	X		

4. HUTF Annual Report

County Manager, Ed Ehmann, explained the how the HUFT is calculated and how much it represents to Elbert County.

Motion: Approve the HUFT Certification Report

	Moved	2nd	Comments
Richardson	x		
Thayer		x	
Willcox			
	AYE	NAY	
Richardson	x		
Thayer	x		
Willcox	x		

H. ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of January 17, 2017 Special BOCC Meeting Minutes

Motion: Dispense of reading of and approval of January 17, 2017 Special BOCC Meeting Minutes

	Moved	2nd	Comments
Richardson		x	
Thayer	x		
Willcox			
	AYE	NAY	
Richardson	x		
Thayer	x		
Willcox	x		

2. Policy Regarding Board of County Commissioners Meetings

Motion: Approval of Policy Regarding Board of County Commissioners Meetings



	Moved	2nd	Comments
Richardson	x		Will provide predictability in the meetings. Expects to meet the goals of 2 nd and 4 th week of the month.
Thayer		x	Return courtesy in the meetings and providing the public to be involved in the discussions. Thanked Chris for his efforts in this matter.
Willcox			Thanked the other Commissioners as this is more organized
	AYE	NAY	
Richardson	x		
Thayer	x		
Willcox	X		

3. Resolution Regarding Appointments

Motion: Approval of Resolution Regarding Appointments

	Moved	2nd	Comments
Richardson		x	Justin Clauson appointment for Planning Commission.
Thayer	x		Putting off appointments/reappointments to June or July. Jim Keen for District 3
Willcox			
	AYE	NAY	
Richardson	x		
Thayer	x		
Willcox	x		

Motion: Appointment for Commissioner Grant Thayer as a representative to the Prairie Development Corporation Commissioner Chris Richardson as a representative to the East Central Council of Local Governments.

	Moved	2nd	Comments
Richardson		x	
Thayer	x		
Willcox			
	AYE	NAY	
Richardson	x		
Thayer	x		
Willcox	x		

4. Selection of Commissioner for oversight of CDS

Motion: Management oversight of CDS be transferred from the BOCC as a whole to Commissioner Thayer



	Moved	2nd	Comments
Richardson	x		Last week talked about one Commissioner to have oversight with CDS. Different than last board. Not efficient way of doing business.
Thayer			Appreciates the opportunity. Will ask Ms. Fenner to come before board to see her vision for the department.
Willcox		x	
	AYE	NAY	
Richardson	x		
Thayer	x		
Willcox	x		

I. LAND USE

Public Hearing on Rush Creek Wind Farm and Rush Creek Transmission Line 1041 and SUR Applications

Commissioner Thayer requested during the Public Comment time if a person is opposed to the applications to state rule or Statute that supports their opposition would be helpful to the Commissioners.

Kyle Fenner, CDS Director, gave a brief overview of how the process works to get to this point.

Ethan Watel, Sr. Planner with Baseline. (Contract Planner for the County)
 Mr. Watel explained that there are four applications to consider and gave a brief explanation.

Jaxson Fagan, from Baseline, presented a detailed report on the proposed Wind Farm. He concluded by stating that it is in conformance with the Master Plan. He reported the Planning Commission approved the project with the conditions outlined.

Krista Mann, Invenergy, LLC, made a presentation for the applicant on the Wind Farm.

Susan Innis, Excel Energy, gave a presentation for the applicant on the Transmission Lines.

Commissioner Thayer asked for clarification on the economic impact to the County and a projected number ongoing and for during the construction phase.

Ms. Fenner stated they would add this to one of the conditions of approval.

Open Public Comment

Terry Ashcraft

Mr. Ashcraft stated he was 3rd and 4th generation residents in south east Elbert County and his Grandfather homesteaded here in 1906. He loves the project and is in favor of it. He said if gives small farmers a chance to continue to do what they want to do. He challenged the BOCC to move forward.

Bill Harris, 808 Caribou St, Simla



Mr. Harris stated he thought this was a win/win. He asked how the Commissioners were going to divide the money that will be spent equally throughout the County.

Jeanette Kochiss, Matheson

Ms. Kochiss is Chair of the Rocky Mountain Farmer's Union, a supporter of Wind energy. She has been in Elbert County forty years and this is a boost to the Farmers and the County. She urged approval.

Larry Dierner

Mr. Dierner stated that he had not heard of this project until a couple of months ago. He objected to using the ridgeline south of highway 24. He thought it would cause a 24/7 aesthetic problem. He believes the project is in conflict with the Elbert County Master Plan due to the impact to the ridgeline since it is a visually sensitive area. He said he thought there was three options: 1) postpone 2) ignore Master Plan and risk litigation or 3) amend the Master Plan.

Alan Moore

Mr. Moore stated he would have towers on his land. He believes there is more upside than down and did not believe the resolution of the tax issues should be a requirement for approval.

Kevin Treet, Deer Trail

Mr. Treet is a landowner in Elbert County and will have transmission lines on his property. Initially he was against having the lines, but he finally said OK. He related the story that his Grandma stated that the most beautiful sight was a power line coming to her house. He said Excel was completely transparent and was pleased with the negotiations and encouraged support of the project.

Steve Wilson, Superintendent of the Big Sandy Schools

Mr. Wilson stated the project was almost entirely within the boundaries of the Big Sandy School District. He stated he hoped a healthy amount of the funds collected by the County would go to improve the roads in the area.

Ken Moore, Lives South of Simla.

Mr. Moore's family came to area in 1918. He signed a contract for access to his property and believes the benefits outweigh the negatives. He asked the BOCC to support the project.

Me. Zieske, Colorado Interstate and Gas

They have a Natural Gas pipeline in the County and would like to see some due diligence completed in regards to if these transmission lines conflict with an existing right-a-way. They are not opposed but would like to look at encroachment review.

Ted Hendricks,

Mr. Hendricks addressed Mr. Zieske's concerns

Bob Harlowe, Limon

Mr. Harlowe stated he is a farmer and landowner and believes the upside outweighs the negative and encouraged the BOCC to approve.

Kip Parker, 19173 Rd 193, Limon

Mr. Parker stated he lives in the area. He strongly is in favor of the project and stated the Invenergy and Excel have been above board and working with the landowners. He encouraged favorable consideration.

Tim Brown, Colorado Farm Bureau

Mr. Brown represents 25000 people with the Colorado Farm Bureau and they are for renewable energy. He asked for approval and stated he does not own land here, but it is not his job to tell others no.

Gary Lauer, 12405 County Rd 134, Kiowa

Mr. Lauer stated he was not taking a position but had some questions. Is there a tax payer subsidy and what the historical information shows as to the value of land in view of the wind farm. Do the towers negatively affect values?

Chris Hertning

Mr. Hertning represented several landowners and speaks in favor of the project. He spoke about the roads in Limon and Calhan where improvements have been and expects the same thing to happen in Elbert. El Paso studied land values and found no significant changes in values.

Motion: Close Public Comment

	Moved	2nd	Comments
Richardson		x	
Thayer	x		
Willcox			
	AYE	NAY	
Richardson	x		
Thayer	x		
Willcox	x		

There was a Recess.

Closing Comments

Ms. Mann thanked the Commissioners and requested approval of the project.

Ms. Innis thanked the Commissioners and requested approval of the project.

Ms. Fenner went through the resolution language, including the new conditions of approval discussed in this meeting.

Motion: Approval of SU-16-0013 and 10-16-0017 (1041) Rush Creek Wind Farm with the conditions outlined in the staff report and amendments discussed today.



	Moved	2nd	Comments
Richardson		x	
Thayer	x		
Willcox			
	AYE	NAY	
Richardson	x		
Thayer	x		
Willcox	x		

Motion: Approval of SU-16-0018 and 10-16-0028 Rush Creek Transmission Line with the conditions outlined in the staff report and amendments discussed today.

	Moved	2nd	Comments
Richardson	x		
Thayer		x	
Willcox			
	AYE	NAY	
Richardson	x		
Thayer	x		
Willcox	x		

Motion: Direct County Manager to coordinate the completion and execution of the remaining agreements required by the conditions of approval for these two applications.

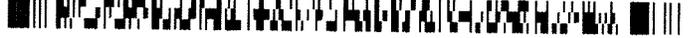
	Moved	2nd	Comments
Richardson	x		
Thayer		x	
Willcox			
	AYE	NAY	
Richardson	x		
Thayer	x		
Willcox	x		

Public Hearing closed at 12:18 p.m.

J. Board Planning

1. Determination of Tentative Agenda for the February 8, 2017 BOCC Regular Meeting

ADJOURNMENT



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ELBERT COUNTY, COLORADO



CHRIS RICHARDSON, Vice-Chair, COMMISSIONER District 1

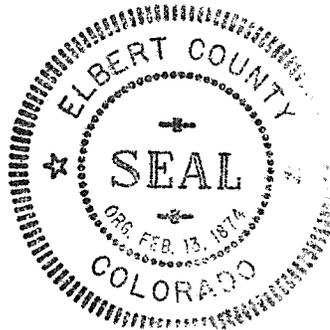


DANNY WILLCOX, Chair, COMMISSIONER District 2



GRANT THAYER, COMMISSIONER District 3

ATTEST: Dallas Schroeder
County Clerk



BY: 

Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners