ELBERT COUNTY, COLORADO

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

Special Meeting Held in the BOCC Meeting Room

August 29th, 2018 at 9:01 AM

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

Commissioner Thayer – Here, Commissioner Richardson – Here, Commissioner Willcox - Here

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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. AGENDA:

1. Proclamation for Pedal the Plains

Justin Klassen, Director of Administration

Mr. Klassen stated the County is expecting a good event. The proclamation emphasizes County support of the event. Mr. Klassen read the proclamation.

Motion: Support Proclamation for Pedal the Plains

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

2. Consideration of Library Board Appointments

Commissioner Willcox stated there are two appointments.

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Motion: Ratify Rick Brown as Trustee

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

Public Comment:

Frank Reeves, 5394 Timber Ridge Drive, Elizabeth

Mr. Reeves stated his comments apply to both trustees recommended for reappointment. Mr. Reeves expressed his concerns regarding the current team and past financial decisions regarding the library building. Mr. Reeves stated the attendance and current use of the library is not great. Mr. Reeves would like to see new trustees appointed. Mr. Reeves said the library being independent is taxation without representation.

JH Schroeder, 77 Overlook Road, Elizabeth

Mr. Schroeder stated the County for years has supported terms limits for fresh blood and new ideas, and strongly urges to get new people in. Mr. Schroeder said he feels very strongly that it should be put on the ballot, whether we should continue with the library board or put the control back under the County. Mr. Schroeder commented that only a third of the building is utilized, the recent lawsuit tells us it is time for a change, and the public should determine the future of the library.

Marlene Groves, 33300 Ridge Road, Ramah

Ms. Groves stated the library board is doing a good job. Ms. Groves recalled at the last BOCC Meeting Ms. Saint Vincent advised there were no other applicants for trustee. Ms. Groves said she agrees with the comment about term limits, but there is no one else at this time willing to serve. Ms. Groves stated Mr. Brown has been a good contributor to the library and she supports the Commissioner's decision.

Commissioner Richardson shared that he treasures libraries, and the history of libraries. Commissioner Richardson stated the current culture of the board has taken less than ample care with statute. Commissioner Richardson stated the library used public funds to partner with a partisan organization. Commissioner Richardson stated he reviewed minutes from the last year and found discrepancies, which does not reflect transparency. Commissioner Richardson provided an example of a citizen unable to have an open records request filled this month by the library. Commissioner Richardson commented that he has asked publically in several meetings for a complete annual report that meets statutory requirements from the library, which has yet to be received. Commissioner Richardson reviewed past nomination processes. Commissioner Richardson stated he wants to ensure libraries are operating under statute.

Commissioner Thayer served for two years on the library board, and agrees with Commissioner Richardson's comments. Commissioner Thayer stated he has served with Mr. Brown, and due to this will recuse himself from voting on library appointments today.

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Commissioner Willcox advised he would speak to the financial state of the library. Commissioner Willcox explained upon entering office he noticed anything that came before the Commissioners involving the library was "rubber stamped", and the library operated on its own. He then began to look to see what role a Commissioner plays in regards to the library. Commissioner Willcox stated 90% of the district's funding is generated through property taxes, and the district's overall budget is around one million per year. Commissioner Willcox advised the library completed the building lease purchase (Elizabeth location) in 2009 for 1.45 million, and at the time, the Assessor had a value of 1.23 million. At the time of the purchase, the current board was not in place. The lease purchase option did not require public approval. Commissioner Willcox reviewed specific figures related to the lease, and refinance, and how the library has spent around a half million dollars on leasing, and only occupies less than a third of the building. Commissioner Willcox stated the library has a balloon payment of around $700,000 due in 2020, and would have to put around $100,000 in reserve each year to fulfill the balloon payment. Commissioner Willcox stated the library's intent was to lease other space in the building, which never occurred, possibly due to expenses for paving and tap fees required by the town. Commissioner Willcox stated in his review of minutes from 2017, $18,000 was possibly given to water and sewer taps. Commissioner Willcox estimated $170,000 has been spent annually since 2009 to just occupy a third of the building. Commissioner Willcox stated the following is the responsibility of the library trustees: set long range goals and help secure funding to make it possible and oversee the annual budget. Commissioner Willcox advised he serves the 26,000 citizens of Elbert County. The only oversite for the board is the BOCC. Commissioner Willcox talked to the culture and philosophy of the current board and believes the focus has not been on the true duties of the trustee, and there needs to be changes.

Motion: Accept Commissioner Thayer's request of recusal and re-state motion to ratify Rick Brown as Trustee

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

Motion: Ratify Suzanne O'Neill as Trustee

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

Commissioner Richardson stated it is time for a change in culture. The denial of the nomination does not eject Mr. Brown or Ms. O'Neill. They will continue to serve. The current IGA between the County and the library requires new nominations. Although there is no time clock on this, the library is responsible for advertising, and Commissioner Richardson is looking forward to new nominations

Commissioner Willcox advised the current IGA states the Commissioners are not required to provide a reason for their decision, but decided to be transparent.

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3. Presentation from Let's Go Colorado

Mr. Albrecht introduced Carla Perez to talk about Proposition 110. Mr. Albrecht invited the towns of Kiowa and Elizabeth to hear the presentation.

Ms. Perez is the policy director for the campaign. Ms. Perez explained Proposition 110 will be on the statewide ballot this November, and she is here today because we have a major challenge with our transportation funding in the state. Through a power point presentation, Ms. Perez reviewed specific information regarding the reasons for the current funding shortfall. Ms. Perez explained transportation is funded through gas tax, which has not increased since 1991. An increase in fuel efficiency has impacted what is being collected, and growing population has increased wear and tear on existing equipment. Ms. Perez stated this would mean moving away from the gas tax and implementing a sales tax. Ms. Perez reviewed the various widespread support for this proposal, how the funds would be distributed, and specific state projects CDOT has adopted based on priority needs. Ms. Perez reviewed potential local projects to fund. The goal is to create a reliable revenue stream to support and complete state transportation projects.

Commissioner Richardson asked if it is capital only or if it can be used for maintenance.

Ms. Perez stated the funds may be used for maintenance.

Commissioner Richardson mentioned the other road issue that will be on the ballot and wanted to know if Ms. Perez saw that as competition.

Ms. Perez advised Proposition 110 is different from the think tank proposal, as it is more comprehensive.

Frank Reeves (citizen) asked what the current sales tax is, and what the per gallon increase would have to be.

Ms. Perez clarified the current sales tax and stated the per gallon amount would have to increase by twenty-seven cents to raise the same amount of money.

Rory Hale, Public Works Director, asked who would manage the program.

Ms. Perez spoke to the specific breakdown.

Commissioner Thayer asked if the County has to apply for the funds.

Ms. Perez advised allocation is filtered through the State Treasurer.

JH Schroeder (citizen) asked a question regarding personnel structure.

Ms. Perez stated the current structure will not change.

Tim Miller (trustee for the Town of Simla) asked if information will be forwarded to municipal governments, and when to expect to receive funds.

Ms. Perez responded yes, information will be forwarded, and collection will begin in January 2019.

Justin Klassen requested clarification on the 20% distribution percentage since counties have more road miles than a city.

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Ms. Perez explained the formula is based on land miles and number of vehicle registrations.

Commissioner Thayer asked the County Manager, Sam Albrecht to place the presentation on the Elbert County website.

Mr. Albrecht stated the presentation would be placed on the website once it is updated to reflect information about the Town of Kiowa.

Ms. Perez closed by stating today was an information session, and an endorsement would require a resolution.

Motion: Adjourn at 10:12 AM

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

DRAFT