

PUBLIC WORKS FUND SUMMARY

The Public Works Fund records all costs related to Weld County road and bridge construction and maintenance. This fund is also utilized for allocation of monies to cities and towns for use in their road and street activities. The resources for 2021 total \$146,817,500 which includes a fund balance of \$86,250,000, in addition to the revenue shown in the budget. Property tax is set at \$20,000,000, down \$4,000,000 from 2020. Specific Ownership tax is estimated to be the same at \$11,300,000. Total HUTF will be \$10,500,000, down \$500,000 from 2020. Permit revenues are budgeted at \$500,000, down \$125,000. Motor vehicle registration fees are \$350,000, down \$20,000 from 2020, and grazing fees are \$300,000, down \$200,000. Oil and gas revenues are \$6,650,000, down \$2,850,000 due to the reduction in drilling from the regulatory climate in Colorado, as well as the economic downturn resulting from COVID-19. There is \$1,787,500 from the Solid Waste Fund, including \$1,000,000 for paving of impacted roads and the County's proportional share of the 18th/Market Street paving project at \$787,500.

Federal mineral lease revenues are \$1,000,000 due to the creation of the Weld County Federal Mineral Lease District. The federal mineral lease revenue will flow through the district and then Public Works will apply to the district for funding of projects. In 2021, the district is funding \$1,000,000 in oil and gas haul route projects. PILT is budgeted at \$80,000 with no change from last year.

Other revenues from project reimbursements total \$4,300,000 from the Transportation Impact Fees. Revenue from the Energy Impact Assistance grants decreased by half and totals \$1,200,000. There is a State grant for Bridge 19/46.5A for \$500,000 and \$600,000 in HISP funds for the traffic signal at CR 47. Severance tax is \$1,500,000, and in accordance with policy adopted by the Board of County Commissioners in 2010, the severance tax revenue is budgeted at a five year leveling average due to the fluctuations of the revenue created by the price and production levels of oil and gas commodities.

The budgeted appropriations for Public Works in 2021 total \$68,906,158 and are up \$3,558,050 primarily due to larger design and construction projects funded in 2021. Municipal share back is funded at \$3,336,195. With the economic downturn and record high unemployment resulting from COVID-19, there is no cost of living adjustment recommended for 2021, and salaries will be adjusted down \$35,992 to correct an overestimated amount budgeted for insurance expenses from 2020.

The Other Public Works budget unit is budgeted at \$25,688,670 based on the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). This is a total increase of \$3,243,693 from 2020. Personnel decreased \$159,207 due to: \$140,230 for a decrease of seasonal staff by four in relation to the two new FTE added to the Gravel Road (Org 32200) division, Overtime decreased \$7,000, and benefits decrease \$11,977. Purchased Services increased \$3,402,900 overall. Utilities increased \$5,472 to cover the electricity of a traffic signal, sixteen new streetlights at the CR 54 and 17 Roundabout, and the eleven Weather Stations. Contract Payments increased \$7,139,236 due to the cost of the construction of intersection CR 41/66 (\$3,000,000) and connector CR 80/37 (\$3,777,836) but is offset by a decrease of \$3,741,808 due to the changes in road projects for the year.

Under Other Public Works, Strategic Roads was renamed Infrastructure Projects and for 2021 includes: 'O' Street/35th Avenue Roundabout Construction at \$4,280,669; CR 66/41 Intersection Construction with 2021 costs of \$2,200,000; Hokestra Trail Construction cost of \$80,000; CR33/74 Roundabout Joint Project with CDOT, CMAQ, and Town of Eaton for Right-of-Way and Utilities Relocation at a cost of \$750,000; CR 47/State Highway 392 Traffic Signal Construction - joint project with CDOT at a cost of \$600,000; and the County's proportional share of the 18th Street/Market Street Intersection Improvement Project at a cost of \$787,500 (the Solid Waste

Fund will cover this cost as this project is needed due to the haul route of a nearby solid waste facility). The Haul Route Program (HARP) is budgeted at \$3,000,000, and \$200,000 for the maintenance of the County Highway. Fixed Charges saw no change. Grants and Donations stayed at \$600,000 for costs related to the construction of Bridge 19/46.5A, which is a project in conjunction with CDOT.

The other significant changes for 2021 in the Public Works Fund include increases in the Bridge Construction and Maintenance Support units. Supplies increased overall by \$251,499 in Bridge Construction for the cost of supplies, and Contract Payments increased by \$140,000 due to the addition of Dewatering/Watering Filtration services required by Water Discharge Permits for short-term projects. Vehicle Expense increased \$39,125 to adjust for gallons of fuel as well. For Maintenance Support, Road Construction Supplies were up \$304,800 for increased quantities and costs of snow removal materials due to County Road 49 operations, and Cost of Goods Sold increased \$16,500 due to an increase in prices and quantities of striping paint.

While the growth in the County's assessed value and economic stimulus of the energy industry in Weld County has been positive in recent years, the downside is the County has had to add significant resources to the Public Works budget to accommodate heavy hauling traffic, address safety issues, and improve roads impacted by the oil and gas industry's heavy hauling on county roads due to new exploration and population growth. A five-year Public Works Capital Improvement Plan will continue to be updated annually and will ensure a fair and reasonable determination of project priorities in accordance with the County's overall transportation needs, especially in dealing with the impact of energy development and population growth in the County. As oil and gas prices and production stabilizes, looking forward to 2021 and beyond, the amount spent on capital projects should also be stable.

The 2021 Public Works Capital Improvements Plan is available on the County web site at http://www.co.weld.co.us/departments/public_works/index.html.