



OFFICE OF WELD COUNTY COUNCIL

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WELD COUNTY COUNCIL 2021 – 2nd Quarter REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

The Weld County Council is mandated in accordance with the Home Rule Charter of Weld County, Colorado, to report to the people of Weld County on a quarterly basis, those matters related to the council's review of Weld County government. This report summarizes the activities of the Weld County Council during the second quarter of the calendar year 2020.

April 19, 2021

Review Program: Roy Rudisill, Director of Emergency Management

Mr. Rudisill explained it's a state requirement that each county establish and maintain a disaster agency. This involves designating an emergency manager for the jurisdiction; keeping current an approved Emergency Operations Plan; the ability to operate an emergency operations center and coordinate incident support and recovery.

The role of the emergency management agency is to develop and maintain an ongoing program of prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. They focus on developing plans that integrate partner agencies, jurisdictions, non-governmental operations like the Red Cross and Salvation Army, and private sector partners.

The department relies on state and federal grants. After the floods of 2013, FEMA offered \$10.1 million to public works for road and bridge repairs. The department requested FEMA funding during Covid 19, primarily for personal protective equipment.

The department works with oil and gas companies when they have an incident. They want to make sure the oil and gas companies are notifying dispatch and OEM before their incident is critical. Training for oil and gas incident response is ongoing.

May 17, 2021

Review Program: Brenda Dones, Assessor

Ms. Dones said the actual value of a home is the only thing set by the assessor's office. She said this year was interesting because some years they aren't as concerned with values because mill levies can't go up. A lot of local taxing authorities and voters have said mill levies could be raised.

She said they haven't finished oil and gas valuation, but they expect a huge drop. The price of oil went negative in price last year, plus production was depressed last year. She is expecting a 40 percent drop, which equals about \$4 billion.

Last year, the assessed value of oil and gas was \$15 billion. This year it's expected to be about \$11 billion.

Ms. Dones said there's a strong possibility mill levies will increase again this year. If the county is not getting money from oil and gas, they have to get it from mill levies.

The Assessment Rate is determined by the use of the property on January 1. When Covid hit, property sales dropped drastically and is now spiked back up.

Ms. Dones said when she started working in the assessor's office in 1999, the median price of a home was \$134k. Now, it's \$415k.

In May, her office sent about 160,000 notices of valuation. They typically receive about 6,000 appeals.

Discussion items for 2022 Budget

Councilmember Rupert Parchment made a recommendation to accept the budget as proposed, it was seconded by Councilmember Tonya Van Beber and carried.

There was discussion about the possibility of a 10 percent reduction in Council's budget, to which councilmembers suggested it could come out of professional services. A motion to recommend a 10 percent reduction in professional services, if necessary, was made by Councilmember Nancy Teksten, seconded by Councilmember Parchment and carried.

A budget summary can be found on the county's web site at www.weldgov.com.

June 21, 2021

Review Program: Don Warden, Director of Finance and Administration

Jennifer Oftelie, Budget Manager, will be assuming Don Warden's budget duties in 18 months. Ryan Rose, CIO/Director of Administration, will be replacing Don Warden, who is retiring, in 18 months as the Director of Finance and Administration..

Mr. Warden stated Weld County is one of the few counties in the nation that is debt-free, with no sales tax. The county has a fully funded retirement program.

As they put together the 2022 budget, Warden's team knew the impacts of oil and gas and Covid would be a factor. They estimated a 15-20 percent drop in funding.

Mr. Warden said the budget went from about \$14.9 billion to \$12.5 billion. But, his department has been prepared for a volatile industry.

The American Rescue Act allowed the county to collect \$18 million in federal funding used to mitigate the impact of Covid.

Mr. Warden said the jail needs to plan for expansion about every five to ten years, something they also plan into the budget process.

He said the county has a healthy balance of funds of about \$400 million. \$100 million of that is reserve funding; \$120 million is allocated to public works for infrastructure; \$35 million is in the general fund; \$68 million is in the Weld trust; and about \$36 million is used for capital expenditures.

The budget goals for 2022 include:

- 1) Ensuring long term financial viability
- 2) Maintaining critical services
- 3) Examining value and effectiveness of all programs
- 4) Supporting community economic recovery

WELD COUNTY COUNCIL


Council President James Welch by proxy


Council Vice-President Nancy Teksten


Councilmember Tonya Van Beber

Rupert Parchment by Patsy Linda Kane

Councilmember Rupert Parchment

Elijah Hatch

Councilmember Elijah Hatch

Date Signed: November 15, 2021