



## OFFICE OF WELD COUNTY COUNCIL

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### WELD COUNTY COUNCIL 2022 – 3rd 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 third quarter of the calendar year 2022.

#### July 18 2022

##### Visit to Sheriff's office

Councilmembers said they enjoyed the visit to the sheriff's department in June. It was informative and they enjoyed visiting the new sections.

#### August 15, 2022

##### Consideration of Salary Changes for Sheriff, Commissioners, Clerk and Recorder and Assessor

Several members of the public voiced their opinion in support of and against salary changes. Council also received about 30 emails on the subject. Currently, commissioners earn \$105,000 through 2024. Through 2022, the clerk's office earns \$120,000, the sheriff \$160,000 and the assessor \$120,000.

County Clerk and Recorder Carly Koppes said the reality of elections at this time needs to be considered because of unprecedented hostility.

Ms. Koppes oversees three departments - elections, motor vehicle and records. She said with the current political environment, her elections department and herself personally are undergoing unprecedented threats of violence and death and she's had to take precautions she expects will be warranted for several years due to the country's current political environment.

Ms. Koppes noted that city and town clerks and managers in Weld County average a salary between \$155,000 and \$214,000. She also noted elected officials do not receive cost of living wage increases like the rest of county employees, typically about 4 percent on average.

Councilmember Welch moved Council write a resolution to pay the Clerk and Recorder \$185,000 for years 2023-2026, it was seconded by Councilmember Beemer, and carried. The resolution was considered at the next Council meeting September 19 and was modified after hearing public input. It was voted on at the October 17 meeting.

Sheriff Reams was the next to present to Council. On average, between the jail and employees, the sheriff is responsible for about 1,200 people daily. Sheriff Reams oversees a budget of more than \$54 million and has a staff of nearly 600 full-time and contracted employees.

The Greeley Police Chief currently makes \$196,000 and the sheriff's second in command, the undersheriff, will make more than the sheriff next year at the current salary rates.

Councilmember Beemer moved Council write a resolution to pay the Sheriff \$250,000 for years 2023-2026, it was seconded by Councilmember Welch, and carried. The resolution was considered at the next Council meeting September 19 and was modified after hearing public input. It was voted on at the October 17 meeting.

Weld County Assessor Brenda Dones currently makes \$120,000 annually. Council is considering increasing her salary to \$175,000 through 2026.

Ms. Dones provided information to Council showing the anticipated revenue for the 500-plus taxing authorities in 2022 is more than \$1.47 billion. Weld County revenue could potentially see an 18 percent increase compared to 2019, bringing it to \$279 million.

By comparison, the state proposed salary for assessor is \$131,000; while the treasurer's salary range is \$138,000-\$175,000. Councilmember Welch moved Council write a resolution to pay the Assessor \$175,000 for years 2023-2026, it was seconded by Councilmember Beemer, and carried. The resolution was considered at the September 19 meeting and was modified after hearing public input. It was voted on at the October 17 meeting.

### **September 19, 2022**

#### **Jamie Ulrich, Director Human Services**

Ms. Ulrich and Deputy Director Tami Grant gave an overview of the Department of Human Services. They have each worked for the county more than 25 years.

Ms. Ulrich said her department has 469 employees, across five campuses and they operate 24/7. They serve all ages from birth to death and provide a safety net to the community.

One of their programs, the Friendly Fork program, serves seniors who sometimes don't have an opportunity to get out of their homes. Another food assistance program is SNAP which provides monetary food assistance. Ms. Ulrich said 24 percent of the Weld County population is enrolled in Medicare.

Ms. Ulrich said no other county in Colorado works to intervene early in family issues to prevent foster care situations. On average per month, there are 213 kids in foster care with about 70 percent of those going to kin family members.

Another program highlights the Area Agency on Aging. In 2021, human services assisted 1,867 individuals with services they needed in their home. This program helps to prevent residents from moving to nursing homes.

Another program establishes and enforces child support orders for non-custodial parents. In 2021, more than \$23 million was collected and that money is directly issued to the families.

Ms. Grant spoke about the huge asset county workforce centers provide. She said in 2021, 706 employers were supported in the county along with thousands of residents seeking employment. The program also helps residents earn their GED.

More information about the Department of Human Services can be found at [www.weldgov.com](http://www.weldgov.com).

#### **Consider salaries for Commissioners, Assessor, Clerk and Recorder and Sheriff**

Councilmember Parchment made a motion to pay the assessor \$136,200, it was seconded by Councilmember Welch, and after public comment, Councilmembers Welch, Van Beber and Parchment vote aye, with Councilmember Beemer voting nay, and the motion carried.

Councilmember Parchment made a motion to set the clerk's salary at \$145,000, it was seconded by Councilmember Beemer, and Councilmember Van Beber made a motion to amend and set the salary at \$156,000, with Councilmembers Beemer, Van Beber and Parchment voting aye and Councilmember Welch voting nay. The motion was therefore accepted to set the clerk's salary at \$156,000.

Councilmember Van Beber made a motion to set the sheriff's salary at \$208,000 and was seconded by Councilmember Welch. Councilmembers Beemer and Parchment voted nay, resulting in a tie. President Teksten voted aye to break the tie and the motion carried.

Councilmember Parchment made a motion to reconsider the assessor's salary and set it at \$156,000, it was seconded by Councilmember Beemer, received an aye vote from Councilmember Van Beber, a nay vote from Councilmember Welch, and the motion carried.

Councilmember Welch made a motion to pay commissioners \$120,000, it was seconded by Councilmember Parchment, received all ayes and the motion carried.

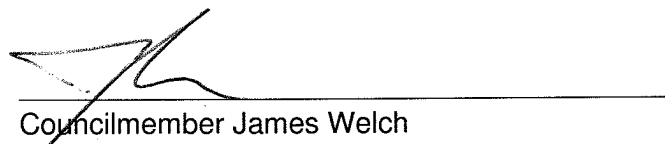
**WELD COUNTY COUNCIL**

  
Council President Nancy Teksten

  
Council Vice-President Rupert Parchment

  
Councilmember Tonya L. Van Beber

*Absent*  
Councilmember Cindy Beemer

  
Councilmember James Welch

Date Signed: November 21, 2022