

MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2023

SPECIAL COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION HEARING

The Board of County Commissioners met at 1:00 p.m. with Elizabeth Carter, Office of Clerk and Recorder, and Natalie Delman, Deputy Clerk.

Elizabeth Carter, Office of the Clerk and Recorder, addressed the Board. The Board of Commissioners convened as the Board of Equalization to review and approve the hearings held from August 3, 2023, to August 4, 2023.

MOTION

Commissioner Stephens moved that the Board of County Commissioners convene as the Board of Equalization.

Motion carried 3-0

Elizabeth Carter, Clerk and Recording, explained that from August 3, 2023, to August 4, 2023, the Larimer County Board of Equalization had 872 accounts and 415 hearings. Of those accounts, 549 were adjusted, with 40 being stipulated changes, 296 were denied, and 27 were withdrawn.

To provide background, Ms. Carter explained that in 2019 there were 2,087 accounts and 1,401 hearings, whereby 1,237 accounts were adjusted. These adjustments account for 59.2% of the total accounts that year, with a total value change of 5.5%. Then in 2021, there were 1,315 accounts and 534 hearings, whereby 660 accounts were adjusted. These adjustments account for 49.4% of the total accounts that year, with a total value change of 3.5%. As of present in 2023, there have been 4,427 accounts and 2,703 hearings whereby 3,105 accounts were adjusted. These adjustments account for 70.1% of the total accounts that year, with a total value change of 6.1%.

Commissioner Shadduck-McNally asked to have information emailed, and Ms. Carter agreed to email information over.

Commissioner Kefalas remarked that since 2019 there has been a trend in the number of accounts that have been adjusted in an increasing fashion. Ms. Carter agreed that there has been an increase in the number of accounts adjusted but noted value of adjustments has not increased as sharply.

Commissioner Stephens remarked she will be in contact with the assessor's office.

Commissioner Shadduck-McNally explained she wants to get data on the referees and will be looking into where such information is available.

MOTION

Commissioner Kefalas moved that the Board of County Commissioners, convened as the Board of Equalization, approve the recommendations submitted by the referees for the hearings held from August 3, 2023, to August 4, 2023

Motion carried 3-0

M O T I O N

Commissioner Stephens moved that the Board of County Commissioners, convened as the Board of Equalization, to reconvene as the Board of County Commissioners.

Motion carried 3-0.

With there being no further business, the Board adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2023

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. Chair Shadduck-McNally presided. Commissioner Kefalas and Commissioner Stephens were present. Also present were Laurie Kadrich, Assistant County Manager, Sarah Martin and Tom Clayton, Commissioners' Office, and Natalie Delman, Deputy Clerk.

Chair Shadduck-McNally opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Linda Hopkins, Fort Collins, Colorado expressed her frustrations with the Larimer County property tax evaluation system. Ms. Hopkins sees it as the citizen's responsibility to outline any errors in their property tax assessment to seek an adjustment. Ms. Hopkins described how she had their neighbor do so, and they got a higher evaluation after. Ms. Hopkins thinks there should be an alert about assessment values that differ from the norm.

Commissioner Kefalas explained that he wants to keep an open conversation going on how to improve the system.

Commissioner Stephens remarked there has been a number of anomalies in property tax assessments this year. She will be talking with the Assessor's Office about their process and will be looking for system improvements.

Commissioner Shadduck-McNally agreed with the previously given comments and added that she is always looking for ways to improve customer service for the residents of Larimer County.

Commissioner Shadduck-McNally closed public comment.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE WEEK OF July 31, 2023

M O T I O N

Commissioner Stephens moved that the Board of County Commissioners approve the minutes for the week of July 31, 2023

Motion carried 3-0.

3. REVIEW OF THE SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 14, 2023: Ms. Martin reviewed the upcoming schedule with the Board.

4. CONSENT AGENDA:

AGREEMENTS

1. ROADWAY SURFACING MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT FOR CR 70 I-25 OVERPASS, STATE OF COLORADO IGA

LIQUOR LICENSES

1. LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL- ETALEM INC DBA BRANDING IRON LIQUOR BRANDING IRON LIQUOR

2. LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL- ELLIS RANCH INC ELLIS RANCH EVENT CENTER AND WEDDING PARK

3. LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL- SUPERMARKET LIQUORS INC SUPERMARKET LIQUORS INC

MISCELLANEOUS

1. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO ENTER UPON LANDS

2. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO ENTER UPON LANDS

M O T I O N

Commissioner Kefalas moved the Board to approve the consent agenda for August 8, 2023

Motion carried 3-0.

5. COMMISSIONERS' GUESTS:

Monte Williams, Forest Service Supervisor, Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland gave two presentations. The first presentation displayed a map of the current and future shooting closure orders in Larimer County and gave a history of such closures.

Commissioner Stephens asked what education looks like for closures and gun range locations. Mr. Williams explained there is a coalition of counties in Colorado that acts as a public affairs group to implement a strategy for education including electronic maps and partnerships with gun shops. Also, Mr. Williams is working to form a crew, some being volunteers, that cycle through closure areas to put up signs and replace signs.

Commissioner Kefalas remarked the closures in the Arapahoe Roosevelt National Forest were due to a public safety concern. Commissioner Kefalas also explained that in January 2021 the Board approved an emergency temporary closure for the area in order to have time to comply with the Dingle Act. Furthermore, he does not want to extend the closure.

Commissioner Kefalas asked for a timeline on the closure west of the Crystal Lakes given that the Devil's Nose Public shooting range is to open. Mr. Williams said he sees the closure work beginning to happen this spring.

Commissioner Kefalas asked if there should be new talks about creating a public shooting range in Larimer County. Mr. Williams thinks having such a discussion is a good idea.

Mr. Williams gave his second presentation on the Wildfire Crisis Strategy that has been worked on for seven years. He explained the work from the strategy kept the Cameron Peak fire from getting all the way to the interstate as well as his long-term goals with the strategy.

Commissioner Shadduck-McNally explained that she sees the relationships the National Forest Service has fostered to be important and wants the Board to continue to be a partner.

Commissioner Kefalas expressed his gratitude for the National Forests Services partnerships. He asked if there is any more evidence that the mitigation work by Red Feather Lakes kept the Cameron Peak Fire from reaching it. Mr. Williams explained it would in part be due to weather but in large parts due to plots put in prior to the fire that required monitoring.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. PROCLAMATION FOR AUGUST 6 – 12, 2023, AS NATIONAL FARMER'S MARKET WEEK

Rachel Wildman Market Manager for Larimer County Farmers Market introduced herself and Dr. Allison O'Connor, Professor of Horticulture; Allie, Special Events Intern; Kile Wemmer, Larimer County Extensions Director; and Carey Brown, Marketing and Communications Specialist.

Ms. Wildman explained that National Farmer's Week is put on by the National Farmers Week Alliance. She also thanked the board for their support of farmer's markets and listed the names of farmer's markets in Larimer County.

Commissioner Kefalas expressed gratitude for the good energy he finds when he goes to farmer's markets and the community-building experience it provides.

Commissioner Stephens asked about the details of getting food to senior citizens. Ms. Wildman explained that Larimer County Farmer's Market has a service to deliver produce to older low-income citizens or that people may come pick up the produce in person. The produce is worth about \$18 every two weeks. Commissioner Stephens expressed she think the service is great.

Commissioner Shadduck-McNally asked if the board provides funding to the service. Ms. Wildman explained there has been funding in the past. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally explained she greatly enjoys the farmer's markets and encourages people to visit them all.

Commissioner Kefalas expressed gratitude for the volunteers that make the farmers markets happen. Asked how the community giving program known as the Grow and Give Program is going. Ms. Wildman explained it is volunteer run ad had over 4,000 pounds of produce donated last year and that interest in it is currently growing.

Ms. Wildman explained she will be taking on a new position as Youth Development Specialist for 4H and is excited for it. Commissioner Shadduck-McNally congratulated her on the new role.

M O T I O N

Commissioner Stephens moved the Board to proclaim August 6 – 12, 2023 as National Farmer's Market Week.

Motion carried 3 – 0.

2. 2023 MONSOON FLOODING DISASTER DECLARATION

Lori Hodges, Larimer County Office of Emergency Management Director explained that on the morning of August 3, 2023, there was a verbal declaration declared for a flooding disaster and the declaration was put into writing on August 4, 2023. Mrs. Hodges also described the damages and recommended the declaration be extended till August 31, 2023, due to expected storms but that no budget changes were needed.

Commissioner Shadduck-McNally thanked Ms. Hodges for her work and expertise on matters related to emergency management.

Commissioner Stephens asked how repairs are determined when some areas are often being repeatedly damaged. Ms. Hodges explained that some roads that have repetitive loss will not be repaired to previous levels due to expected continued flooding. Commissioner Stephens inquired on repairs to County Road 44H. Ms. Hodges explained the repairs were due to flooding in 2021.

M O T I O N

Commissioner Kefalas moved the Board to approve the Monsoon Flooding Disaster Declaration as of today August 8, 2023, at 10:17am to 12:00 pm August 31, 2023.

Motion carried 3 – 0.

3. REPORT ON A GRANT PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY THE POUDBRE RIVER PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT, FUNDED BY THE LARIMER COUNTY IMMEDIATE NEEDS GRANT PROGRAM

Josh Fudge, Director of Performance, Budget, and Strategy introduced the Poudre River Public Library District for their presentation on their grant project.

Africa Garcia, Adult and Older Adult Outreach Librarian for Poudre Libraries, presented on how the Poudre River Public Library District used their grant funding to provide laptops and internet service for checkout. Additionally, iPads were purchased for digital programming including at a memory care facility and disinfectant for the iPads. Additionally, positive feedback on the project from those who used the checkout service was translated from Spanish.

Commissioner Stephens thanked Ms. Garcia for coming and expressed she was impressed how the money was stretched and that it was well used.

Commissioner Kefalas and Ms. Garcia conversed in both Spanish and English about how the programs the grant funding is used for were advertised. Ms. Garcia explained a soft launch was done with the Poudre Libraries partnering organizations. Additionally, that future advertising will be more aggressive with the use of social media and the Poudre Library website. Ms. Garcia also explained that future expenses for the program are low enough to be absorbed into the regular library budget.

Commissioner Kefalas and Ms. Garcia conversed in both Spanish and English about what area participants in the programs the grant funding provided live. Ms. Garcia explained all participants so far live in mobile home parks.

Commissioner Shadduck-McNally expressed she is impressed with all the library accomplished with the funding.

Ms. Garcia introduced rest of her team including Ken Draves, Deputy Director, Diane Lapierre Executive Director, and Selenia, Development Officer.

Laurie Kadrich Assistant County Manager remarked that she believes the county is lucky to have the commissioners on the board for having put aside ARPA dollars to such successful programs in the community.

4. REPORT ON A GRANT PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY TEACHING TREE EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING CENTER, FUNDED BY THE LARIMER COUNTY IMMEDIATE NEEDS GRANT PROGRAM

Josh Fudge introduced Teaching Tree Early Childhood Learning Center for their presentation on the use of their grant funding. Anne Lance, Teaching Tree Executive Director gave a presentation on how the grant funding was used to provide low-income early childhood care in Larimer County from ages 6 weeks to 5 years old, serving around 400 children annually. The grant specifically allowed classroom cohorting to occur and allowed the hours of operation to be extended. Additionally, positive parent feedback was shared.

Commissioner Shadduck-McNally expressed gratitude for the work Teaching Tree has done.

Commissioner Stephens thanked Teaching Tree for their work and their dedication to working families in Larimer County.

Commissioner Kefalas expressed gratitude for the work Teaching Tree has done. He asked when Teaching Tree is planning its next open house. Ms. Lance explained that it will be this fall.

Commissioner Shadduck-McNally remarked that childcare is an ongoing issue, and that Teach Tree does great work to help address it.

5. FIRST READING OF TOBACCO ORDINANCE REPEAL

Andrew Lewis, County Attorney's Office requested a vote for the reading of the repeal of the ordinance.

Commissioner Kefalas asked what action is required of the Board today. Mr. Lewis explained a vote for the publication of the ordinance done by a motion is required.

M O T I O N

Commissioner Stephens moved the Board of County Commissioners to read the repelling of the tobacco ordinance into public record and move it into publication.

Motion carried 3 – 0.

Mr. Lewis read the ordinance amending ordinance 98-01 Prohibiting the Possession of Cigarettes and Tobacco Products by Minors.

7. COUNTY MANAGER UPDATE:

Acting County Manager Laurie Kadrich briefly detailed the events from the previous week.

8. COMMISSIONER ACTIVITY REPORTS:

The Board briefly detailed their attendance at events during the previous week.

9. LEGAL MATTERS:

None requested.

With there being no further business, the Board adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 08, 2023

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of County Commissioners met at 1:30 p.m. with Laurie Kadrich, Assistant County Manager. Chair Shadduck-McNally presided. Commissioner Kefalas and Commissioner Stephens were present. Also present were Bill Ressue, County Attorney, David Aryaud, Deputy County Attorney, Frank Haag, Assistant County Attorney, and Elizabeth Carter, Deputy Clerk.

MOTION

Commissioner Stephens moved that the Board of County Commissioners enter into Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) Conferences with an attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice.

Motion carried 3 to 0.

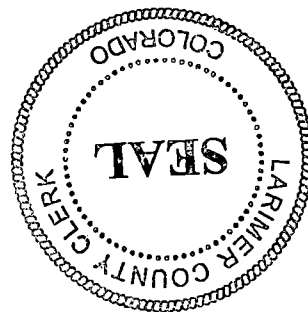
The Board adjourned at 1:35 p.m.


JODY SHADDUCK-MCNALLY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

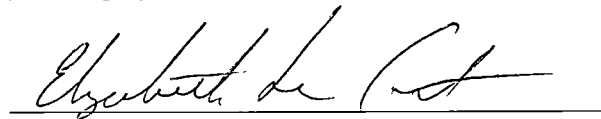
**TINA HARRIS
CLERK AND RECORDER**

ATTEST:


Natalie Delman, Deputy Clerk



ATTEST:


Elizabeth Carter, Deputy Clerk