



ELBERT COUNTY, COLORADO
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

Regular Meeting Held in the BOCC Meeting Room
July 13, 2022 at 9:00 AM

A. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: PASTOR BOB MEYER

Pastor Bob Meyer preformed the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was called to order at 9:02 AM. Deputy Clerk Amanda Moore preformed roll call and all commissioners were present.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Approval of Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Grant Thayer made a motion to Approve the Agenda as presented. Commissioner Rick Pettitt seconded the motion.

Yes - Chris Richardson, Grant Thayer, Rick Pettitt

No - None

D. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Approval of Consent Agenda as presented

Commissioner Rick Pettitt made a motion to Approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Grant Thayer seconded the motion.

Yes - Chris Richardson, Grant Thayer, Rick Pettitt

No - None

1. Approval of CDS Mylars as needed
2. Approval of Vouchers as needed
3. Acknowledgement of CDS Pipeline Report
4. Transfer of Property Ownership to Rattlesnake Fire District
5. Administrative Correction to the PUD/PUD Regulation Update



E. ELECTED OFFICIALS/DEPARTMENT HEADS/STAFF REPORTS

The Assessor's report to CBOE of the total assessed value of all taxable property for the tax year 2022 has been moved to 10:30 AM.

F. CITIZEN PUBLIC COMMENT

County Manager Sam Albrecht read the public comment we received online from Amy Espinoza. Ms. Espinoza has concerns over the Xcel Project and the effects on the surrounding area. Ms. Espinoza asked that the County move forward with caution.

Rita Ruderman, Xcel Energy came to provide the Commissioners and Citizens with some clarification on the proposed powerline project. (letter included in minutes)

Commissioner Thayer feels that the confusion mostly came from Xcel and having so many potential line routes.

Carla Hagood, 31085 Ridge Rd., Ms. Hagood stated that there is a need for tailored regulations in our county to protect us from these wind, power and solar "farms". Ms. Hagood asked about what kind of protection we have if these companies go bankrupt and the structures are abandoned?

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Update on Policy for Record Retention Policy

County Manager Sam Albrecht stated that he worked on cleaning up and updating the policy and is bringing it to the BOCC for approval.

Commissioner Richardson stated that he felt the Open Records Policy goes hand in hand with this policy and it would be good to have them in line with each other.

Public Comment:

None

H. ACTION ITEMS

1. Consideration of June 22, 2022 Minutes

Motion: Approval of June 22, 2022 Minutes

Commissioner Grant Thayer made a motion to Approve the Minutes as presented and dispense with the reading. Commissioner Rick Pettitt seconded the motion.

Yes - Chris Richardson, Grant Thayer, Rick Pettitt

No – None



2. Public Hearing - Consideration of a Special Event Liquor Permit for Elizabeth Celtic Festival

Motion: To Open a Public Hearing for Consideration of a Special Event Liquor Permit for the Elizabeth Celtic Festival

Commissioner Rick Pettitt made a motion to open a Public Hearing for Consideration of a Special Event Liquor Permit for the Elizabeth Celtic Festival . Commissioner Grant Thayer seconded the motion.

Yes - None

No - None

The Public Hearing Opened at 9:22 AM.

Deputy Clerk Amanda Moore briefly went over the event which would be the same as the previous annual events that have been held.

Public Comment:

None

Motion: To Approve the Special Event Liquor Permit for the Elizabeth Celtic Festival

Commissioner Grant Thayer made a motion to Approve the Special Event Liquor Permit for the Elizabeth Celtic Festival. Commissioner Rick Pettitt seconded the motion.

Yes - Chris Richardson, Grant Thayer, Rick Pettitt

No - None

Motion: To Close a Public Hearing for Consideration of a Special Event Liquor Permit for the Elizabeth Celtic Festival

Commissioner Rick Pettitt made a motion to close a Public Hearing for Consideration of a Special Event Liquor Permit for the Elizabeth Celtic Festival . Commissioner Grant Thayer seconded the motion.

Yes - None

No - None

The Public Hearing Closed at 9:23 AM.

3. Noxious Weed Advisory Council Bylaws and Plan

County Manager Sam Albrecht provided information regarding the plan and bylaws that were spoken of at the last meeting. Mr. Albrecht stated that once this is approved they will work on appointing advisors and a weed management manager.

Commissioner Thayer asked how many members could be appointed.



Mr. Albrecht stated that there could be 5 to 9 members, land owners of 40 acres or more.

Public Comment,
None

Motion: To Approve the Noxious Weeds Advisory Council Bylaws and Plan

Commissioner Grant Thayer made a motion to Approve the Noxious Weeds Advisory Council Bylaws and Plan . Commissioner Rick Pettitt seconded the motion.

Yes - Chris Richardson, Grant Thayer, Rick Pettitt
No - None

4. Social Media Policy

County Manager Sam Albrecht explained that there were some minor changes to the social media policy from when it was presented to the Board at the last meeting. Mr. Albrecht stated that the changes were mostly clarifications and contact information.

Public Comment,
None

Motion: To Approve the Social Media Policy

Commissioner Rick Pettitt made a motion to Approve the Social Media Policy. Commissioner Grant Thayer seconded the motion.

Yes - Chris Richardson, Grant Thayer, Rick Pettitt
No - None

5. Review of 1041 Regulations (Continuation)

Motion: To Continue to July 27th at 9:00 AM.

Commissioner Rick Pettitt made a motion to continue to July 27th at 9:00 AM.. Commissioner Grant Thayer seconded the motion.

Yes - Chris Richardson, Grant Thayer, Rick Pettitt
No - None



I. BOARD PLANNING

1. Agenda Items for Next Meeting
 - a. Retention Policy
 - b. Public Works Update
 - c. Audit Update

Commissioner Richardson called a recess at 9:35 AM until 10:30 AM for a Work Study Session.

J. WORK STUDY SESSION 10:30 AM

The meeting returned from recess at 10:30 AM. Deputy Clerk Amanda Moore called the roll and all the commissioners were present and acting as the Board of Equalization.

1. Assessor reports to CBOE of the total assessed value of all taxable property for Tax Year 2022

County Assessor Susan Murphy provided the CBOE with an update regarding the 2022 taxable values. Ms. Murphy went over the increases in new construction values and decreases in commercial values.

Commissioner Rick Pettitt made a motion to adjourn as the CBOE and assemble as the BOCC.
Commissioner Grant Thayer seconded the motion.
All were in favor.

2. CTSI Review of Risk History - Meredith Burcham

Meredith Burcham of CTSI provided an overview of loss prevention and risk management. Ms. Burcham talked briefly about the upcoming renewal and possible increases.

Commissioner Richardson called a recess at 10:57 AM to return at 1:00 PM for Land Use Hearings.

K. LAND USE HEARINGS 1:00 P.M. (See Note 4)

The Land Use meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM. Deputy Clerk Amanda Moore called the roll and all commissioners were present.

TD Residence Rezone (case: RZ-18-0096)

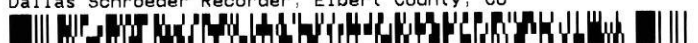
1. A request to rezone 10-acres of an existing 62-acre parcel from Agriculture (A) to Agriculture Residential (AR) on a property located at 1016 County Rd 166, Parker

Motion: To Open a Public Hearing for TD Residence Rezone RZ-18-0096

Commissioner Rick Pettitt made a motion to Open a Public Hearing for TD Residence Rezone RZ-18-0096 .
Commissioner Grant Thayer seconded the motion.

Yes - Chris Richardson, Grant Thayer, Rick Pettitt
No - None

The Public Hearing Opened at 1:02 PM.



Land Use Planner Matthew Karney presented a request to rezone 10 acres of an existing 62 acre parcel from AG to AR on a property located at 1016 County Rd 166, Parker. The owners are Ed Taylor and Gregory Hailey. The applicant is Ed Taylor. Mr. Karney explained the extensive history of this request. This request will separate the residence from the larger agricultural property and allow a sale of that property in the future. Mr. Karney explained that there are no plans to improve the property upon rezoning and minor plat approvals. Mr. Karney went over the referral comments. Staff and Planning Commission recommend approval with the condition that proof of cash-in-lieu was paid to the Fire Department.

Applicant Ed Taylor explained that the only plan for the property is to possibly sell in the future, but for now it will be agriculture and having cows.

Public Comment:
None

Motion: To Approve TD Residence Rezone RZ-18-0096

Commissioner Grant Thayer made a motion to Approve TD Residence Rezone RZ-18-0096 with the condition listed. Commissioner Rick Pettitt seconded the motion.

Yes - Chris Richardson, Grant Thayer, Rick Pettitt
No - None

Motion: To Close a Public Hearing for TD Residence Rezone RZ-18-0096

Commissioner Rick Pettitt made a motion to Close a Public Hearing for TD Residence Rezone RZ-18-0096 . Commissioner Grant Thayer seconded the motion.

Yes - Chris Richardson, Grant Thayer, Rick Pettitt
No - None

The Public Hearing Closed at 1:15 PM.

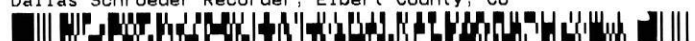
L. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To Adjourn

Commissioner Rick Pettitt made a motion to Adjourn. Commissioner Grant Thayer seconded the motion.

Yes - Chris Richardson, Grant Thayer, Rick Pettitt
No - None

The meeting Adjourned at 1:15 PM.





July 13, 2022

Elbert County Board of County Commissioners
Elbert County Planning and Zoning Commissioners
215 Comanche Street
Kiowa, CO 80117

Dear Elbert County Board of Commissioners and members of the Planning and Zoning Commission:

As you know, in March 2021 Xcel Energy announced Colorado's Pathway Project ("Project") and immediately began planning a robust engagement effort with community leaders and landowners to identify potential routes for this new infrastructure. Colorado's Power Pathway will deliver new energy resources and electric reliability to eastern Colorado and the Front Range and Xcel Energy is keenly aware that local landowners must have input into this important project.

In recent months, there has been an unusually high amount of misinformation about the Project circulating in the community. We felt it important to provide you and your community with direct resources and accurate data to address that misinformation. The "Frequently Asked Questions" page on ColoradosPowerPathway.com provides information on topics related to the Project, serving as a resource for members of your community looking for answers. We hope the information below provides clarity on three key issues that have been raised in recent public forums.

1. Benefits to Rural Colorado

The Pathway's new backbone electric transmission loop will benefit the entire region – not just metro Denver -- by enabling energy development, boosting tax revenues to local schools and governments, providing a new source of lease income for landowners, and delivering increased electric reliability.

Electric cooperatives and municipal utilities will have access to Colorado's Power Pathway. Even Coloradans who don't receive electric service from Xcel Energy will benefit from a strong, robust, reliable regional electric grid.

The Project's benefits resemble other infrastructure like pipelines, railroads and new highways. We may not always use every road in our areas but they're all there when we need them.

Xcel Energy is committed to serving Colorado. We operate power plants and electric infrastructure across the state in urban, suburban and rural communities, providing electricity to 1.5 million Colorado homes and businesses directly and on a wholesale basis to other utilities throughout Colorado. We have operated in Colorado for more than 150 years and will be here for decades to come. Our commitment to this state and region cannot be overstated.

2. Impact of New Legislation on Powerline Trails

The recently passed Powerline Trails bill (House Bill 22-1104) does **not** require powerline trails within transmission corridors, just that Xcel Energy notify local government of the Project and potential to construct a trail and consider a trail if asked to do so by local government.

Landowners do not have to agree to a new trail on their property, and the trail entity would be required to handle insurance issues, not landowners.



3. Community Engagement

We continue to work tremendously hard to inform landowners, local officials and other stakeholders of Colorado's Power Pathway and seek their input on this important project. There are multiple ways for community members to connect with us to discuss questions on siting and routing options and developments as those processes continue.

- Through our website: www.coloradospowerpathway.com
- Via email: coloradospowerpathway@xcelenergy.com
- Via our phone number: 1-855-858-9037

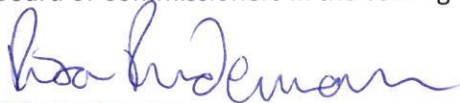
We've worked tremendously hard to inform landowners, local officials and other stakeholders of Colorado's Power Pathway and seek their input on this important project. We have sent hundreds of thousands of mailings to landowners and advertised in media throughout the project areas.

We do want the public to be aware that as we now evaluate potential additional Segment 5 route options in eastern Elbert County and western Lincoln County we anticipate more open houses will take place in August in the new Segment 5 Eastern Review Area, for residents within its boundaries. These open houses are intended for landowners and members of the public in the Eastern Review Area to have direct access to engage with the Project staff and gather their feedback on the potential additional route options.

At the appropriate time we will be prepared to discuss in detail our community engagement and siting process with the Board.

Thank you for taking time to read this. We felt we needed to provide some clear, concise information to correct some of the misunderstandings about the project we've heard at recent meetings. As always, if you'd like additional information or have questions, please contact our project representatives at 1-855-858-9037 or at coloradospowerpathway@xcelenergy.com.

We look forward to working closely with the Elbert County Planning Commission and Elbert County Board of Commissioners in the coming months.

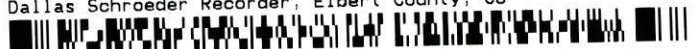


Rita Ruderman

Xcel Energy

Principal Agent, Siting and Land Rights

1800 Larimer Street, Suite 400, Denver, CO 80202



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ELBERT COUNTY, COLORADO



CHRIS RICHARDSON, Chair, COMMISSIONER District 1



RICK PETTITT, COMMISSIONER District 2



GRANT THAYER, Vice-Chair, COMMISSIONER District 3

ATTEST: Amanda Moore

Deputy Clerk

BY: 

Deputy Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners; Amanda Moore

