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Minutes of the Board of County Commissioners Meeting, held on January 10 2024, at 8:30 a.m. in the Commissioners Chambers, Alamosa County Services Center, 8900 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101.

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Members Present:

Lori Laske, Chair  
Vern Heersink, Vice-Chair  
Arlan Van Ry, Commissioner  
Jason Kelly, County Attorney  
Roni Wisdom, County Administrator  
Jamie Greeman, Deputy Clerk

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### **Invocation**

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Approval of Agenda**

A change to the agenda was made to remove the presentation on wildfire mitigation from the agenda.

**m/s Heersink/Van Ry motion to approve the January 10, 2024 agenda as amended**

**Motion was passed unanimously**

### **Approval of Minutes**

**m/s Heersink/Van Ry motion to approve the December 20 Regular Meeting Minutes and December 20 Public Hearing Minutes for Resolution Appropriating Additional Funds for Alamosa County**

**Motion was passed unanimously**

### **Approval of Bills/Obligations**

General Account Check # 159125 – 159323

PH Check # 35763 - 35786

**m/s Heersink/Van Ry motion to approve the Bills/Obligations of Alamosa County**

**Motion was passed unanimously**

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Van Ry asked to pull the CDOT Access Permit contract from the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Heersink asked to remove the Liquor License Renewal for Mini Mart, DBA Loaf n Jug from the Consent Agenda.

**m/s Heersink/Van Ry motion to approve remaining Consent Agenda items**

**Motion was approved unanimously**

Arlan Van Ry asked about the CDOT Permit. He asked why CDOT wanted to close the road and what would happen if the County didn't close it. And he wondered what the process was for closing an access.

Richard Hubler, Land Use Director, replied that there's two access points into the Pettyjohn Subdivision. To the west is Blue Spruce Avenue, and the one to the east is Aspen Avenue. Recent developments in that vicinity triggered CDOT's current process. CDOT changed their process and published the current access manual that the County operates under in 1998. Prior to that point, they handled access entirely differently than they do now. The new manual has some processes to deal with historic or existing accesses. One of the key factors in that process is triggering a review, if there's a change in use greater than 20%. They are looking at a variety of different factors to consider whether that threshold was met.

If for instance, there is a dead-end street with 10 houses on it, and another one, two or three houses, or more than that, is added, it will be 20% bigger. This triggers the CDOT process. When the County permitted the subdivision to the north of Pettyjohn acres, which is an additional 10 lots, a couple of years back, that was part of the discussion at that point in time with CDOT. So it was already on CDOT's radar, as far as where they thought that there were too many accesses too close together and all historic, all non-compliant, basically with the current rules.

As the County went through that process, the County required that the developer pay for a traffic study once that 20% threshold is triggered. The first level traffic study is just based on those counts, basically documenting how many vehicles there are during a peak hour and what's the impact to the access. The second level is getting a traffic engineer involved. That's what happened in this case. That study was done about a year and a half ago and submitted with an access permit to CDOT. The County finally got that access permit in December and that's what's before the Commissioners now. It does have a timeframe for it to be signed off on. Then it starts an entirely different process with CDOT.

If the County disagreed with CDOT, then CDOT could say that Blue Spruce is no longer eligible, or Aspen is no longer eligible for access to the highway. When this access permit was proposed, it was based on traffic counts at the time. Since then, there has been some increased development to the west. That was not considered. The increased potential impact did not come into calculations of whether or not there was a left turn lane needed into Blue Spruce Avenue.

The direct access from Aspen Avenue to the highway will be gone. All the traffic in and out of that neighborhood will be coming out of Blue Spruce. The Land Use Office has been having conversations with CDOT about neighboring commercial developments. There's one directly adjacent to the west and one about 1000 feet adjacent to the west. Those are factored in the conversations, but aren't part of this actual access permit. Moving forward, if something changed, then the County may have to revisit this.

There have been conversations with long term solutions to get traffic from this area to County Road 106, which had been already partly approved by the County a number of years back, and is something that CDOT is in favor of. If there is more development north of here, then the County can continue to explore the option to get a road through the north end of that Aspen, Blue Spruce loop. But there's some private property in the way. As that private property potentially gets developed in the future, the road could be continued through to 106 to provide a second point to this subdivision.

The regulations in the land use code for larger subdivisions 10 lots or more, has always required two points of access. That's probably where Aspen and Blue Spruce came initially, to meet that requirement, because it is essentially a dead-end subdivision. It doesn't meet the intention of those two points of access, because they're located about 300 feet from each other on the same road.

Arlan Van Ry said that really an acceleration lane or turn lane is needed at that road.

Richard Hubler said that there are a couple of solutions to that. One would be a left in, left out lane, that would provide an opportunity for people to get out of the path of traffic. However, the highway is not wide enough currently to be able to do that.

Robert Copley, resident, stated that he didn't see a big problem with what's being proposed. He thinks that a left turn lane would increase the safety factor. But, if a turn lane is being considered, he doesn't know what would be the point in changing the access.

Brian Cook, business owner, recently purchased the commercial area to the west of Pettyjohn Acres. Their new business has not yet generated a lot of new traffic. Turning left onto the property is a real challenge. They want to get along with the County and CDOT and they understand that working with CDOT can be challenging. They would like to keep their exit out of the existing property, even if they are right turn only into an acceleration lane or something like that.

Vern Heersink said that there is a study scheduled by CDOT, but it is not until 2026.

Benita Brink on Zoom, lives on Blue Spruce, and she commented that she is in favor of closing one of the two access points. In order to get into that subdivision, people have to pull off onto the shoulder of the road in order to make the right turn. It's very difficult when there are two places where people are turning when everybody's coming home from work. The vehicles on Highway 160 don't slow down for a person to make the turns into the subdivision which necessitates pulling onto the shoulder of the road.

Lori Laske asked when CDOT would be closing off the access.

Richard Hubler said that the closure is a responsibility of the County. He has had discussion with Road & Bridge Director, Ron Medina, about a time frame. Road & Bridge will work on removing the pavement and grading it. Ron Medina hopes to get that done by spring.

Lori Laske asked if the visibility would change if the access point was closed.

Richard Hubler said that it would not get any worse than what it is now. The difference is that those coming from Aspen Avenue are now going to have to come around on either the north or the south into that loop to get to Blue Spruce to get in and out. He has heard a couple people have comments on the Pettyjohn Acres sign that is not in great shape. But that's a separate discussion. It is possible now to safely use Blue Spruce with the sign there.

**m/s Heersink/Van Ry motion to approve CDOT Access Permit number 5230850**

**Motion was approved unanimously**

Vern Heersink asked Jason Kelly about Mini Mart's response on the liquor license permit to the license infractions. He wondered if the infractions were for different stores in Colorado.

Jason Kelly said that he had noticed those as well and they are at different locations. He would be more concerned if the infractions were specific to the location in Alamosa.

**m/s Van Ry/Heersink motion to approve the Liquor License Renewal for Mini Mart LLC, DBA Loaf n Jug**

**Motion was approved unanimously**

## **Appointments**

**Resolution 2024 F-1 to set Alamosa County Mill Levy**, read by Alamosa County Controller, Maricruz Mora.

*WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Alamosa, has adopted the annual budget in accordance with the local government budget law on December 6, 2023; and*

*WHEREAS, the amount of money necessary to balance the budget for General Fund operating expenses is \$16,166,114; Department of Human Services expenses is \$21,364,750; Community Development expenses is \$332,866 and for the Debt Service expenses is \$304,620.*

*WHEREAS, the 2023 valuation for assessment for the County of Alamosa as certified by the County Assessor is \$209,370,946; and*

*WHEREAS, after reviewing the requirements for anticipated expenditures and revenues from all the sources for FY2024, the Board of County Commissioners of Alamosa County has determined that for the year 2023 the proper mill levy, which shall be collected in the year 2024 upon each dollar of the assessed valuation of all taxable property in the County shall be 25.238 mills.*

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF ALAMOSA, COLORADO, as follows:**

*Section 1. There is hereby levied upon each dollar's worth of property within the county limits of the County of Alamosa for the purpose of defraying the necessary expenses and paying all legal obligations of said County for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2024, a tax of 25.238 mills on each dollars' worth of property as per the assessed value thereon as show by the valuation for assessment, as certified by the Alamosa County Assessor for the year 2023, as fixed by the Alamosa County Board of Equalization.*

*Total Authorized Levy 25.238 Mills*

*General Fund #110 20.988 Mills*

*Department of Human Services Fund #111 3.550 Mills*

*Community Development Fund #128 0.500 Mills*

*Debt Service Fund #140 0.200 Mills*

*Total 25.238 Mills*

Roni Wisdom commented that the County has already approved the budget. And the budget was based on the numbers that were available previous to the legislation. The County will have to do a supplemental budget to show this reduction in income that will be seen because of the changes on the assessed valuation. And that assessed value or the reduction is about \$350,000. The County will reduce the budget. However, there is some offset coming from the State of Colorado as a backfill. The budget has been approved based on those numbers. This is in place, which is what will be collected on property taxes, and then the County will see what the backfill is and then make up the difference.

**m/s Heersink/Van Ry motion to approve Resolution 2024-F-1 to set Alamosa County Mill Levy**

**Motion was approved unanimously**

**Resolution 2024 F-2 to set Alamosa County Weed Control District Mill Levy**, read by Maricruz Mora.

*WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Alamosa in its capacity as the Weed & Pest Control Board, has adopted the annual budget in accordance with the local government budget law on December 6,2023; and*

*WHEREAS, the amount of money necessary to balance the budget for General operating expenses is*

\$20,017; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 valuation for assessment for the Alamosa Weed & Pest Control District as certified by the County Assessor is \$18,881,933; and

WHEREAS, after reviewing the requirements for anticipated expenditures and revenues from all the sources for FY2024, the Board of County Commissioners of Alamosa County (serving as the Board of Directors for the District) has determined that for the year 2023 the proper mill levy, which shall be collected in the year 2024 upon each dollar of the assessed valuation of all taxable property in the District shall be 1.500 mills less a mill levy credit of .496 mills = 1.004 mills.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF ALAMOSA, COLORADO, as follows:

Section 1. There is hereby levied upon each dollar's worth of property within the Alamosa Weed & Pest Control District, County of Alamosa for the purpose of defraying the necessary expenses and paying all legal obligations of said District for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2024, a tax of 1.500 mills less a mill levy credit of .496 mills = 1.004 mills on each dollars' worth of property as per the assessed value thereon as show by the valuation for assessment, as certified by the Alamosa County Assessor for the year 2023, as fixed by the Alamosa County Board of Equalization.

Total Authorized Levy 1.500 Mills

Mill Levy Credit (0.496) Mills

Total 1.004 Mills

**m/s Van Ry/Heersink motion to approve Resolution 2024-F-2 to set Weed Control District Mill Levy**

**Motion was approved unanimously**

**Resolution 2024 G-1 Reorganization of Board of County Commissioners**, Roni Wisdom read the resolution.

Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ moved for the adoption of the following resolution. Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ seconded the motion.

WHEREAS:

To appoint **Lori Laske** as Chairman of the Board of Alamosa County Commissioners.

To appoint **Vern Heersink** as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Alamosa County

Commissioners.

That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be authorized to sign checks, vouchers and other instruments on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners.

To designate the Alamosa County Service Center (Annex) and the Alamosa County Office Building per court order as the place to post the Alamosa County Commissioners meeting agenda and other meeting agendas.

To appoint **Roni Wisdom** as the designated County Administrator.

To appoint **MariCruz Mora** as County Controller and designated to prepare the annual budget.

To appoint **Jason Kelly** as the designated County Attorney.

To appoint **Wall, Smith & Bateman, Inc** as Alamosa County's auditing firm.

To appoint **ALAMOSA STATE BANK, FIRST SOUTHWEST BANK, SAN LUIS VALLEY FEDERAL BANK, RG BANK, DEL NORTE BANK, AND COLO TRUST** as the official depositories and investment companies for Alamosa County funds; and **COLORADO STATEWIDE INVESTMENT PROGRAM/PFM ASSET MANAGEMENT, PEAKS/PUBLIC INVESTMENT CONSULTANTS, AND CSAFE** as authorized investment companies.

To appoint **THE VALLEY COURIER** to be designated as the newspaper of record for legal publications by the County of Alamosa to be supplemented by Radio Stations **KALQ/KGIW/KRZA/KSPK** where appropriate.

To appoint **Vern Heersink** as Alamosa County's representative and **Arlan Van Ry** as alternate to the San Luis Valley Development Resource Group Board and the SLV Council of Government Board.

To appoint **Lori Laske** as Alamosa County's representative for the City of Alamosa Economic Development Board.

To appoint **Lori Laske** as Alamosa County's representative to the Lead, Lead, ICM Program.

To appoint **Arlan Van Ry** as Alamosa County's representative to the Alamosa Senior Citizen's Board.

To appoint **Vern Heersink** as Alamosa County's representative to the Home Health Agency Quality Assurance Professional Advisory Committee.

To appoint **Bill Brown** as Alamosa County's Veterans Service Officer.

To appoint **Vern Heersink** as Alamosa County's representative to the San Luis Valley Public Health Partnership.

To appoint **Arlan Van Ry** as Alamosa County's representative to the 12th Judicial Community Corrections Board.

To appoint **Lori Laske** as Alamosa County's representative to the San Luis Valley Television.

To appoint **Lori Laske** as Alamosa County's representative to the South Central Senior Citizen's Board.

To appoint **Vern Heersink** as Alamosa County's representative to the San Luis Valley Regional Solid Waste Authority Board.

To appoint **Arlan Van Ry** and **Richard Hubler** as Alamosa County's representatives to the San Luis Valley E-911 Telephone Authority Board.

To appoint **Vern Heersink** as Alamosa County's representative and **Arlan Van Ry** as alternate to the SLV Homeland Security Executive Board.

To appoint **Arlan Van Ry** as Alamosa County's representative to the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area Board.

To appoint **Arlan Van Ry** as Alamosa County's representative to the Crossroads Turning Points, Inc. Board.

To appoint **Lori Laske and Catherine Salazar** as Alamosa County's representatives to the San Luis Valley Community Action Agency Committee.

To appoint **Lori Laske** as Alamosa County's representative to the Courtroom Security Advisory Board.

To appoint **Vern Heersink** as Alamosa County's representative to the TPR/STAC Advisory Committee for the Colorado Department of Transportation.

To appoint **Lori Laske** as Alamosa County's representative to the SLV Habitat Conservation Plan Committee.

To appoint **Lori Laske** as Alamosa County's representative to the SLV Opioid Settlement Governance Council.

To appoint **Lori Laske, Vern Heersink, and Arlan Van Ry** as Alamosa County's representative to the San Luis Valley County Commissioners Association.

To appoint **Lori Laske, Vern Heersink and Arlan Van Ry** as well as the Chair and Vice Chair of the Planning Commission to the Board of Adjustment.

To appoint **Lori Laske, Vern Heersink and Arlan Van Ry**, as Alamosa County's representative to the Public Lands, Agriculture, Wildlife and Rural Affairs, Land use and Natural Resources Health and Human Services for Colorado Counties Inc.

To appoint **Lori Laske, Vern Heersink, and Arlan Van Ry** as Alamosa County's representative to the Justice and Public Safety, General Government, Tourism, Resorts and Economic Development, Taxation and Finance, Transportation and Telecommunication for Colorado Counties, Inc.

To appoint **Lori Laske, Vern Heersink, and Arlan Van Ry** as the County Board of Health and said Board shall act as the Board of Health whenever any reports, presentations, or requests are made by the Public Health Director or his/her agent.

To appoint **Leslie Petersen** to the Alamosa County Planning Commission for a three (3) year term.

To appoint **Joe Martinez** to the Alamosa County Planning Commission for a three (3) year term.

To appoint **Erin Minks** as an associate member to the Alamosa County Planning Commission for a three (3) year term.

To re-appoint **Fred Bunch, Rob Oringdulph** and **Debora Hankinson** to the Alamosa County Events and Facilities Local Marketing District Board for a three (3) year term.

To re-appoint **Donna Wehe, Randy Wright** and **Erin Keck** to the San Luis Valley Regional Airport Advisory Board for a three (3) year term.

To re-appoint **Sandra Hostetter** to the San Luis Valley GIS/GPS Authority for a three (3) year term.

The standard office hours for Alamosa County are 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday.

**m/s Heersink/Van Ry motion to approve Resolution 2024 G-1 for the Reorganization of the Board of Alamosa County Commissioners.**

**Motion was approved unanimously**

Roni Wisdom noted that there are now more types of online publications and wondered if they should also be appointed as a public notice location.

Jason Kelly said that there is no reason that other locations couldn't be included. But, there has to just be one official print location designated.

**DOLA LOMA Building Code Grant**, Richard Hubler reported that this grant is part of the ongoing process to support the building code adoption, not only in Alamosa County, but across the valley. Last year, most of the counties and towns within the San Luis Valley adopted as a cohort, a consistent implementation of the 2018 International Building Code. That was in response to House Bill 1362, which had some requirements for last calendar year and has some additional requirements coming up in 2026. The Land Use office has been working with jurisdictions throughout the San Luis Valley to support the implementation of those codes. The cohort, through Alamosa County, is applying for a FEMA BRIC Building Code Plus Up grant to support a three-year program. If successful, those funds will come in 2025. That will overlap the forthcoming changes related to the next version of the energy code, as well as the expected implementation of wildland urban interface code for fire proofing and buildings and whatever else the legislature does in the meantime. The grant is due next month, and it does have a match requirement that's fairly substantial.

In an approach to cover the match without burdening the counties, the Land Use Office is applying through DOLA for a local match. These are funds that the state designated specifically to match funds that are available from the IIJA federal funding. This grant application is to ask for a match so that the counties are not burdened with the match.

Arlan Van Ry asked if the grant would fund a position to serve all of the counties.

Richard Hubler said that the grant does not allow the money to be used to hire anyone, the funds could be used to contract with a consultant. An RFP process would have to be completed.

Arlan Van Ry asked if it would just be a temporary position.


Richard Hubler said that it would be a three year position, but the skills acquired by that person after the contract would make them very hireable to contractors in the San Luis Valley.

**m/s Van Ry/Heersink motion to approve the application for the DOLA Building Code grant  
Motion was approved unanimously**

**Board/Staff Updates**

**There being no further business, the Regular Meeting of the Board of Alamosa County Commissioners was adjourned.**

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jamie Greeman, Deputy Clerk

  
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Lori Laske, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Vern Heersink, Vice-Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Arlan Van Ry, Commissioner

**Note:**

These minutes summarize the final decision made by the Board at the referenced meeting. This meeting was also audio recorded and that recording is available for review. In the event there is confusion as to what the final decision of the Board is, the Board will rely on the audio tape to interpret the Board's intent. The audio tape shall act as an official record of these proceedings for any necessary purpose when, in the opinion of the Board, the minutes are in any way insufficient. An audio copy of the Board of County Commissioners' proceedings is available by contacting the Deputy Clerk to the Board located at the Alamosa County Service Center, (719) 589-4848, or email to [jgreeman@alamosacounty.org](mailto:jgreeman@alamosacounty.org).