TO: Honorable Mayor and Board of Trustees  
FROM: Matt Cohrs, Town Administrator  
DATE: October 9, 2018  
SUBJECT: Resolution 18R54 supporting Ballot Issue 4A

Summary
Resolution 18R54 would support Ballot Issue 4A for a mill levy override in the Elizabeth Public School District. Without raising taxes, 4A would allow the district to attract and retain teachers and support staff by offering compensation that is competitive with surrounding school districts. It would also expand safety and security measures through equipment, training, and preparedness, and would include a Student Resource Officer (SRO) through a partnership with the Elizabeth Police Department.

The goals of the SRO include providing safe learning environments in the schools, providing valuable resources to school staff members, fostering positive relationships with youth, developing strategies to resolve problems affecting youth and protecting all students. The five main roles of the school resource officer are: 1) public safety specialist 2) police officer 3) community liaison and problem solver 4) law-related educator 5) positive role model/mentor.

The SRO will be a commissioned officer of the Elizabeth Police Department who works in close partnership with Elizabeth School District’s Director of Safety and Emergency Planning, the high school and middle school principals, and other district staff.

Compensation for the SRO will be by the district for nine months of the year and by the Elizabeth Police Department for the remaining three months of the year, when school is not in session.

Staff Recommendation
Staff recommends that the Board of Trustees approve Resolution 18R54, a resolution in support of Ballot Issue 4A for a mill levy override in the Elizabeth School District.

Attachments:
A). – Resolution 18R54  
B). – SRO Description
RESOLUTION NUMBER 18R54

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING BALLOT ISSUE 4A FOR A MILL LEVY OVERRIDE IN THE ELIZABETH SCHOOL DISTRICT

WHEREAS, The Elizabeth School District is seeking voter approval for a mill levy override that would replace the expiring tax for bonded debt with general fund revenue;

WHEREAS, the mill levy override will be used to attract and retain teachers and support staff by offering compensation that is competitive with surrounding school districts, and expand safety and security measures through equipment, training, and preparedness;

WHEREAS, the override will include the addition of a school resource officer (SRO) in partnership with the Town of Elizabeth;

WHEREAS, the SRO will be a commissioned officer of the Elizabeth Police Department who works in close partnership with Elizabeth School District’s Director of Safety and Emergency Planning, the high school and middle school principals, and other district staff;

WHEREAS, the goals of the SRO include providing safe learning environments in the schools, providing valuable resources to school staff members, fostering positive relationships with youth, developing strategies to resolve problems affecting youth and protecting all students;

WHEREAS, the SRO will be compensated by the district for nine months of the year and by the Elizabeth Police Department for the remaining three months of the year, when school is not in session;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Town of Elizabeth supports Ballot Issue 4A and strongly urges a vote of “YES” this November.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 9th day of October, 2018 by the Board of Trustees of the Town of Elizabeth, Colorado, on first and final reading, by a vote of 7 for and 0 against.

Megan Vasquez, Mayor

ATTEST

Michelle M. Oeser, Town Clerk
Elizabeth School District School Resource Officer (SRO) Overview

If voters approve the Elizabeth School District’s $1.59 million mill levy override ballot question this November, a school resource officer (SRO) will be hired by the summer of 2019 to support the Elizabeth High School and Elizabeth Middle School campuses.

The goals of the SRO include providing safe learning environments in the schools, providing valuable resources to school staff members, fostering positive relationships with youth, developing strategies to resolve problems affecting youth and protecting all students. The five main roles of the school resource officer are: 1) public safety specialist 2) police officer 3) community liaison and problem solver 4) law-related educator 5) positive role model/mentor.

Upon approval by the Trustees of the Town of Elizabeth, the SRO will be a commissioned officer of the Elizabeth Police Department who works in close partnership with Elizabeth School District’s Director of Safety and Emergency Planning, the high school and middle school principals, and other district staff. The SRO will be compensated by the district for nine months of the year and by the Elizabeth Police Department for the remaining three months of the year, when school is not in session.

The SRO will be an integral part of the school safety team and will help ensure the safety and security of campuses while supporting student success in every classroom, every day. The SRO will be a likely first responder in the event of critical incidents at the schools, such as accidents, fires, and other potentially life-threatening events. A school resource officer is a sworn, armed police officer, not a security guard. The SRO will be POST (Peace Officers Standards and Training) certified and receive specialized training that better equips them to engage with youth. Additionally, the SRO will support the district’s Director of Safety and Emergency Planning by assisting with proactive steps for preventing, responding to, and managing crises at the assigned schools.

On a day-to-day basis the SRO will:

- Increase the feeling of safety among students and staff
- Act as a deterrent for behaviors by adults and students
- Work to resolve problems such as bullying or disorderly behavior
- Assist with crime prevention
- Prevent or minimize property damage in the school and surrounding areas
- Investigate possible traffic and criminal violations, assaults and threats
- Assist in making sure any searches are legal and appropriate, protecting the school and students
- Reduce the need for schools to call 911
- Create positive partnerships and relationships between the police, students and school administration
- Increase the likelihood that students (particularly those with mental health issues) will get the help they need from the social service and health care systems.