

Can't afford projects

These are hard economic times. A great many taxing entities are starting to run big deficits because of the shortage of tax revenues. It will happen in Colorado, Larimer County and in the city of Fort Collins.

But look at the local news from this week's papers. The Downtown Development Authority wants to spend \$20 million to \$25 million to build a downtown amphitheater. It will be financed with tax incremental financing, and they will try to tell you that "we" won't have to pay for it. With the widespread use of this type of financing, "we" will have to pay for it with higher taxes and/or less governmental services. And are hard times the time to build this?

Then the water district wants to build reservoirs for \$400 million or so. This will support further growth of Northern Colorado. We are unable to afford the infrastructure for the population we now have, including roads, schools, police and more. How are we going to take care of many more folks? We can't even get together for a regional highway solution.

Then, the tuition is going up in a big way at Colorado State University. So now the school is going to build a \$20 million sports facility.

Maybe our governmental entities should take a look at this \$445 million-plus cost and give the projects some more consideration or consider a postponement of these projects. "We" are going to pay for them directly or indirectly and maybe, just maybe, "we" can't afford them right now.

Bill Friedman,

Fort Collins

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