

**WESTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**OFFICIAL MINUTES**  
**January 17, 2017**

The meeting of the Weston County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Bill Lambert at 9:00 a.m. at the Weston County Courthouse Annex. Commissioners Bill Lambert, Tracy Hunt, Marty Ertman, Tony Barton, and Ed Wagoner, and County Clerk Jill Sellers were present. Commissioner Barton opened the meeting with prayer, and Commissioner Wagoner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

Commissioner Ertman requested that mileage rates be added under New Business. Commissioner Barton moved to approve the agenda as noted, minutes of January 3, 2017, and the executive session minutes of January 3, 2017; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Carried.

**2015-2016 AUDIT**

Vikki Nunn of Porter, Muirhead, Cornia & Howard (PMCH) presented the final audit report on FY 2015-2016. Highlights are as follows:

The assets of Weston County exceeded its liabilities at the close of the fiscal year by \$37,990,425. As of the close of the current fiscal year, the County's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$11,319,375, of this total amount, \$7,631,448, is available for spending at the government's discretion. At the end of the current fiscal year, this unassigned fund balance was in the general fund. The County at this time does not have any major debt and the significant capital assets added during this fiscal year were upgrades to various county roads, runway improvements and purchases of equipment.

General County revenue as reported by the County Treasurer increased by \$3,265,483, which is a 42.71% increase from the previous fiscal year. This increase can be attributed to an increase in capital grants and investment earnings received during this fiscal year. Expenses decreased by \$316,902, or 3.53%. The total change in net position was \$2,241,003.

No significant deficiencies were identified or reported. There were also no compliance findings this fiscal year, as all required grant information was compiled and submitted on time to the auditors. This audit report meets all state and federal reporting requirements.

Commissioner Hunt moved to accept the audit report as presented by Vikki Nunn of Porter, Muirhead, Cornia & Howard (PMCH); seconded by Commissioner Barton. Carried.

Copies of the FY2015-2016 Financial and Compliance Report are available for review in the Office of the County Clerk, and on the county website at [www.westongov.com](http://www.westongov.com).

**OLD BUSINESS**

Chairman Lambert reported on the Black Hills Regional Multiple Use Coalition; they do a lot of work in South Dakota, but also have representation in/for Wyoming interests. The annual dues are \$100.00 per year, and it was stated that our membership was worth the investment. Commissioner Wagoner moved to approve payment of annual dues of \$100.00 to the Regional Multiple Use Coalition; seconded by Commissioner Hunt. Carried.

Commissioner Hunt moved to approve the CLT voucher for \$6,496.80 (materials invoice); seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Carried.

Commissioner Barton volunteered to serve on the Child Support Authority board. Commissioner Hunt moved to appoint Commissioner Barton; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Carried.

Commissioner Hunt moved to reappoint Rick Dunford to the Planning and Zoning board; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Commissioner Hunt thanked Mr. Dunford for his service and dedication to the board. Carried.

Clerk Sellers reported that National Resource Conservation Service is offering a training opportunity for special district board members. The training is scheduled for February 22-24, 2017. Details are posted on the county website, and has also been emailed to special district board members. Individuals may also participate online for \$10.00.

Clerk Sellers presented the credit card survey; it was agreed to make it available on the county website and on counters at the courthouse, for the month of February. The Clerk will present the survey results to the Commissioners at the first meeting in March.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Alexys Barker of the Newsletter Journal took a group photo of Board of Commissioners, which will be posted to the county website.

Commissioner Barton moved to approve Resolution 2017-04 to hold the first meeting of July on July 5, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.; seconded by Commissioner Ertman. Carried.

Commissioner Barton moved to appoint Commissioner Ertman as a representative to Wyoming County Commissioners Association Board; seconded by Wagoner. Carried.

Commissioner Ertman moved to approve payment of dues to Wyoming Taxpayers Association in the amount of \$195.00; seconded by Commissioner Barton. Commissioner Ertman noted that the association is helpful with oversight and details regarding proposed tax legislation. Carried.

Commissioner Barton moved to approve Resolution 2017-02 to authorize payroll for direct deposit; seconded by Commissioner Ertman. Carried.

Clerk Sellers presented Resolution 2017-03, to update the Clerk's Fee Schedule, to provide set fees for providing electronic records on media such as flash drives and CDs. Commissioner Barton moved to authorize board signatures on Resolution 2017-03 to update the Clerk's Fee Schedule; seconded by Commissioner Ertman. Carried.

Clerk Sellers presented a letter from Department of Revenue acknowledging Tina Conklin, Bridget Helms and Stephanie Derifield, as certified tax appraisers.

Commissioner Barton moved to authorize the Chairman's signature on a letter of support for Northern Wyoming Mental Health Center; seconded by Commissioner Ertman. Carried.

Clerk Sellers presented Homeland Security Grant for Hazard Materials Emergency Planning, which will provide funds to the fire department to purchase hazardous materials suits. Commissioner Wagoner moved to approve Chairman's signature on the grant document; seconded by Commissioner Ertman. Carried.

County Administrator Dan Blakeman is collecting bids for the courthouse repairs. Those bids will be submitted to Glatfelter Insurance Company for additional settlement monies to repair the flood-damaged offices.

Commissioner Hunt moved to authorize the Chairman's signature on the Wyoming Extension Office lease at the Forest Service building; seconded by Commissioner Barton. Carried.

Bids and proposals have been requested for signage for the annex. Bids are expected from Colton Cummings; Wilder Graphics; and Bryce Womack & Dusty Neate (student interns). Proposals will be presented at the February 7, 2017 meeting for consideration.

The Commissioners agreed that Ed Wagoner and Tracy Hunt will make up the subcommittee to have a working meeting with Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regarding grant monies and landfill issues. Clerk Sellers will facilitate arrangements for the subcommittee to meet with Cyndi Crabtree and Craig McOmie (DEQ).

Commissioner Ertman moved to set a policy for the county mileage rates at the IRS standard; seconded by Commissioner Barton. The rate is currently 53.5 cents. Clerk Sellers will send out a memo to advise all the departments. Carried.

#### **PRAIRIE DOGS**

Bob Harshbarger, Weston County landowner of 4-W Ranch, addressed the Commissioners, following up on USFS Ranger Shane Walker's presentation on January 3, 2017, specifically regarding the USFS committee. Mr. Harshbarger's principle concern is that their committee will be ineffective because it will have no authority. The Commissioners answered that participation is the only option available to remain involved and to be potentially influential; and also noted that the promised February meeting of the new USFS committee has not been scheduled and/or announced.

Mr. Harshbarger stated that the grazing associations need to be involved with the USFS and how they are managing the allotted grazing lands. Dennis Jaeger, USFS, stated at the November 22, 2016 coordination meeting that he was managing the Thunder Basin Grasslands for multiple use; Mr. Harshbarger stated that the USFS does not have the authority to do that, as the laws are set by Congress for the lands to be used primarily for livestock grazing. Mr. Harshbarger and the Commissioners agreed to keep one another informed of all developments.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Alexys Barker of *Newsletter Journal* commented on the Commissioners' Room at the annex being well suited for meetings.

Happy birthday to Commissioner Hunt.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

Bill Lambert  
Chairman

Attest:

Jill Sellers  
Weston County Clerk