

July 21, 2015

The regular meeting of the Weston County Commissioners convened at 9:00 a.m., Chairman Bill Lambert presiding. Present were Commissioners: Tony Barton, Tracy Hunt, Marty Ertman, Randy Rossman, County Clerk Cheryl Kregel, Commissioners Administrative Assistant Dan Blakeman, and Assistant Deputy Clerk Melanie Stevens.

#### **Good of the Order**

Commissioner Rossman gave the invocation and Commissioner Barton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Ertman requested the RFP for the Courthouse Architect and an update on the Forest Service meeting she attended be added to the Discussion Items. Commissioner Ertman requested the 2016 FY Budget Approval to be extended from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., with the scheduled afternoon guests being worked in. Commissioner Barton moved, Commissioner Hunt seconded, to approve the amended agenda. Carried.

#### **Commissioners Administrative Assistant**

Chairman Lambert extended the Boards welcome to Dan Blakeman, Commissioners Administrative Assistant. Blakeman thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to work for Weston County.

#### **Homeland Security**

Scott Rager, Homeland Security Supervisor, came before the Commissioners regarding the criteria for lowering the flag to half-staff. Rager proposed having one minute of silence, including lowering the flag to half-staff on Thursday, July 23, 2015 at 10:45 a.m. to honor the four U.S. Marines killed on July 16, 2015, returning the flag back to full staff at the conclusion. The Board had no objections. Later Rager informed the Board that he had received both a Governor's and a Presidential decree ordering flags to be flown at half-staff ending at dusk on Saturday, July 25, 2015.

#### **Discussion**

Commissioner Hunt spoke with the Board about having the Fair Board members attend a training class. Chairman Lambert stated he had spoken to one Fair Board member and was informed that they had discussed this at their past meeting. Commissioner Ertman noted that this had been offered twice in the past. Commissioner Rossman also discussed a conversation with Rick Williams regarding the condition of the fair grounds. Williams plans on running a blade there the next time one is in town.

The meeting recessed at 9:21 a.m. and reconvened at 9:26 a.m.

#### **21 Electric**

Josh Liggett, Owner of 21 Electric, presented the Commissioners pictures and a bid to repair and replace wiring in the Weston County Courthouse attic. Commissioner Hunt moved, Commissioner Rossman seconded, to approve 21 Electric's bid of \$1650.00 to replace and correct the wiring and lighting. Discussion ensued; Commissioner Ertman mentioned the RFP for an architect to come evaluate the courthouse including the attic and would hate to see corrections be paid for multiple times. Carried.

The meeting recessed at 9:45 a.m. and reconvened at 10:00 a.m.

#### **Weston County Commissioners Fun Night**

Commissioner Ertman talked to the Board about Commissioners Fun Night on Thursday, July 30, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the WC fairgrounds. She asked for volunteers to bring supplies and help run the numerous events. Commissioners Barton, Rossman, and County Clerk Kregel all volunteered. Ertman mentioned having a County Commissioners float in the parade but multiple Commissioners stated prior obligations.

#### **Rare Element Resources**

Mike Finn, RER, returned to update the Commissioners on the progress with their continuing projects. Finn also spoke about the Molycore Mine, the only rare-earth mine in the U.S., filing Chapter 11 bankruptcy. He stated this could either benefit or hurt RER.

#### **Weston County Commissioners Renewal Scholarship**

Three applicants were eligible for the 2015-2016 WCCRS. County Clerk, Cheryl Kregel spoke with Daniel Strong, University of Wyoming, who confirmed that all three candidates were students at the University of Wyoming and currently meet the GPA criteria. Kregel mailed letters to the candidates on May 15, 2015 but hadn't received any responses. Discussion ensued; Commissioner Ertman stated because no

one had replied to the Commissioners that money should be turned back to the State. The Commissioners felt that all three candidates were qualified and placed the three names into a drawing. Chairman Lambert drew a name and Commissioner Rossman read it out loud. Erin Lynn Crawford was drawn as the scholarship recipient, with Abigail Hutchinson and Catherine Halliday as the alternates.

### **Planning Board**

Cheryl Kregel, County Clerk, asked to use the county credit card for registration fees and room reservations for Nicole Fitzgerald to attend the 2015 Western Planning Schooling. There were no objections.

### **Discussion**

Commissioner Ertman attended the U.S. Forest Service meeting regarding the prairie dog issue on the Inner Disciplinary Team. Ertman talked about the changes that they have proposed, including some shooting and poisoning approaches that will then be presented back to the Governor. Ertman sees these changes as a step in the right direction.

### **County Engineer Report**

Jerry Hunt, County Engineer, spoke about the two HVAC RFP's that were opened on Friday, July 17 2015. Powder River Heating's bid was \$248,600. Their approach is to continue using the current boiler and chillers with modifications. Valley Plumbing and Heating's bid was \$588,000. The approach they took included going to a heat pump for both heating and cooling, along with providing a designated heat source to help the heat pump when it's cold. Hunt noted a big difference between the two approaches was Powder River also wants to look at the air handling system. Commissioner Rossman moved, Commissioner Barton seconded, to accept and enter into contract negotiations with Powder River Heating. Carried. Jerry Hunt mentioned that Timberline Services had completed the dust control on HWY 85 and have begun working on Grieves Rd. He mentioned the Green Mountain Rd portion came in under bid and could conceivably lay another 5,000 tons of gravel down. Hunt has calls out to different roofing companies for the Sheriff's Office and he will get with Rick Williams and discuss going forward on the Road and Bridge shop floor repairs.

### **Discussion**

Commissioner Ertman talked about the RFP for the SHPO Grant is currently inadequate. Blakeman mentioned that he'd like to work with Commissioner Ertman on this and they will be in touch.

### **Visitor Comments**

Chairman Lambert opened the floor to visitor comments. None were heard at this time.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:08 a.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m. All were present.

### **Approval of Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Rossman moved, Commissioner Barton seconded, to approve the Consent agenda items including the District Court Monthly Statement \$861.15, Report of Earnings or Collections Monthly Statement \$12,139.00, Catering permit for Buckhorn Bar & Grill Aug 1-10, Minutes from July 7, 2015 Regular Meeting & Executive Session, Minutes from June 23, 2015 Executive Session, and RABE Elevator service agreement. Carried

### **Letter of Resignation**

Commissioner Rossman moved, Commissioner Ertman seconded, to accept with regret, Marilyn Schmoker's resignation from the WC Fair Board. County Clerk Kregel will send her a letter thanking her for her service. Carried.

### **Discussion**

The Commissioners reviewed Justin Mills' request for a Fair Board position. Commissioner Barton moved, Commissioner Hunt seconded, to appoint Justin Mills to the WC Fair Board for the remaining term that expires 2017. Carried. They also discussed a request from Bob Hartley for the WCSWD board. The Board will hang onto Hartley's request until they have received enough requests to form a board.

### **County Attorney**

County Attorney Curley informed the Commissioners the State has adopted the Uniform Rules for use of County Boards Equalization Books. Commissioner Ertman questioned if repeal is needed for the Board of Equalization Rules that the WCC adopted on August 27, 2012. Attorney Curley will follow up with the Secretary of State on this. County Attorney Curley discussed the proper way to label the minutes when

printed in the News Letter Journal and Weston County Gazette. He stated the minutes are in fact “unofficial” and should be labeled as such. Bob Bonnar, NLJ, stated the minutes had been printed as “unofficial” in the past and changed earlier this year. The minutes will be printed as “unofficial”. Commissioner Ertman moved, Commissioner Rossman seconded, to approve the WIC contract and the Public Defenders contracts as presented. Carried.

The meeting recessed at 1:56 p.m. and reconvened at 2:05 p.m. All present.

#### **Community Enhancement Grant Letter of Support**

Linda Hunt asked the Commissioners for a letter of support for the City of Newcastle. Commissioner Rossman moved, Commissioner Barton seconded, to send a letter to the Wyoming Business Council supporting the Community Enhancement Grant. Carried.

#### **2016 FY Budget Discussion**

Discussion ensued over the Extension Office Secretaries Salary, Administration, Road and Bridge, WCSWD, Homeland Security Deputies Salary, and the County Attorney’s Secretary and Deputy Attorney’s Salaries. Discussion ensued regarding the cost increase for a county wide hourly raise of \$0.50 per hour. Commissioner Rossman moved, Commissioner Ertman seconded, to give a \$500.00 onetime appreciation bonus to all county employees in December. The Commissioners expressed their utmost appreciation for all of the county employee’s hard work to Weston County. Carried.

#### **WC Fairgrounds Manager**

Randee Davies introduced herself as the newly hired WC Fairgrounds Manager. Davies stated she’s been working getting the fairgrounds ready for the WC Fair and about the different structures that need repairs. Commissioner Ertman mentioned that Dan Blakeman is available to assist with finding potential funding for issues such as repairs and improvements.

#### **Weston County Event Center**

Ray Hunkins, Hunkins Newton Law Firm, joined the meeting via conference call at 3:12 p.m. to discuss the Weston County Event Center. Commissioner Rossman moved, Commissioner Barton seconded, to enter executive session under W.S. 16-4-405 (a)(iii) on matters concerning litigation to which the governing body may be a party to. Carried.

The meeting entered executive session at 3:16 p.m. and returned to open session at 4:12 p.m. with all present. The conference call ended at 4:07 p.m.

#### **Approval of the 2016 FY Budget**

Commissioner Rossman moved, Commissioner Barton seconded, to approve the 2016 FY Budget. Carried.

#### **Home Inspection Agreement**

Commissioner Hunt moved, Commissioner Barton seconded, to allow the Chairman to sign the home inspection agreement from Hayman & Associates as presented. Carried.

The meeting recessed at 4:12 p.m. and reconvened at 4:17 p.m. All present.

#### **Discussion**

Chairman Lambert mentioned Rick Williams, Road and Bridge Supervisor, called in and asked for authorization to go look at a used tractor/mower for possible purchase. There were no objections to his request. Curley presented the County Road Utility license for Chairman Lambert’s signature. Applications will be given to Rick Williams for review and then brought to the Board for approval.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

Bill Lambert

Chairman

Attest: Cheryl Kregel

County Clerk