

WESTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
July 21, 2020

The regular meeting of the Weston County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Ed Wagoner at 3:00 p.m. at the Upton Town Hall. Commissioners Ed Wagoner, Nathan Todd, Marty Ertman, Tracy Hunt and Tony Barton, and Weston County Attorney Alex Berger and Clerk Becky Hadlock were present. Finnley Todd, daughter of Vice-Chairman Todd, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Barton moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Vice-Chairman Todd. Ayes: Wagoner, Todd, Hunt, Barton. Nays: Ertman. Carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Barton moved to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the minutes of July 7, 2020, Tax Roll Correction #1389-#1398, Temporary Liquor License – Buckhorn, Temporary Liquor Licenses – Flying V, Chairman’s Signature on Agreement Between Wyoming Department of Family Services, Child Support Program and Weston County Clerk of District Court, Chairman’s Signature on Agreement of Youth Services, Appointment of Board Member: 1 Position Child Support Board – Nathan Todd; Seconded by Vice-Chairman Todd. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

ANNEX PARKING LOT

Attorney Berger reported that he is still waiting to hear from Thane Ashenhurst. Attorney Berger explained the lease agreement to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

ANNEX UPDATE

Attorney Berger let the Board know that the Weston County Public Defender’s Office is being dissolved, all Crook and Weston County cases will be handled out of Campbell County and due to this situation the Public Defender Office will be moving out. Attorney Berger added that Focus would like to rent the vacant Office’s for an additional \$100 per month. Attorney Berger reported that the Public Defender’s Office was paying \$600 rent. Commissioner Ertman would like to see if we can try to get someone from the public in this space. Commissioner Hunt agreed that the Board needed to advertise the space for 30 days.

OLD BUSINESS – cont.

ROAD & BRIDGE – ENGINEER UPDATE/BLACK THUNDER BRIDGE

Road and Bridge Superintendent Rick Williams reported that he visited with County Engineer Jerry Hunt about the Black Thunder Bridge, and Engineer Hunt is still waiting on drawings. Superintendent Williams does not know if Engineer Hunt has visited with the landowner about additional fill dirt needed for the project and this will need to be figured out too. Chairman Wagoner asked if Superintendent Williams could visit with the landowner. Superintendent Williams added that Engineer Hunt had stated he would be going to Laramie to get the drawing that was needed to move on with the project. Commissioner Ertman asked Superintendent Williams when he felt was the last day the project could be started.

Superintendent Williams answered the end of October because there is a lot of concrete that needs to be poured. Commissioner Ertman asked if the Board could reach out to different Engineers. Commissioner Barton asked about the service agreement that is in place with the current engineer and Clerk Hadlock let the Board know she would get them a copy of the agreement.

Clerk Hadlock also let the Board know that the insurance check had come for the Old Hwy 85 Bridge. Superintendent Williams stated there is a way to put a detour around the bridge. Vice-Chairman Todd asked if there were landowners that needed to get across it. Commissioner Ertman wanted to know how to keep the public from dropping off of the Bridge. Superintendent stated that there are landowners that use it and there is a permanent stop up. Commissioner Ertman asked that Superintendent Williams put a detour there when he feels it needs to be done.

APPROVAL OF FY2021 BUDGET – RESOLUTION 2020-10

Commissioner Ertman moved to approve the FY2021 Budget – Resolution 2020-10 Adoption of County Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021; seconded by Vice-Chairman Todd. During discussion Commissioner Barton asked if the Fairgrounds budget was left as it was. Vice-Chairman Todd stated that their biggest repair listed for their expenses were the Open Class roof repair for \$7,000 and the Concession stand repair for \$4,000 and these both can be taken out of building and grounds if they need additional help. Ayes: Wagoner, Todd, Hunt, Ertman. Nays: Barton. Carried.

WYOMING SUPREME COURT COURTROOM UPGRADES

Judge Matthew Castano came before the Board about an upcoming project to upgrade the technology in the Courtroom. Judge Castano stated this would all be paid for with COVID funds and the Supreme Court but the maintenance would be paid for by the County. The upgrade would consist of electrical outlets, larger monitors for documents to be displayed digitally. Judge Castano does not know if the County will be responsible for additional costs if the second phase of the COVID funds does not come through. Commissioner Ertman stated the County is not interested in spending another dime on the Courtroom. Chairman Wagoner added that the County fought back and forth with issues and the Board does not want to go back to putting holes in the wall. Commissioner Hunt stated they are wanting new modifications and new upgrades and still don't think that we need a judge or a magistrate. Commissioner Hunt would like Judge Castano to come back to the Board once he has a better update on the plans.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Glen Wise, owner of Wyoming Earthmoving Corporation, came before the Board to discuss some concerns that he had with his contract. Mr. Wise's concerns were answered and Commissioner Barton would like the Board to pay for the interest that Mr. Wise accrued because a bill was held up being paid. The County will then bill County Engineer Jerry Hunt for this. Commissioner Barton moved to pay Wyoming Earthmoving Corporation \$1,909 for the interest due; seconded by Vice-Chairman Todd. Carried.

BENTONITE PERFORMANCE

Michael Barr, Mineral Resource Coordinator for Halliburton, came before the Board to discuss the bridge on Beaver Creek. Mr. Barr asked if the County would be putting a by-pass around it. The Board let Mr. Barr know that the insurance company had only paid a small amount and right now a detour would have to be built. Mr. Barr asked if vehicles would be able to use the detour once it's built or if an alternate route would be better. Mr. Barr is inquiring about a portion of the Cheyenne River Road as having public access as the Lucky Strike Mining Company was working on obtaining access through the

IRP process. Commissioner Ertman let him know that the State has dropped all funding for this program. Commissioner Ertman asked that Mr. Barr work with Road and Bridge on what they need for the road as far as specs and suggested Mr. Barr do a public records request to obtain the information on this road.

UPTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Brittany Trandahl, Upton Chamber of Commerce President, presented the Board with a list of events that the Chamber has going. Ms. Trandahl thanked the Board for their support monetarily and support in general. Commissioner Ertman thanked them for the banners around Upton and let Ms. Trandahl know that they looked great. Ms. Trandahl let her know that the Chamber had not purchased those.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

Ed Wagoner
Chairman

Attest: Becky Hadlock
Weston County Clerk