

WESTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
January 16, 2018

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Ertman requested to add Commissioners' meeting schedule under Old Business. Vice Chairman Lambert moved to approve the agenda as discussed; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chairman Lambert moved to approve the minutes of January 2, 2018; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Carried. Vice Chairman Lambert moved to approve the Executive Session minutes of January 2, 2018; seconded by Commissioner Ertman. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Ertman moved to hold the March 20th meeting in Upton at 5:00 p.m. at the Upton Community Center; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Carried.

Commissioner Ertman moved to schedule the first meeting of 2019 for Wednesday, January 2, 2019; seconded by Vice Chairman Lambert. Carried.

Commissioner Ertman moved that the Commissioners' meeting on November 6, 2018 be held from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon due to the 2018 Election that date; seconded by Vice Chairman Lambert. Carried.

Vice Chairman Lambert moved to authorize the Chairman's signature on the Northern Wyoming Mental Health MOU; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Carried.

Clerk Sellers reported that stock dog trials would be a labor and volunteer intensive event for Commissioners' Night at the Fair, and offered the idea of a movie night. Vice Chairman Lambert moved for the Commissioners to sponsor a movie night at the Weston County Fair in 2018; seconded by Commissioner Ertman. Carried. Chairman Barton will check into the copyright issues. Other suggestions included inviting vendors or offering a fundraising opportunity.

NEW BUSINESS

Vice Chairman Lambert moved to rescind the previous budget amendment motion made on January 2, 2018 for the CMAQ projects; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Carried. Vice Chairman Lambert moved to hold a Budget Amendment Hearing on February 6, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. for CMAQ Grieves Road (FY2017 CM17409), CMAQ Morrissey Road (FY2018 CM 18408), and the USFS Sheriff Patrol Agreement; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Carried.

Vice Chairman Lambert moved to reappoint Nicole McFarland to the Planning and Zoning Commission; seconded by Commissioner Ertman. Carried.

Justin Stevenson and Chase Jackson applied for the Public Representative vacancy on the Predator Board. Vice Chairman Lambert moved to reappoint Justin Stevenson to the Weston County Predator Board; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Vice Chairman Lambert noted that Mr. Stevenson was appointed to fill an unexpired term, and reappointment would provide him the opportunity to serve a full-term. Carried.

Vice Chairman Lambert will contact a member of the Wyoming Water Association to find out more information on membership. No action taken.

UPTON RAILCAR PROJECT

John Marshall and Tom Barritt, Upton Economic Development Board, presented that the Upton Railcar Project is scheduled for final approval on January 17, 2018 in Cheyenne. He requested that the County road therein be moved to the south end of the rail park, per Alternate 3 in the Buffalo Creek Traffic Study dated February 2015. Questions and concerns included existing pipelines, access, timelines, and costs to move the road. Commissioner Ertman noted that industrial road funds could be a possible source of funding for the process of moving the road. Vice Chairman Lambert moved to have the County Administrator work with the Upton Economic Development Board and other involved parties to bring forth a proposal to move the county road in the Upton Railcar Project in the Upton Logistics Center; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Carried. Attorney Curley will investigate the process and requirements, and will work with Administrator Blakeman.

TREASURER

Treasurer Susie Overman presented cash reports for November and December 2017 for signature. Treasurer Overman also presented a comparison between December 2016 and December 2017, to illustrate revenues.

ROAD AND BRIDGE

Road and Bridge Administrative Assistant Brooklyn Weigel reported that the new fuel tanks at Road and Bridge began operation on January 5, 2018. Road and Bridge employees will begin using online timecards on January 24, 2018. Superintendent Williams would like to replace the bridge on Dewey Road with culverts, using contractors and County Road Funds. Chairman Barton asked for Road and Bridge to compile an equipment depreciation list, and recommendations for maintenance and replacement.

ASSESSOR

Assessor Tina Conklin provided the quarterly report on oil and gas assessments, reporting that gas is up by 37% and oil by 5%.

WESTON COUNTY PREVENTION TASK FORCE

Kristi Lipp reported on the mission and accomplishments of the Prevention Task Force, which includes alcohol and tobacco prevention, and limited drug and suicide prevention due to funding restrictions. In 2011, DUIs were 70% of all arrests in Weston County, which dropped to 26% in 2016. The task force also began a prescription drug and opioid prevention program, which includes drop boxes to dispose of medications. Ms. Lipp encouraged the Commissioners and the public to contact legislators to support restoring funds to the local level for decisions.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Attorney William Curley reported on setting up a meeting of our insurers and risk manager to determine our potential liabilities.

Commissioner Hunt joined the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

4-H EDUCATOR

Vicki Hayman, Weston County Extension Office, Glen Whipple, Extension Director, and Mary Kay Wardlaw, Associate Extension Director, presented information on the 4-H Educator position and its funding requirements. Vice Chairman Lambert moved to allow the Extension Office to advertise for a full-time 4-H Educator; seconded by Commissioner Hunt. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Ertman noted that state budget markups are currently happening, and offered that the information from the state would allow the county to know if the state is going to continue to pay the full benefit package. The benefit package would cost the County approximately \$5,000.00 - \$9,000.00 per year for the 4-H Educator. Vice Chairman Lambert clarified that his motion included that the position would be advertised and filled this FY2018 and that the County would fund the benefits in FY2019, if the state does not. Commissioner Ertman called for the question. Carried.

ADMINISTRATOR

Administrator Dan Blakeman reported that the CMAQ documentation for Bruce, Grieves and Morrissey Roads is in progress. Vice Chairman Lambert moved to authorize the Chairman's signature on the substantial completion form for the Bruce Road/Wildcat Creek project; seconded by Commissioner Ertman. Carried.

Checklists have been prepared for CMAQ and SLIB grants, in order to track and properly document each step of those grant processes. Administrator Blakeman also reported on a conference with Beth Blackwell, State Land and Investment Board, regarding the SLIB audit, wherein Ms. Blackwell provided assurance that Weston County can move ahead with the courtroom remodel project, should it choose to do so; Administrator Blakeman will provide a signed document to that effect.

Commissioner Ertman moved to approve the eligibility form for the Upton-Fairview/Soda Creek Crossing project in the amount of \$327,377.20; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Carried.

Vice Chairman Lambert moved to approve the eligibility form for the Lynch Road/Little Thunder Creek Crossing project in the amount of \$472,000.00; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Carried.

Administrator Blakeman reported that the Law Enforcement Building Agreement is still with Newcastle Mayor Deb Piana for consideration. The Commissioners offered support in order to further the discussion and to hopefully finalize that agreement.

Courthouse flood repairs continue to progress: windows are installed; spray foam insulation has been applied to the exterior walls; and sheetrock will be installed next week. Completion is estimated in less than one month.

A capital improvement list has been started to track county properties. The Administrator will work with Maintenance and Departments to determine priorities and estimate costs. This list will be constantly updated, and certainly updated prior to budget workshops.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Ertman moved to go into Executive Session per W.S. 16-4-405(a)(iii); seconded by Vice Chairman Lambert. Carried. Executive Session began at 2:35 p.m.; reconvened at 2:45 p.m. No action was taken in Executive Session.

COURTROOM REMODEL PROJECT

Vice Chairman Lambert moved to accept the low bid and award the courtroom remodel project and alternate to Michael's Construction in the amount of \$685,647.00; seconded by Commissioner Hunt. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Ertman voted nay. Carried.

Vice Chairman Lambert moved to add 10% contingency of \$78,864.00 to the courtroom remodel project; to authorize architecture costs up to \$103,000.00; to take \$90,000.00 out of Building and Grounds (100.00.26.0621000.0000) and to take the remaining balance for the project of \$110,474.00 out of Cash Reserves; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Commissioner Ertman voted nay. Carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice Chairman Lambert moved to go into Executive Session per W.S. 16-4-405(a)(iii); seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Carried. Executive session began at 3:29 p.m.; reconvened at 3:41 p.m. No action was taken in Executive Session.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The meeting was well-attended by the public for the 4-H Educator position, voicing overwhelming support for the position to continue in Weston County.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

Tony Barton
Chairman

Attest: Jill Sellers
Weston County Clerk