

**WESTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**OFFICIAL MINUTES**  
**March 20, 2018**

The meeting of the Weston County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Tony Barton at 5:00 p.m. at the Upton Community Center. Commissioners Bill Lambert, Marty Ertman, Tracy Hunt, and Ed Wagoner, and Clerk Jill Sellers were present. Commissioner Wagoner opened the meeting with prayer, and Commissioner Ertman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CHANGES TO AGENDA**

Wyoming Veterans Welcome Home Day was added to the agenda under New Business.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Lambert moved to approve the consent agenda, which included the agenda for March 20, 2018 and minutes for March 6, 2018; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Homeland Security Grant Agreement for 18-DOT-WESHMP18 in the amount of \$9,895.50 is completed with signatures, and ready to be added to the current FY2018 Budget into a new grant line number. Clerk Sellers suggested that budget amendment hearings could be scheduled at the beginning of each fiscal year. All items available for amendment could be included in the next scheduled hearing; this approach is practiced by the majority of counties in Wyoming, and would save on publication costs. Vice Chairman Lambert moved to have a budget amendment hearing on June 5, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.; seconded by Commissioner Ertman. Carried.

Commissioner Ertman reported on coordination with DRU Consulting, considering a conference call schedule with the other affected entities regarding the Thunder Basin Grasslands. Vice Chairman Lambert moved to start a one-year agreement with DRU Consulting; seconded by Commissioner Ertman. Carried. Commissioner Ertman will contact Dru Bower of DRU Consulting to finalize the agreement.

Clerk Sellers presented information on voting in Wyoming and costs of election equipment.

The Commissioners are awaiting input from the County Attorney on a Title 25 voucher; it remains under Old Business until resolved.

**BUDGET AMENDMENT HEARING**

Chairman Barton called the budget amendment hearing to order at 5:30 p.m. Chairman Barton called for public comments three times; there were none. The public hearing was closed. Commissioner Ertman moved to move funds from Financial Administration 100.00.20.0099000.0000 to District Court 100.00.11.0112000.0000 in the amount of \$6,668.15; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Carried.

Note: On March 6, 2018, the amount approved for the budget hearing was \$5,982.00 to fund the District Court part-time position as full-time during construction. Payroll calculations corrected the figure to \$6,668.15, an increase of \$686.15. The correct amount of \$6,668.15 was advertised for the budget amendment hearing, and passed by the motion above.

Commissioner Ertman moved to add the Road & Bridge Foundation consensus funds of \$26,434.00 to the budget amendment hearing scheduled on June 5, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Carried.

Commissioner Ertman questioned the need to rescind Resolution 2018-04 regarding the funding of the courtroom remodel project. Resolution 2018-04, signed on January 23, 2018, was required by the State Land and Investment Board to identify county funding for the courtroom remodel project in order to maintain eligibility for MRG-17042. Vice Chairman Lambert reported that the intent of his motion was to identify Cash Reserves for the courtroom remodel project in order to maintain grant eligibility with SLIB, and that it was not tied to a particular fiscal year.

Note: The first four points of Resolution 2018-04, which identified funding for the courtroom remodel project, were already in the current FY2018 Budget, and that the fifth point on using Cash Reserve funds applies to the overall project, which will ultimately be funded in both FY2018 and FY2019. A budget amendment to the current budget is not required by SLIB, and the funding will be allotted in FY2019 Budget.

Commissioner Ertman moved to rescind the motion from January 16, 2018; then recalled the motion.

Commissioner Ertman moved to amend the motion from January 16, 2018 to add "in FY2019" following "Cash Reserves;" seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Discussion included Vice Chairman Lambert stated that his intention remains the same, that the funding was identified for the overall project, which will be paid for in two fiscal years (FY2018 and FY2019); supported by Commissioner Hunt. Ayes: Ertman and Wagoner. Nays: Lambert and Hunt. Chairman Barton voted nay. Failed.

Commissioner Ertman moved to rescind her motion from February 6, 2018 to hold a budget amendment hearing for the courtroom remodel project; seconded by Vice Chairman Lambert. Carried.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Barton reported that the WCCA National Resources Attorney, Bailey Schreiber, would like to discuss the prairie dog issues with Commissioners Lambert and Ertman as representatives from the Commissioners. Chairman Barton suggested Wright as a fairly central meeting location for Weston, Niobrara, Converse, and Campbell Counties, which would also provide an opportunity for a tour of the affected areas. Chairman Barton will coordinate the meeting and arrangements, based on Bailey's availability on either April 19 or 20, 2018.

Wyoming State Forestry has requested that Weston County pay for new lighting for the main bay of the forestry building where elections are held, since rent for that space is never charged for elections use. Commissioners wish further information on the bids from Homestead Works Electric and 21 Electric. Clerk Sellers will investigate the possibility of using the Weston County Event Center as a polling place in Newcastle, instead of the forestry building.

Vice Chairman Lambert moved to authorize the Chairman's signature on the USFS Grant modification for 2018 Annual Operating Plan in the amount of \$4,300.00; seconded by Wagoner. Carried. This item will be included in the FY2019 Budget.

Vice Chairman Lambert presented the evaluation process for County Administrator Dan Blakeman, which will include evaluation by the Commissioners as well as a self-evaluation form completed by the

employee. The process will provide for a performance assessment and a plan ahead for the position by the board as a whole. The County Administrator's evaluation will be scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Commissioner Ertman provided invitations to the Wyoming Veterans "Welcome Home" Day on Friday, March 30, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. at Newcastle High School.

#### **WEED & PEST**

Hale Redding, Weed & Pest, presented the First Right of Refusal document regarding the Renew Building. Vice Chairman Lambert requested the insertion of language regarding the inclusion of land, buildings and improvements. The County Attorney will review and insert appropriate language; it will be presented at the April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Commissioner Ertman moved to table the Renew Building Right of First Refusal document; seconded by Commissioner Hunt. Carried.

#### **HOMELAND SECURITY**

Homeland Security Coordinator Denise Bradshaw presented grant opportunities to provide communications for emergency notifications in FY2019, which require a 25% grant match commitment. Satellite phones provide additional communications coverage for emergencies, especially in rural areas where cell phones and even radios sometimes have limited operability. Commissioner Ertman moved to provide a 25% grant match for the Office the Homeland Security for the FY2019 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) Grant, not to exceed \$3,000.00; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Carried.

Coordinator Bradshaw presented the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Resolution for approval and signature, which will support the SHSP grant application approved above. Commissioner Hunt requested information on the basis of resolution, and Commissioner Ertman requested minutes from previous meetings on the prior resolutions approved by the Commissioners. Coordinator Bradshaw will send further information to the Commissioners on NIMS. Vice Chairman Lambert moved to approve the NIMS Resolution as presented; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Ayes: Lambert and Wagoner. Nays: Hunt and Ertman. Chairman Barton voted aye. Carried.

Coordinator Bradshaw is researching the power bill for the siren tower in Osage. The cost is approximately \$30 per month. It has been paid by the Weston County Fire Protection District, but may need to be included in the county budget going forward in FY2019.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR**

Administrator Dan Blakeman requested direction on Bentonite Performance Minerals proposal to haul bentonite on Cheyenne River Road.

Commissioners Lambert and Ertman, Sheriff Colvard and Attorney Curley will attend a meeting to discuss the law enforcement building agreement with City of Newcastle officials and City Attorney Jim Peck.

#### **SCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT**

At 6:00 p.m., Garrett Borton, Weston County resident, addressed the Commissioners regarding the Fair Board. He presented a request to dissolve the Fair Board and install a new management structure wherein the Commissioners would oversee the Fairgrounds Manager with an advisory team. He cited that Big Horn County uses this management system successfully. Vice Chairman Lambert offered that a potential solution must be studied and worked through public meetings for consideration, and not a reaction to the current conflict with the Fair Board. An unsigned copy of the Fair Board Bylaws were

presented. Commissioner Ertman requested that the County Attorney review applicable statutes and the fiduciary requirements of the Fair Board, as well as their bylaws. Chairman Barton suggested that board training be made available, which would include board materials regarding statutes and Wyoming Open Meeting Law; and that no decision would be made at this meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Approximately 22 people attended the discussion regarding the Fair Board. Public comments were made by Ann Sedgwick, Laurie Farella, Colleen Donaldson, David Kline, Cassie Hayman, Theresa Hershey, Alvaro Baeza, and Ellen McKenzie.

Chairman Barton closed the session for public comments.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Tony Barton  
Chairman

Attest: Jill Sellers  
Weston County Clerk