

WESTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
April 17, 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 Tony Barton, Bill Lambert, Marty Ertman, Tracy Hunt, and Ed Wagoner and Clerk Jill Sellers were present. Commissioner Wagoner opened the meeting with prayer, and Commissioner Hunt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice Chairman Lambert moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Wagoner moved to approve the minutes of April 3, 2018; seconded by Vice Chairman Lambert. Clerk Sellers will add the vouchers specific to SLIB grants under the Consent Agenda. Carried.

TITLE 25 VOUCHER

Attorney William Curley re-presented a voucher from Wyoming Behavioral Institute for consideration. Commissioner Ertman moved to approve the voucher from Wyoming Behavioral Institute for Title 25 in the amount of \$4,110.00; seconded by Vice Chairman Lambert. Attorney Curley recommended against payment as the case does not meet Title 25 requirements. Vice Chairman Lambert spoke against the motion. Ayes: Hunt. Nays: Lambert, Ertman, and Wagoner. Failed.

DRU CONSULTING

Commissioner Ertman moved to authorize the Chairman's signature on the updated agreement with DRU Consulting for consulting services for Thunder Basin National Grasslands prairie dog issue; seconded by Vice Chairman Lambert. Vice Chairman Lambert requested close consideration before the agreement is renewed next year. Commissioner Ertman will keep the board apprised. Carried.

Attorney Curley continues to work on the Weed & Pest agreement for the Renew Building and Right of First Refusal document.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Provider agreements with the State of Wyoming for Adult and Child Immunization were presented for consideration; electronic signatures are required. Public Health Nurse Lori Bickford reported that the Weston County Public Health Office is considered low-risk by the state, as they have had minimal losses of vaccines over the past 15 years due to expiration or unused supplies. Vice Chairman Lambert moved to authorize the Chairman's electronic signature on the provider agreements with the State of Wyoming for Adult and Child Immunization to acknowledge only the Weston County Public Health Director's responsibilities for immunizations; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Carried. Attorney Curley will specify in the signature block that the Chairman's signature acknowledges the roles and responsibility of the public health nurse and the signature does not enter the county into a contract.

LIQUOR LICENSES

Mona Wineteer, Assistant Deputy Clerk, presented the liquor license applications for renewal. Vice Chairman Lambert moved to approve the liquor licenses renewals: Buckhorn Bar & Grill, Canyon Springs Stage Stop, West End Bar & Grill, Flying V Cambria Inn, VFW Club, Pizza Barn; and Fountain Inn;

seconded by Commissioner Hunt. Carried. Beer Hut and Cedar Pines Country Club did not renew their licenses.

DISTRICT COURT

Clerk of District Court Gidget Macke reported on plans for the security windows for District Court and would rather not have security windows installed at the customer counter, preferring face-to-face interaction with the public. Administrator Blakeman reported that his concern was that the building renovation was to prepare for the future and the possibility of future security requirements. Chairman Barton offered, since the security windows have not yet been ordered, that the plans will be modified to include the security windows as a possibility in the future, but they will not be installed at this time. Administrator Blakeman will convey this information to the architect and contractor.

ROAD & BRIDGE

Superintendent Rick Williams introduced Dana Brentlinger of RDO Equipment Company, who addressed options for purchasing and leasing equipment for Road & Bridge.

Superintendent Williams reported on items for auction with Big Iron Auctions: motor grader; 12,000-gallon fuel tanks; Chevy dump truck; bulldozer; 600-gallon oil tanks; and three pickups.

Superintendent Williams reported that he is retiring with June 28, 2018 as his final day after 42 years of service to Weston County Road and Bridge. He provided a road evaluation prioritizing county road projects. The Commissioners noted that the County will lose a wealth of institutional knowledge with his retirement and thanked him for a lifetime of service to Weston County.

Attorney Curley reported that the County ad hoc Road Committee believed the Upton-Fairview Road should be established as a county road in three segments being, from North to South, segments A, B, and C, of which segments A and C could be established by consent, while segment B could be established by the Common Law prescription. The committee will bring details to the meeting on May 1, 2018.

Administrator Blakeman requested direction on Keyton Road, as the USFS is asking about maintenance of that road. Keyton Road must be officially established first, then discussion can commence on maintenance.

ADMINISTRATOR

Administrator Dan Blakeman reported on potential plans for the annex building for consideration; CMAQ packets for Morrissey and Grieves Roads; Upton-Fairview and Lynch Road projects are waiting on input from Jerry Hunt of Weston Engineering.

Rick Williams and Dan Blakeman will meet with Oneok Pipeline representatives, and Blakeman asked for guidance on crossings of county roads and what the precedents were established on their first project. A road use agreement will be drafted for consideration.

SLIB moved \$26,434.00 from the Road and Bridge Foundation to the Courthouse Improvements grant.

Mountain Peaks Roofing and Architect Randy Hein will check the leaking windows in the cupola, and report via the County Administrator.

Commissioner Wagoner was not present for the afternoon session.

LAW ENFORCEMENT BUILDING

Mayor Deb Piana, Chief Jim Owens and City Clerk Greg James appeared to discuss the proposed law enforcement building agreement. Mayor Piana suggested continuing the current agreement, which will allow time for City budget workshops and further committee meetings to fully develop options. Vice Chairman Lambert voiced concern, which was supported by Mayor Piana, that this issue not be pushed off to a future set of officials in either government. Committee meetings will be scheduled, and it was agreed that a new agreement should be completed within 8-9 months.

OLD BUSINESS

Homeland Security Coordinator Denise Bradshaw presented information on the sirens in Weston County. The sirens in Upton and Newcastle are hard-wired into the fire hall buildings. Coordinator Bradshaw offered to investigate the option of moving the Osage siren to the Osage Fire Station, which could require an environmental impact study. The Osage siren operates for \$360.00 per year, which is currently paid by Weston County Fire District. If included under the EMPG grant, it would be a 50% match, so a \$180.00 obligation by the county. Vice Chairman Lambert moved to have the Osage siren electricity bill under the Weston County Homeland Security Department; seconded by Commissioner Ertman. Carried.

Kristi Lipp, Director of Weston County Prevention Task Force, reported on concerns with the new organizational model for the prevention program and its relationship with the Wyoming Department of Health. The solution will be applied statewide with Wyoming County Commissioners Association participating in the process. On behalf of the Commissioners, Commissioner Ertman will address a letter to WCCA Director Pete Obermueller in support of the Wyoming Department of Health Draft Grant Application, which would allow for funding to be allocated by July 1, 2018. Commissioner Ertman will ask Director Obermueller to survey the counties to determine which counties support the Wyoming Department of Health Draft Grant Application.

Vice Chairman Lambert moved to authorize the Chairman's signature on a letter of support to Wyoming County Commissioners Association for the Wyoming Department of Health Draft Grant Application; seconded by Commissioner Hunt. Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Historic Preservation Dinner will be held on April 25, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

On April 19, 2018 at 9:30 a.m., a coordination meeting is planned at the Douglas Library, to which the public has been invited. Thunder Basin National Grasslands tour will be held on April 20, 2018. Commissioner Ertman will attend both on behalf of Weston County. DRU Consulting will also attend, in accordance with the consulting agreement.

Vice Chairman Lambert moved to accept Robert Hartley's resignation from his position on the Northern Wyoming Mental Health Board; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Carried.

Vice Chairman Lambert moved to appoint Tina Conklin to the Northern Wyoming Mental Health Board; seconded by Commissioner Hunt. Carried.

Clerk Sellers presented the new board appointment books, which will be presented to all appointed board members. Board members will also be advised of board training available through University of Wyoming website. Clerk Sellers will make the books available to all current board members as well.

Vice Chairman Lambert moved to approve Tax Roll Corrections #1220, #1221, and #1222; seconded by Commissioner Ertman. Carried.

Chairman Barton presented the response letter from Regional Forester Brian Ferebee, which noted that the Newcastle Field Office will be maintained and the plans for a long-term lease arrangement.

Vice Chairman Lambert moved to authorize the Chairman's signature on the renewal of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Employer Plan effective July 1, 2018, which includes a 2% increase in premiums; seconded by Commissioner Hunt. Carried. Clerk Sellers will provide figures regarding cost per employee.

Clerk Sellers discussed the 2018 Elections: polling places, purchase of election supplies, and the lighting project for the Wyoming State Forestry building.

Commissioner Hunt moved to change the Newcastle polling place to Weston County Event Center; seconded by Commissioner Ertman. Ayes: Ertman and Hunt. Nays: Lambert. The Chairman vacated to vote nay. Died for lack of a majority.

Commissioner Hunt moved to change the Newcastle polling place to the Weston County Event Center beginning in 2020; seconded by Vice Chairman Lambert. Carried.

ELECTED OFFICIALS' SALARIES

Vice Chairman Lambert moved to raise Elected Officials' salaries (Assessor, Attorney, Clerk, Clerk of District Court, Sheriff and Treasurer) by \$10,000.00; seconded by Commissioner Hunt. Commissioner Ertman spoke against the motion citing budget concerns including the decrease in Bankhead Jones funds and the uncertainty of PILT in the future. Ayes: Hunt, Lambert. Nays: Ertman. The Chairman vacated to vote aye. Carried.

Vice Chairman Lambert moved to raise the Coroner's salary by 20% to \$14,400.00; seconded by Commissioner Hunt. Commissioner Hunt moved to amend the motion to include a 20% raise to \$14,400.00 for the Commissioners; seconded by Commissioner Ertman. Vice Chairman Lambert spoke against the amendment noting that the part-time positions of the Commissioners did not merit an increase, especially in consideration of retirement and health care benefits, and further noted that any increase in the budget should be for the full-time Elected Officials. The question was called. Ayes: Ertman. Nays: Lambert and Hunt. Amendment failed. The question was called on the original motion. Carried.

Commissioner Ertman moved to raise the Commissioners' salary by 20% to \$14,400.00; seconded by Commissioner Hunt. Vice Chairman Lambert spoke against the motion, citing his comments against the amendment. Commissioner Ertman spoke for the motion, noting that future boards may wish to consider whether or not to include the health care benefits as part of the commissioners' overall compensation package. Ayes: Ertman and Hunt. Nays: Lambert. The Chair vacated to vote aye. Carried.

Commissioner Ertman moved to table the Commissioners' Scholarship discussion and decision to May 1, 2018; seconded by Commissioner Hunt. Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Attorney Curley commented on county attorney salaries across the state, stating that Weston County is the lowest at \$50,000, and of the nine lowest counties, the average salary is \$81,000.00; and that the high salary for Deputy Attorneys is high 60-70's range. He is concerned about drawing attorneys to run for County Attorney without a competitive salary, and urged the Commissioners to reconsider in order to proactively recruit qualified and younger attorneys to serve the county.

Assessor Tina Conklin commented on budget concerns over the increase in Elected Officials' salaries, stating she would have supported a \$5,000.00 raise.

Attorney Curley noted to the Commissioners that his office has enjoyed a good working relationship with the County Administrator since being hired.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice Chairman Lambert moved to go into Executive Session under W.S. 16-4-405(a)(ii) for Dan Blakeman's evaluation as County Administrator; seconded by Commissioner Hunt. Commissioner Ertman requested that the other Elected Officials remain and be present for the County Administrator's evaluation in Executive Session. The Chairman clarified that the Board of the Commissioners is the employer of the County Administrator; the County Attorney is present for legal counsel to the board; and the County Clerk is present as the board's secretary. Ayes: Lambert, Hunt. Nays: Ertman. The Chair vacated to vote aye. Carried. Executive Session began at 2:45 p.m. Executive Session was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.; no decisions were made in Executive Session.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Tony Barton
Chairman

Attest: Jill Sellers
Weston County Clerk