

WESTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
August 21, 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 Ertman opened the meeting with prayer, and Commissioner Wagoner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Barton added under New Business: meeting with the City of Newcastle regarding the Newcastle Police Department and Weston County Solid Waste District under Provider of Service Agreements, and Vice Chairman Lambert added Thunder Basin Grasslands Prairie Dog meeting update under Old Business. Vice Chairman Lambert moved to approve the agenda as discussed; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Ertman moved to approve the consent agenda, which includes minutes of August 7, 2018 and executive session minutes of August 7, 2018; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Vice Chairman Lambert requested Division of the House, and a roll call vote was called: Wagoner: aye; Hunt: aye; Lambert: aye; Ertman: aye; Barton: aye. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Hunt moved to table the property insurance discussion to September 4th meeting; seconded by Commissioner Ertman. One hour will be allowed for discussion; all four agents will be invited. Carried.

Vice Chairman Lambert moved to authorize the Chairman's signature on the Weston County-Supreme Court MOU; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Carried.

Vice Chairman Lambert reported on an email he received on the Thunder Basin Grasslands Collaborative Group and asked the board's preference on having each email forwarded to all board members. All agreed that they would like the emails shared when available to keep all equally informed.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Barton reported on correspondence received from Newcastle Mayor Deb Piana for a meeting of both entities to discuss the proposed idea of dissolving the Newcastle Police Department. The Commissioners agreed to attend a meeting hosted by the City of Newcastle on Thursday, August 23, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. as listening participants, but not as decision makers at this time. The City of Newcastle advertised the public meeting notice.

Commissioner Wagoner moved to authorize prepayment of a voucher for Michael's Construction in the amount of \$72,494.14; seconded by Commissioner Hunt. Carried.

SLIB amount of \$23,198.12; County grant match amount of \$49,296.02.

Commissioner Hunt moved to approve the catering permit for Cambria Inn/Flying V on September 13, 2018; seconded by Commissioner Ertman. Carried.

Bentonite Performance Minerals approached the County Administrator and asked for easements to be considered on the old Cheyenne River Road. Discussion included clarification on easements for consideration and prioritizing it among all road and bridge. An MOU could be considered with Bentonite Performance Minerals to improve the road for their use. Vice Chairman Lambert moved to direct the Administration Office to coordinate easement requests for the East and West sides of Cheyenne River Road with the County Attorney who will draft and sign the notice to the landowner; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Carried.

Chairman Barton reported on a Wyoming County Commissioners Association meeting regarding a threat briefing by the Wyoming Military Department on potential long-term power outages in Wyoming.

Vice Chairman Lambert moved to authorize the Chairman's signature on the following Provider of Service Agreements: Northern Wyoming Mental Health; Newcastle Ambulance; Osage Ambulance; Newcastle Area Chamber of Commerce; Newcastle Upton/Osage Senior Meals; Newcastle Senior Center; Upton Senior Center; Upton Ambulance; Natural Resource District Hazardous Waste; Natural Resource Garden; Central Weston County Solid Waste; Upton Landfill; Weston County Children's Center; Humane Society; FOCUS and Weston County Solid Waste; seconded by Commissioner Ertman. Carried.

Clerk Sellers will contact Stacy Hoxie of FOCUS to discuss presenting their VOCA grant and the 25% grant match requirement that was approved on March 6th. This item was added to September 4th agenda.

ADMINISTRATOR

Administrator Dan Blakeman presented Resolution 2018-11 for courthouse exterior restoration project to SLIB in the amount of \$487,000.00 with a \$150,000.00 county match (75%/25% split). The grant application will be considered by SLIB on January 17, 2019. Commissioner Wagoner moved to authorize the Chairman's signature on Resolution 2018-11 for the SLIB grant for courthouse exterior restoration in the amount of \$487,000.00; seconded by Commissioner Hunt. Carried.

Powder River Energy submitted the one bid on the law enforcement building HVAC project in the amount of \$127,455.00. The project would add heat to maintenance, heating and cooling to the gym, and insulation. A balance of \$138,672.00 remains for the law enforcement building from a 2008 SLIB Consensus Grant would be applied to the project cost. Commissioner Ertman moved to authorize the Chairman's signature on the HVAC project for the law enforcement building in the amount of \$127,455.00; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Carried.

Administrator Blakeman provided an updated capital improvement plan. He also reported on an estimate to repair the Newcastle Library roof in the amount \$55,000.00, and noted that a claim will be submitted to property insurance.

ONEOK Pipeline approached the Administrator with the possibility of providing funding for courtroom furniture in the amount of \$25,000.00, as a good will gesture. Discussion included potential conflicts of interest with easements or other county decisions that could affect their project. Chairman Barton will send a letter of thanks declining the offer and asking ONEOK to redirect their contribution to the community at large.

Second floor remodel continues: tile floors are currently being installed, and paint is complete, and the project is on schedule for completion on October 31, 2018. Commissioner Wagoner expressed concern with Dan leaving at the end of August with the project incomplete.

Vice Chairman Lambert moved to go into Executive Session per W.S. 16-4-405(a)(ii); seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Carried. Executive Session began at 10:28 a.m.; regular meeting reconvened at 10:43 a.m. No decisions were made during Executive Session.

Commissioner Hunt moved to extend the employment of County Administrator Dan Blakeman for two months under existing terms and conditions; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Commissioners Lambert and Ertman both spoke against the motion. Ayes: Hunt and Wagoner. Nays: Lambert and Ertman. Chairman Barton vacated the Chair to vote aye. Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

County Attorney William Curley commended both local newspapers on providing election and candidate information.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Tony Barton
Chairman

Attest: Jill Sellers
Weston County Clerk