

## **Minutes for the March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Meeting**

The regular meeting of the Weston County Commissioners convened at 9:00 A.M. with the following present: Bill Lambert, Marty Ertman, Randy Rossman, Tony Barton & Tracy Hunt. Also present were County Clerk Cheryl Kregel, Nick Trandahl of The Weston County Gazette, Bob Bonnar of The News Letter Journal & Fran Lehman.

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Lambert called the meeting to order. Commissioner Rossman gave the invocation and Commissioner Hunt led the delegation in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Chairman Lambert spoke on adding the Weston County Fair Board discussion back on the agenda, the Budget and prioritizing future agenda items. Motion was made by Commissioner Hunt and Commissioner Rossman seconded. Motion carried.

### **Rare Elements Resources**

Mike Finn of (RER) had a short update on the Wyoming Legislature's support of the Bearlodge Project. Mr. Finn also mentioned Vice-President George Byers of Rare Element Resources would be meeting with Chairman Lambert.

The meeting recessed at 9:14 a.m. with a short break and resumed at 9:31 a.m. with Weston County Attorney William Curley joining at this time.

### **Road & Bridge**

Rick Williams, Road & Bridge Foreman, met with the Commissioners and gave an update on work to be done on Materi Road. Fran Lehman, of GIS and Planning, mentioned the easements for the Materi Road are not completed yet and also mentioned they had been dropped due to the road being low on the county's priority list. He also gave an update on Dry Creek Road and discussed culverts. The courthouse maintenance position had been mentioned to Rick and further discussion on the position as full/part time was pursued. Rick had a repair person come look at the furnace and it needs repaired. The Commissioners told him to go ahead and get it fixed.

### **GIS & Planning**

Fran Lehman, coordinator for GIS & Planning, had updates on Breakneck Road, easements and resolutions she and County Attorney Curley have been working on. She also spoke about the Lucky Strike Bentonite access.

### **Board Appointments**

Commissioner Barton moved to table the Board Appointments for the Weston County Preservation Board & Weston County Planning Board to the next Commissioner's meeting and Commissioner Ertman seconded. Motion carried.

### **Porter Muirhead, Cornia & Howard-Public Accountants**

Vikki Nunn and Jessica Harris, CPA's for Porter, Muirhead, Cornia & Howard, met with Commissioners to review Weston County's financial reports and discussed the audit. Also discussed were Central Weston County Solid Waste District, Weston County Weed & Pest and the Airport. Vikki explained that the County should inform the public in the minutes when a Commissioner lives on a certain road that pertains to them or owns a business affected by a decision. She said they could participate in discussions on such issues, but would need to excuse themselves from the vote. She said it is important to make sure the public knows that no abuse occurs.

### **Wyoming Home Services**

Leann Kenagy, Manager of the Wyoming Home Services and Representative for Weston County Health Services, explained how the Home Services program works for the elderly to stay in their homes. Commissioner Ertman suggested to Ms.

Kenagy to send a service provider request for the \$6,500.00 grant to the Commissioners.

### **Sheriff's Department**

Sheriff Bryan Colvard met with the Commissioners on the assessment that was done on the county buildings. There will be a proposal drafted in the next few weeks and Sheriff Colvard stated it will be extremely expensive, around \$10,000,000.00, per Bob Johnson, of Johnson & Riley out of Colorado. An appointment will be set for Mr. Johnson for the next meeting on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **Discussion Items**

Chairman Lambert mentioned the Wyoming Business Alliance will be in Upton on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015 for The Tour of Wyoming and also a letter from Hansen & Peck, Attorney's for the Weston County Hospital District.

### **Visitor Comments**

Chairman Lambert opened the meeting to Visitor Comments but none were heard.

The meeting recessed at 11:52 a.m. and resumed at 1:11 p.m.

### **Consent Agenda**

Chairman Lambert called the meeting back to order and asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Barton states he would like to make a change in the minutes on the bid from the Sheriff's report from Liposky Building. Should read "rough estimate" and not bid. Commissioner Barton moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the change and Commissioner Rossman seconded. Motion carried.

### **Contract Engineer**

Jerry Hunt, Contract Engineer, met with the Commissioners to discuss the County Planner position. Jerry decided to not accept the position and suggested it needed someone that could dedicate more time to Weston County. The Commissioners asked for input from Jerry a salary for the position and what type of education and background would be required. Jerry mentioned that the biggest challenge would be to find a person that can fit together all the pieces and projects for Weston County. Jerry also mentioned an architect to come and look at the Courthouse. The Weston County Dust Control Bid should be advertised 3 to 4 weeks.

### **Legislative Report**

Legislative representatives Tyler Lindholm and Hans Hunt spoke to the Commissioners on the legislative happenings in Cheyenne earlier in the year. Tyler also mentioned a program, Project Lifesaver, which would be an asset to search for elderly people and young children in our county. A GPS bracelet would be used on the volunteering person.

### **Weston County Historical Preservation**

Lucille Dumbrell and Clara Varner of the Weston County Historical Preservation Board and Fran Lehman met with the Commissioners and brought photos of Toomey's Mill and more information on the grants that are available for restoring the Courthouse. Lucille stated there are grant monies out there, and that she would visit with architect Leslie Gilmore. Commissioner Ertman moved to explore possible planning grants for changes in the courthouse. Commissioner Rossman seconded and motion carried.

### **Budget Hearing**

Commissioner Ertman moved to set a Budget Hearing for April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 10:00 A.M. to move monies out of line item 100.00.20.0099000.0000 which is the General Misc. Financial Administrative to line item 100.00.06.0089000.0000 which

is the General Attorney Office Expense in the amount of \$12,000.00 for unanticipated funds. Commissioner Rossman seconded and motion carried.

### **Old Business**

Commissioner Ertman suggested that the Buffalo Creek Study be tabled until further issues developed. A letter will be drafted by the Commission that will be waiting on the issue.

Commissioner Ertman moved to advertise the Weston County Administrative position in the paper and on the Weston County Website with a salary \$60,000-\$80,000. It will be advertised as an "At Will" positions, with benefits and wage based on experience. Commissioner Barton seconded and motion carried.

The Maintenance position was put on hold and discussion will be heard later in the meeting.

The meeting recessed at 3:02 p.m. and resumed at 3:11 p.m. with all present.

### **Weston County Event Center**

Ray Hunkins, Attorney for Weston County, phoned in to talk about the emails he has received from Paul Reed Construction (PRC) and Dan Hart Patrol and the insurance companies. Commissioner Hunt moved to go into executive session under Wyoming statute 16-4-405 (a) (iii) which stipulates a governing body of an agency may hold executive sessions not open to the public; on matters concerning litigation to which govern body is a party or proposed litigation to which the governing body may be a party; seconded by Chairman Lambert. Motion failed as Commissioner's Barton, Ertman & Rossman voted 'Nay".

### **Old Business Continued**

Maintenance position has 3 applicants for the position and will still be advertised along with bids on the basement. Both will close on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 4:30. p.m. Commissioners will be deciding at their next meeting.

Attorney Curley has been working on documentation for the board removal process and will keep the Commissioners updated.

Commissioner Barton reported he went to a Fair Board meeting and thought they did a great job. He suggested the Fair Board is doing ok and should be able to make their own decisions.

A Comment Box was suggested to go on the website, but after looking further into the idea, it was suggested not to put it on there. The county will look into a Comment Box in the Courthouse.

### **Weston County Dust Control Project**

Jerry Hunt, Contract Engineer, has put together a Bid Packet for the Weston County Dust Control Project. The bid packets are available on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and run for 4 weeks. Commissioner Barton moved to open the bids for the Weston County Dust Control Project on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015 at 1:00 P.M. Seconded by Commissioner Rossman and motion carried.

### **Future Agenda Items**

Chairman Lambert would like start prioritizing issues such as the CWCSWD and the Budget. He suggested pay raises should be evaluated by the Commissioners at a later time, and not during budgeting.

There being further business on the agenda, the meeting was dismissed at 4:20 p.m.

Attest:

Cheryl Kregel  
County Clerk

Bill Lambert  
Chairman