

January 20, 2015

The regular meeting of the Weston County Commissioners convened at 9:00 a.m. with Chairman Lambert presiding. Present were Commissioners: Marty Ertman, Randy Rossman, Tracy Hunt and Tony Barton and County Clerk Cheryl Kregel. Also present were Alexis Schultz of the *News Letter Journal* and Nick Trandahl of the *Weston County Gazette*.

Call to Order

Commissioner Rossman gave the Invocation and Commissioner Barton led the delegation in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was changed by the following: moved the minutes & executive minutes of January 6, 2015 out of the consent agenda and put them right before the consent agenda. A motion was made by Commissioner Rossman to approve "Amended Agenda" Commissioner Hunt seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting recessed at 9:06 a.m. and resumed at 9:14 a.m.

Rare Element Resources

Mike Finn, Rare Element Resources (RER), met with the Commissioners and congratulated all on their appointments. He updated them on the project and that it is moving forward with conservative measures. The Forest Service is delaying the efforts on the EIS Permit and NRC-WDEQ Permit and it will be the middle of 2017 before start up. He discussed layoffs and the investors are cautious of moving forward with raising monies. Mike thanked the County for their support on all projects and will keep the Commissioners updated.

Old Business

Maintenance Person: Commissioner Rossman gave an update on the maintenance person. He is getting a job description together and will visit with elected officials on their insight and ideas. Commissioner Ertman stated the department heads have started to meet, the Commissioners will be meeting with them to discuss the maintenance description.

Commissioner Rossman also informed the Board that he talked to John Francis about looking at the floor in the basement and that John repaired the floor.

Security Letter: Chairman Lambert asked Commissioner Hunt about the Security Letter. Discussion was held on the security of the Courthouse for judges, staff and the public in general. Commissioner Barton stated that he would like to have a representative down at the legislature to discuss issues and funding. He would also like to visit with Sheriff Colvard on his concerns about security and Commissioner Ertman said she would be glad to do that. Commissioner Barton moved to have Commissioner Hunt send a letter to the Wyoming County Commissioners Association (WCCA) and allow Commissioner Ertman to explore the funding in Cheyenne at the Legislature. Commissioner Hunt seconded and the motion carried.

Executive Session Recording: Commissioner Ertman moved to have County Attorney William Curley review the e-mail from Bruce Moats, Wyoming Associated Press attorney, on executive session recordings. It was seconded by Commissioner Rossman. Motion carried.

Roof Update: Chairman Lambert gave an update on the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Sheriff Colvard had not yet received a bid back on the roof. He will keep the Commissioners updated.

Budget Amendment FYI 2015-16 Consensus

Commissioner Ertman gave an update on the Consensus for the new Commissioners to understand. Discussion ensued on the Consensus Amendment. Commissioner Ertman moved to set the Budget Amendment FYI 2015-16 Consensus for 10:00 a.m. on February 3, 2015. Commissioner Barton seconded and the motion carried.

The meeting recessed at 10:05 a.m. and resumed at 10:09 a.m.

Weston County Health Resolution

Maureen Cadwell, the CEO of Weston County Health Services, gave a short presentation on the proposed Resolution for the 1% Specific Use Sales Tax for the remodel and addition to the Weston County Health Services building. The project needs \$8,750,000.00 from the 1% sales tax. The 1% Specific Use Sales Tax would need to be approved by a majority of the voters on May 5, 2015. Discussion was held by the Commissioners and representatives for the Resolution of the Weston County Hospital District. Todd Bishop of Kaiser & Co. was on hand to give information and Attorney Jim Peck was also on hand to answer questions. Ms. Cadwell noted that they are working on grants and funding and that SLIB approved 1.5 million dollars on the project. Commissioner Hunt moved to approve Weston County Hospital District Resolution and seconded by Commissioner Rossman. Discussion was heard from Commissioner Ertman on concerns of sales tax issues. The Commissioners are all concerned for the citizens of Weston County and making it their decision. Chairman Lambert asked for a vote: "Yeas": were Commissioner Hunt and Rossman, and "Nays" were Commissioners Barton and Ertman. Chairman Lambert casted the deciding vote as "Yea" and the motion carried.

Focus

Donna Howard, Director of FOCUS, introduced herself to the Commissioners and provided a copy of the financial report. Focus will be passing out bracelets to the schools for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month and she talked about the silver ribbons throughout Newcastle. Donna stated that she had written a grant for National Crimes Victims and will be having a gathering in April. She will keep the Commissioners updated. The Commissioners commended Donna on her accomplishments.

Public Health

Lori Bickford of Public Health met with the Commissioners about Local Public Health Office Mutual Aid Protocol. This protocol is in case of emergencies, such as disasters which require emergency stations and requiring Homeland Security activity. Commissioner Ertman moved to approve the Chairman's signature, on the approval of the County Attorney, William Curley. Commissioner Rossman seconded and the motion carried.

Weston County Extension Office

Vicki Hayman and Staci Buckholtz introduced themselves to the Commissioners to discuss rent/furlough for their department. Vicki explained how the furlough and the Budget work. The Weston County Extension Department will be short \$3,891.00. The Forest Service bills differently by billing every three months and then sometimes it does not work. The Commissioners asked Ms. Hayman to write a letter to the Forest Service about a billing just once a year. The rent is budgeted and needs to be adjusted with the Forest Service. Ms. Hayman will keep the Commissioners updated.

The meeting recessed at 11:05 a.m. and resumed at 11:14 a.m.

Action Items

Buffalo Creek Traffic Study: Thomas McMurtry, Project Manager of Buffalo Creek Traffic Study sent a contract for the amendment of the study. The contract is for an extension on the project. Commissioner Barton moved to approve and sign the Amendment for the Buffalo Creek Study and it was seconded by Commissioner Ertman, and she stated that there was no comment time given. Motion Carried.

Weston County Coroner: Commissioner Hunt discussed the Weston County Coroner having no office space and no area for the morgue. She must be able to function at her job. In the past there was no line item for rent as Mr. Hespe had his own space. The Commissioners will address the budget for County Coroner. Commissioner Barton moved to reinforce Cynthia Crabtree the flexibility to transfer monies from line items as needed. Commissioner Ertman seconded and the motion carried.

Resolution of Prairie Dog Representative

Commissioner Rossman visited with Lenard Seeley and would like to hold out on this issue until the next meeting on February 3, 2015. Lenard will be going to a meeting on January 23, 2015. Commissioner Hunt moved to approve Mr. Seeley's expenses for prairie dog meetings. It was seconded by Commissioner Rossman and the motion carried.

Revisit Circuit Court Motion

The Commissioners revisited the motion that was made on December 2, 2014 to move Circuit Court to the S.E. corner of the Courthouse basement. Commissioner Rossman moved to rescind the motion of December 2, 2014, of moving the Circuit Court to the S.E. corner. Commissioner Barton seconded. Discussion ensued and the motion carried.

Commissioner Hunt moved to have the County Attorney's office moved into the S.E. corner of the Courthouse basement. Commissioner Rossman seconded and the motion carried.

Fly Over Image

The Governor has pulled the state funding so no further action was taken on this.

Visitor Comment

No comment at the time.

Landfill Meeting Osage

Commissioner Barton had an update on the landfill meeting in Sundance with the DEQ. The Town of Upton City Council, Central Weston County Solid Waste District and the City of Newcastle want to get involved and make things happen. Commissioners Barton and Lambert will be attending the meeting on Thursday, January 22, 2015 in Osage at the Kitty Moats Complex. Discussion ensued and Commissioner Barton will keep the Board updated.

The meeting recessed at 11:58 a.m. and resumed at 1:00 p.m.

Minutes

Commissioner Ertman revisited the Sheriff department's section, changing 'Bid' to 'Proposal' and the 'Statute' was spelled wrong in the Ray Hunkins agenda. Commissioner Barton moved to approve regular minutes of January 6, 2015 as amended & executive session minutes of January 6, 2015 with the motion removed from the executive session minutes. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Rossman moved to approve the Consent Agenda. A letter of appointment from Clara Varner for Weston County Historic Preservation Board was received. It was seconded by Commissioner Ertman. Motion carried.

For Your Information

Mallo Camp Notification Coverage documentation was received. The Long-Eared Northern Bat comment period is extended until March 17, 2015. A letter will be drafted together and they will keep the Commissioners informed on the Bat. Commissioner Ertman will draft a letter.

Letters received with no name will be destroyed unless something threatening is observed. Then they'll be taken to Sheriff Colvard.

An update on the Legislative Supper on January 28, 2015 at Poor Richard's in Cheyenne.

WCCA

Commissioner Ertman gave an update on the voting procedures for Wyoming County Commissioners Association (WCCA).

Maintenance Application

Commissioner Barton moved to start advertising and accepting applications for a maintenance position. It was seconded by Commissioner Rossman. The position will be on the website and in the *News Letter Journal* and *Weston County Gazette*. The Commissioners will further research line items for bringing monies in for the position. Motion carried.

Weston County Planning & Zoning

Rick Dunford, with Weston County Planning & Zoning, introduced himself to the new Commissioners. He wants to redo the Subdivision rules and regulations. He informed the Commissioners that there are two openings on the Weston County Planning & Zoning Board. The Weston County Planning & Zoning Board are ready to work on updating rules and regulations for subdivision. They would like to start working on rules and regulations for such things as wind energy, and cell towers. Mr. Dunford would like the Commissioners to pick the different issues that are important to Weston County. Discussions on various topics were heard. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Dunford for bringing these matters to their attention. Commissioner Barton mentioned bringing in Upton and Osage citizens to Planning & Zoning.

Prairie Dogs

Bob and Jean Harshbarger met with the Commissioners about the prairie dog issue. Bob and Jean went to the Legislative meetings on prairie dogs in Cheyenne this past week. They had many questions about controlling the prairie dogs on the Thunder Basin National Grassland. The Commissioners thanked Bob and Jean for their diligence and hard work on the prairie dog issue. The Harshbargers will continue to keep the Board updated.

The meeting recessed at 2:40 p.m. and resumed at 2:58 p.m.

County Road Easements

Fran Lehman gave a copy of the easement made by County Attorney Curley to the Commissioners. A sample copy of another county was submitted and County Attorney Curley looked at the easement and said he would not be doing anything further on the easement at this time. Fran will keep the Commissioners updated.

The meeting recessed at 3:05 p.m. resumed at 3:28 p.m.

Ray Hunkins

Mr. Hunkins, attorney for Weston County concerning the Weston County Event Center, called to discuss the "Construction Change Directive Number 2" letter for Paul Reed Construction. Chairman Lambert opened the floor to Mr. Hunkins, who suggested they go into Executive Session. Chairman Lambert suggested open session and Mr. Hunkins agreed. He explained he had several e-mails and phone conversations with Scott Riley, and Scott told Mr. Hunkins he had a conversation with Adam Reed, CEO and Vice President of Paul Reed Construction. The date for response to the letter is January 23, 2015 for presenting a plan from PRC. The Commissioners should have an answer on the 23rd from Mr. Hunkins. The next meeting will be February 3, 2015 and an appointment for Mr. Hunkins will be set up. If a special meeting is needed before the 3rd of February he will contact the County Clerk if there is any news.

The meeting recessed at 3:42 p.m. and resumed at 3:55 p.m.

GoldenWest Communications

Charles Wuestewald, IT Tech for GoldenWest Communications, met with the Commissioners about getting wi-fi in the Commissioners' room and giving separate email addresses to all the Commissioners. He gave updates on what is happening in the offices and changes taking place. The Board thanked Charles for his time and asked that he keep the Commissioners updated.

Weston County Attorney

William Curley, Weston County Attorney, met with Commissioners and he was informed that Ray Hunkins called and it was in open session. He met with Assistant Deputy Shawnda Morrison about payroll for Lynda Black. He got easement information from various counties. He chose one from Lincoln County and a one (1) page document is the best. The Commissioners informed County Attorney Curley his office will be moved downstairs in the S.E. corner of Courthouse basement.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Bill Lambert
Chairman

Attest: Cheryl Kregel
County Clerk