

January 21, 2014

The regular meeting of the Weston County Commissioners convened at 8:58 a.m. with Chairman Seeley presiding. Present for the meeting were Commissioners: Lenard D. Seeley, Jerry Shepperson, Randy Rossman, Marty Ertman, Tracy Hunt and County Clerk, Mamie C. Krank.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Rossman, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held January 7, 2014 as published. Discussion ensued regarding verbiage changes to the Library Board heading, the 2014 Legal Newspaper heading and the Teckla-Osage-Rapid City Transmission Project. Commissioner Shepperson withdrew his previous motion. No action was taken, this topic will be re-visited.

FOCUS

Donna Howard, FOCUS Executive Director, met with the Commissioners and discussed criminal stalking, the subject of this month's awareness campaign. Ms. Howard updated the Commissioners on the progress of the FOCUS Board and requested the Commission reconsider funding FOCUS. No action was taken.

Rare Element Resources

Mike Finn, Rare Element Resources, met with the Commissioners and discussed project updates including the announcement that Jeanette Timm was named as the Forest Service's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Project Manager. Tetra Tech has been selected for construction management and consulting on the project. Mr. Finn related that a National Defense Bill has been passed by Congress to stockpile Rare Elements. Mr. Finn requested members of the Commission attend scoping meetings scheduled for March 2014. No action was taken.

The meeting recessed at 9:40 a.m. and reconvened at 9:47 a.m. with all present.

CLG Historic Preservation Board

Lucille Dumbrill, Historic Preservation Board Chair and Fran Lehman, Secretary, met with the Commissioners and updated the Board on Historic Preservation activities. Mrs. Dumbrill discussed an extension of the grant funding for the Mallo Camp Cabin rehabilitation and interpretive site project until June 30, 2014. No action was taken.

Wyoming County Commissioners Association (WCCA)

Pete Obermueller, WCCA Executive Director, met with the Commissioners and discussed bills of interest in this legislative session. Mr. Obermueller discussed Governor Mead's proposed appropriation of direct versus consensus funding. Mr. Obermueller discussed hardship counties and a decrease in funding for both Weston and Niobrara Counties. The Commissioners discussed WCCA's request that counties participate in the "Cooperating Agency" status for the prairie dog management plan. Mr. Obermueller stated that the benefits of this status could be better explained by Gregory Cowan, WCCA Natural Resource Advisor. A meeting with Mr. Cowan will be scheduled. Mr. Obermueller was thanked for his time and information, no action was taken.

The meeting recessed at 10:52 a.m. and reconvened at 11:05 a.m. with all present.

Northern Wyoming Mental Health

Christine Winter, Northern Wyoming Mental Health (NWMH), met with the Commissioners and requested support for a funding application for services provided by NWMH in our community. Ms. Winter discussed the services provided over the past year in Weston County. A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Rossman, to authorize Chairman Seeley's signature on a written letter of support for Northern Wyoming Mental Health addressed to Alice Russler, Administrator at the Division of Behavioral Health. Discussion ensued, carried.

County Assessor-Land Divisions

Tina Conklin, County Assessor, met with the Commissioners and discussed an issue with a recent land transfer of less than thirty-five acres. This transfer is being reviewed by Don Hansen, County Attorney. Mrs. Conklin stated that a property owner met with her and related that the Planning & Zoning Board was not willing to proceed with a proposed single land division. The property owner transferred additional acreage and was no longer subject to single land division regulations. No action was taken.

County Road Fund (CRF)

The Commissioners discussed using county road funds for maintenance on the Buffalo Creek, Raven Creek and Materi Roads. A motion was made by Commissioner Rossman, seconded by Commissioner Shepperson, to authorize and sign a county road fund eligibility form for 2.5 miles of spot gravel on the Materi Road in the amount of \$48,750.00. Discussion ensued, carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Rossman, to authorize and sign a county road fund eligibility form for 1.5 miles of spot gravel on the Raven Creek Road. Discussion ensued, carried.

The Commissioners decided to research and possibly bid out the proposed gravel maintenance project on the Buffalo Creek Road which is estimated at a cost of \$87,750.00. No action was taken, this issue will be re-visited.

The meeting recessed at 12:05 p.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m. with all present.

Contract Engineer

Jerry Hunt, Contract Engineer, met with the Commissioners and requested that bids for the Road & Bridge Old Shop Roof Project be tabled until next meeting. Mr. Hunt is gathering information and working with the bidders on this project. A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Rossman, to table bid consideration for the Road & Bridge Old Shop Roof Project until February 4, 2014. Carried.

The Commissioners discussed the Courthouse Air Conditioning Project with Mr. Hunt. Mamie C. Krank, County Clerk, reminded Mr. Hunt that corrections to the bid packet are needed prior to proceeding. No action was taken.

The meeting recessed at 2:03 p.m. and reconvened at 2:06 p.m. with all present.

Public Health

Lori Bickford, Weston County Public Health and Judy Stallman, WY Public Health Supervisor, met with the Commissioners and discussed the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the WY Department of Health and Weston County. Ms. Stallman went through numerous options which allow Weston County to have input into the MOU. No action was taken.

The meeting recessed at 3:18 p.m. and reconvened at 3:38 p.m. with all present.

Road & Bridge Department

Rick Williams, Road & Bridge Foreman and Don Hansen, County Attorney, met with the Commissioners and discussed issues on the Salt Creek Road. Mr. Williams has received complaints of a speed bump on the road. The Commissioners reviewed maps and discussed options to gain easement through a portion of the Salt Creek Road. Commissioner Rossman volunteered to contact the landowner and discuss possible options. No action was taken, this issue will be re-visited.

Library Board

Brenda Ayres, Library Director and Library Board Members: Cathy Dunford and Scott Shoop, met with the Commissioners and requested the Board take action to allow \$250.00 employee bonuses for the Library employees. A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Rossman, to authorize the Library Board to pay employee bonuses of \$250.00 out of the Library cash reserve and be reimbursed by Weston County. Discussion ensued, carried. The recorded votes are as follows: Yea: Commissioners Shepperson, Rossman and Ertman; Nay: Commissioner Hunt.

Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Rossman, to approve the minutes of January 7, 2014 with the following amendments:

Amendment under the heading "Library Board" to strike the following verbiage: "Cathy Dunford and Candy Driver-Ratigan, Library Board Members, met with the Commissioners and discussed the recent employee bonus which included only those Weston County employees paid through the County payroll. Chairman Seeley explained that the Library employees were not intentionally excluded, however; the Library and Fair Boards are separate entities with separate budgets and payrolls." And replace with the following verbiage, "Cathy Dunford and Candy Driver-Ratigan, Library Board Members, met with the Commissioners and voiced their concerns that while Weston County employees paid through the County payroll were awarded bonuses, the Library employees were not, resulting in a perception among the Library employees that they were a lesser class of employee. Chairman Seeley explained that the Commission intended no such inference and the distinction only resulted because the Library and Fair Boards were separate entities with separate budgets and payrolls."

Amendment under the heading "2014 Legal Newspaper" to strike the following verbiage, "Weston County received two sealed bids from the News Letter Journal and the Weston County Gazette for the 2014 legal County newspaper. Both bids were opened and read aloud by Chairman Seeley and were for the same price as last year. After review and discussion..." And replace with the following verbiage, "Weston County received two sealed bids, one from the News Letter Journal and one from the Weston County Gazette to become the official legal newspaper of Weston County for the year 2014. It was noted that the readership of the Gazette was substantially from the Upton area, while the readership of the News Letter Journal was substantially from the Newcastle area. While the bid from the Gazette was significantly lower, Bob Bonnar, Editor of the News Letter Journal, represented that if his firm were this year again designated as the official publication, it would continue its practice of paying the Gazette its bid rate, to also publish the same information. Thereby, the readers of either newspaper would have ready access to reports of the County's official business at no additional cost to the County."

Correction under the heading "Teckla-Osage-Rapid City Transmission Project" to strike the following verbiage, "Commissioner Ertman stated that she would write a letter to be presented during the comment period." And replace with the following verbiage, "Commissioner Ertman stated that she would respond to the Wyoming County Commissioners Association (WCCA)."

Carried.

Mallo Camp Water Tank

A motion was made by Commissioner Ertman, seconded by Commissioner Shepperson, to authorize Chairman Seeley's signature on a Wyoming Water Quality Application Form for the Mallo Camp Water Tank Replacement Project. Carried.

Disclosure of Public Funds

A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Rossman, to accept completed and notarized Disclosure of Public Funds forms pursuant to W.S. 6-5-118 from the following persons: Lenard D. Seeley, Jerry Shepperson, Randy Rossman, Tracy Hunt, Martha Ertman, Mamie C. Krank, Shawnda Morrison, Susan Overman and Denette Price. Carried. The disclosure statements will be filed.

Cancellation of Taxes

A motion was made by Commissioner Rossman, seconded by Commissioner Shepperson, to accept and sign (12) twelve Cancellation of Taxes in the following particulars: #1083 issued to Maxim Drilling & Exploration in the amount of \$6,350.57; #1086 issued to Starla Starkey in the amount of \$3.32; #1087 issued to Starla Starkey in the amount of \$3.36; #1088 issued to Starla Starkey in the amount of \$3.42; #1089 issued to Larry Ellis in the amount of \$84.81; #1090 issued to Larry Ellis in the amount of \$77.31; #1091 issued to Larry Ellis in the amount of \$78.20; #1092 issued to Alfred & Patsy Bears in the amount of \$56.40; #1093 issued to Alfred & Patsy Bears in the amount of \$57.40; #1094 issued to Leslie & Sharon Francis in the amount of \$231.52; #1095 issued to Andrew Wright & Letea Boggs in the amount of \$1.83 and #1096 issued to Andy Wolfe in the amount of \$5.06. Carried.

Rebates of Taxes

A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Rossman, to accept and sign (2) two Rebates of Taxes issued to Winter Ridge Energy in the following particulars: #1084 in the amount of \$7.12 and #1085 in the amount of \$450.97. Carried.

CLG Historic Preservation Board

A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Rossman, to authorize Chairman Seeley's signature on a completed annual report from the CLG Historic Preservation Board for the period October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013. Carried.

Budget Amendment Hearing – County Road Fund

A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Rossman, to set a Budget Amendment Hearing for February 18, 2014, at 10:45 a.m. to consider the transfer of funds in the amount of \$78,000.00 from the County Road Fund (CRF) to the Preliminary Road Construction expenditure line item; to allow for spot gravel maintenance on 1.5 miles of the Raven Creek Road and 2.5 miles of the Materi Road. Carried.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Attest: Mamie C. Krank
County Clerk

Lenard D. Seeley
Chairman