

February 18, 2014

The regular meeting of the Weston County Commissioners convened at 9:00 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

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

Rare Element Resources - United States Forest Service (USFS)

Jeanette Timm, USFS Project Manager for Rare Element Resources (RER) and Steve Kozel, USFS District Ranger, met with the Commissioners and discussed progress on the Rare Element Resource Bear Lodge Project. The Forest Service has accepted the RER plan of operations as complete. Next, the environmental analysis and NEPA process will begin, with a notice of intent to be published in early March of 2014. Mr. Kozel stated that scoping meetings will be held in both Sundance and Upton, WY. There is an approximate two-year time line to complete the Environmental Impact Study (EIS). No action was taken. The Commissioners thanked Ms. Timm and Mr. Kozel for the update on the RER project.

Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Rossman, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held February 4, 2014, as published. Carried.

Teckla-Osage Rapid City Transmission Project - United States Forest Service (USFS)

Sherri Schwenke, Hell Canyon District Ranger, introduced herself to the Commissioners. The Commissioners discussed the Teckla-Osage-Rapid City Transmission Project and the role that that Forest Service would play in the NEPA process. The Board discussed the difference between "coordination" and "cooperation". Ms. Schwenke discussed having a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the USFS and Weston County so that each party would know what to expect of the other. Commissioner Ertman asked Ms. Schwenke if she knew of an addendum for fire suppression on the transmission line project. Ms. Schwenke stated that there was no addendum for fire suppression outside of the plan. No action was taken. Ms. Schwenke was thanked for attending the meeting.

The meeting recessed at 9:40 a.m. and reconvened at 9:45 a.m. with all present.

Chamber of Commerce

Susan Love, Newcastle Chamber of Commerce Director, met with the Commissioners and thanked them for past funding and discussed the Chamber's activities. Ms. Love discussed the promotion of Weston County and future economic development opportunities. No action was taken.

Board Appointment Hearing

Certified Local Government Historic Preservation Board: A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Rossman, to appoint Kay Thomas to the CLG Historic Preservation Board for a three-year term. Discussion ensued, carried.

Declaration of Official Depositories

A motion was made by Commissioner Rossman, seconded by Commissioner Shepperson, to designate Pinnacle Bank and First State Bank of Newcastle as Weston County's Official Depositories for the calendar year 2014. Carried. Weston County currently has not received an application from FirsTier Bank of Upton.

Weston County Event Center – Grant Extension

A motion was made by Commissioner Rossman, seconded by Commissioner Shepperson, to authorize Chairman Seeley's signature on a letter addressed to the Wyoming Business Council requesting a grant extension for the Weston County Event Center through June 30, 2015. Carried.

Wyoming Surplus Property Resolution

A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Rossman, to fill out a resolution designating: Rick Williams, Road & Bridge Foreman; Bryan Colvard, Sheriff; Board of Commissioners and Mamie C. Krank, County Clerk, as authorized representatives to acquire surplus property from Wyoming Surplus Property. Carried.

The meeting recessed at 10:35 a.m. and reconvened at 10:41 a.m. with all present.

Budget Amendment Hearing – County Road Fund

A motion was made by Commissioner Rossman, seconded by Commissioner Shepperson, to allow 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.

UW Extension Educator

Vicki Hayman, Ag Extension Educator, met with the Commissioners and discussed the UW Extension Educator position that will be open when William Taylor retires in May of 2014. Ms. Hayman questioned whether the Commissioners wanted to continue the position. The Commissioners will have a decision for Ms. Hayman on March 4, 2014. No action was taken.

The meeting recessed at 11:27 a.m. and reconvened at 11:33 a.m. with all present.

Salt Creek Road

The Commissioners reviewed correspondence from Don Hansen, County Attorney, regarding an easement needed on the Salt Creek Road. No action was taken.

The meeting recessed at 11:58 a.m. and reconvened at 1:28 p.m. with all present.

Contract Engineer

Jerry Hunt, Contract Engineer, met with the Commissioners and discussed the following projects:

Buffalo Creek Traffic Study: Mr. Hunt discussed the Buffalo Creek Traffic Study Project. The Commissioners related that Weston County would hold a public meeting on the project once the agreement has been signed by KLJ Engineering and we receive an executed copy.

Courthouse A/C Project: Mr. Hunt confirmed that the Courthouse A/C Replacement Project has been advertised and agreed to work with Mamie C. Krank, County Clerk, on finalizing the bid packet.

Courthouse A/C Replacement Project

A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Rossman, to schedule a bid opening for March 18, 2014, at 2:00 p.m. for the Courthouse A/C Replacement Project. Carried.

County Roads

Fran Lehman, GIS Coordinator, met with the Commissioners and discussed the process for establishing a county road. Mrs. Lehman discussed several county roads which need to be established and presented a list for the Board. The Commissioners discussed the process to abandon or vacate a county road. No action was taken.

The meeting recessed at 2:08 p.m. and reconvened at 2:15 p.m. with all present.

Road & Bridge Department

Rick Williams, Road & Bridge Foreman, met with the Commissioners and discussed County road signage. Mr. Williams updated the Board on a conversation he had with Joni Kachelhoffer, WYDOT, regarding the Salt Creek Road. Ms. Kachelhoffer will complete a site visit to the Salt Creek Road. Mr. Williams discussed upgrading the water line to the Road & Bridge shop. Mr. Williams will discuss the water line upgrade with Bob Hartley, Newcastle Engineer. No action was taken.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

Attest: Mamie C. Krank
County Clerk

Lenard D. Seeley
Chairman