

March 19, 2013

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, Randy Rossman, Marty Ertman, Tracy Hunt and County Clerk, Mamie C. Krank. Not present for the meeting: Commissioner Jerry Shepperson.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Rossman, seconded by Commissioner Ertman, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held March 5, 2013, as advertised. Carried.

Wyoming Educators Benefit Trust (WEBT)

Mamie C. Krank, County Clerk, explained that she had met with Frank Urman of the Wyoming Educators Benefit Trust (WEBT). Mr. Urman had explained that there were no increases to Weston County's WEBT renewal contract for the Fiscal Year 2014. A motion was made by Commissioner Rossman, seconded by Commissioner Ertman, to renew in the WEBT Medical Plan for Fiscal Year 2014 with no plan changes. Carried. A motion was made by Commissioner Rossman, seconded by Commissioner Hunt, to authorize Chairman Seeley's signature on the WEBT renewal paperwork. Carried.

The meeting recessed at 9:45 a.m. and reconvened at 9:55 a.m. with all present.

Board Appointment

Jill Pischke, Weed & Pest Board applicant met with the Commissioners to discuss her application for the open position. The Commissioners and Mrs. Pischke discussed management of weeds, prairie dogs, pests and pine beetles.

Weed & Pest Control Board: A motion was made by Commissioner Hunt, seconded by Commissioner Rossman, to appoint Jill Pischke to the open position on the Weed & Pest Board. This is a four year term which expires in January of 2017. Carried.

2013 Legislative Session

Representative Hans Hunt, House District 2, met with the Commissioners and discussed the 2013 Legislative Session. Representative Hunt stated that the Legislature had passed the smallest budget in ten years, while keeping local funding intact. Legislation was passed which will allow Wyoming to participate in the lottery. This legislation will be effective July 1, 2013; although it may take up to one year thereafter to implement. The revenue from the lottery will benefit cities, counties and schools in Wyoming. Representative Hunt was thanked for the information and update. No action was taken.

Forest Service/Prairie Dogs/Sage Grouse

Bob Harshbarger, resident expert on prairie dog management, met with the Commissioners to discuss issues with the Forest Service and prairie dog management. Mr. Harshbarger stated that he and the Board of Commissioners had sent letters to Mr. Whitford, Regional Forester, in mid February, 2013, with no response. Mr. Harshbarger briefed the Commissioners on a group called "National Blue Waters" who are in the process of gaining control of the head waters in the Yellowstone Basin. Mr. Harshbarger discussed the Sage Grouse Management Plan and the Executive Order issued by Governor Mead, which was the basis of a Resolution adopted by the Commissioners for Weston County. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing to amend this plan, and should be coordinating with the Weston County Board of Commissioners. Chairman Seeley stated that he would contact the Forest Service and BLM regarding this issue. Mr. Harshbarger was thanked for the update. No action was taken.

The meeting recessed at 11:15 a.m. and reconvened at 11:29 a.m. with all present.

The meeting recessed at 11:30 a.m. and reconvened at 1:15 p.m. with all present.

Weston County Event Center

The Commissioners discussed the Weston County Event Center. On March 4, 2013, during a site visit to the Weston County Event Center, Dr. Basham, Engineer for KB Engineering, LLC, requested information from Kyle Gillette, Schutz Foss Architects. The Commissioners decided to allow time for Mr. Gillette to contact Dr. Basham. No action was taken, this issue will be revisited.

Contract Engineer

Jerry Hunt, Contract Engineer, met with the Commissioners and gave an update on the progress of bid packets for the Road & Bridge Old Shop Roof and Road & Bridge Foundation Projects. These bid packets will be completed and reviewed by the Commissioners before advertising. Mr. Hunt is also working on the County Lighting Project, which will replace obsolete light fixtures in various county buildings. Mr. Hunt discussed the Weston County Event Center progress and volunteered to contact Mr. Gillette on behalf of Weston County regarding the information to be sent to Dr. Basham. No action was taken.

The meeting recessed at 1:52 p.m. and reconvened at 1:58 p.m. with all present.

Work Session / Board Member Removal

The Commissioners entered a work session to promulgate rules for removal of County Board Members.

The meeting recessed at 3:00 p.m. and reconvened at 3:11 p.m. with all present.

The work session continued. No action was taken.

Road & Bridge Department

The hour being 3:30 p.m., Rick Williams, Road & Bridge Foreman, met with the Commissioners and discussed equipment. Mr. Williams discussed some older County equipment that could be placed in an auction or advertised for sealed bids. Mr. Williams will contact other County entities to inquire if they are interested in participating in an auction. No action was taken.

Buffalo Creek Road

George Byers and Mike Finn of Rare Element Resources (RER); Tom Littman, Belle Fourche Pipeline; Tom Barritt, Upton Logistics Center; and Don Bartels, private land owner; met with the Commissioners to discuss a proposed oil pipeline easement on the Buffalo Creek Road. Mr. Byers began by stating that the oil pipeline would need to be on the North side of the Buffalo Creek Road in order to avoid engineering and permitting issues on the Rare Element Resources Project site. Mr. Byers requested a letter from the Board of Commissioners to Belle Fourche Pipeline requesting the oil pipeline remain to the North of the Buffalo Creek Road beyond the RER tailing site. Tom Littman, Belle Fourche Pipeline, stated that moving the proposed oil pipeline to the North side of the Buffalo Creek Road should not pose a problem and agreed to draft a letter stating that fact. Mr. Bartels stated that currently all easements are within his private property and do not affect Weston County. Mr. Bartels stated he would be willing to discuss granting Weston County an easement on a portion of the Buffalo Creek Road once the Traffic Study had been completed. After lengthy discussion, Chairman Seeley recommended that the parties involved in the process should meet and discuss the details, stating that the discussion did not involve Weston County at this time.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

Attest: Mamie C. Krank
County Clerk

Lenard D. Seeley
Chairman