

April 8, 2014

The special budget 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 and County Clerk, Mamie C. Krank. Commissioners Jerry Shepperson and Tracy Hunt were not present for the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Weston County Budget for Fiscal Year 2015.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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

FY2015 Budget

The Commissioners met with Tina Conklin, Assessor, who discussed an upgrade to the mapping program used in her office as well as needed software upgrades. Mrs. Conklin stated that the local portion of the county valuation was up approximately two million dollars and the oil & gas portion was up approximately four million dollars; however, the figures for railroad and liquid pipelines were not reported.

Elected Official Salaries

Mamie C. Krank, County Clerk; Sandra Walford, District Court Clerk; Tina Conklin, Assessor; Bryan Colvard, Sheriff; Donald Hansen, Attorney and Roger Hespe, Coroner, met with the Commissioners and discussed the proposed salary increase for elected officials. Ms. Krank presented a proposal to increase the elected official's salaries county-wide effective January 1, 2015, for the purpose of establishing salaries for the next elected term of office. The proposed increase is tiered over a four-year period from January 2015 through December 31, 2018. The proposal would bring the elected positions of: Clerk, Treasurer, Assessor, District Court Clerk, Sheriff and Attorney to the same pay scale of \$53,437.50 as of January 1 of 2015; Coroner \$12,825.00 and Commissioners \$14,250.00. Ending salaries in 2018 would be as follows: Clerk, Treasurer, Assessor, District Court Clerk, Sheriff and Attorney: \$58,837.50; Coroner \$14,121.00 and Commissioners \$15,690.00. A letter in support of the proposed increase was received by Susan Overman, Treasurer, who was unable to attend the meeting. Sheriff Colvard related that if the proposed elected official salary increase would affect employee raises, he is against it. Tina Conklin agreed with Sheriff Colvard's statement, and indicated that she believed the proposed increase is too much. Sandra Walford stated that an increase for elected officials is long overdue, reminding the Commission that elected officials in Weston County have not had a pay increase for the past eight years and are currently the lowest paid in the state of Wyoming. Roger Hespe stated that the wage for Coroner is not his primary wage unlike the other elected officials. Donald Hansen spoke in favor of the proposed step increase. Mamie C. Krank stated that the proposed increase works out to be less than fifty cents an hour for Weston County's elected officials over a period of twelve years. The Commissioners discussed the amount of benefits paid by Weston County, noting that these paid benefits should be considered in wages. Commissioner Ertman would like a comparison of what other Counties pay for employee benefits such as insurance and retirement costs. Donald Hansen raised the point that elected official salaries are set for a four year period, unlike other county employees, and believes the increase is warranted.

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

Mamie C. Krank, County Clerk, met with the Commissioners and went through the budget requests for the County Clerk, Courthouse and Election Departments. Increases to the utility and communications line items were discussed as well as needed software upgrades and computer replacements in both the County Clerk's and Treasurer's Offices. Ms. Krank related that the Courthouse copier needs to be replaced.

Bryan Colvard, Sheriff, met with the Commissioners and discussed a request for full time employee raises in the Sheriff's Office and Law Enforcement Department. Sheriff Colvard related that Deb Sweet, Youth Services, will hire an intern to fill a part-time position. Sheriff Colvard discussed the purchase of two pickups and an SUV as well as upgrades to the camera system in the jail.

Don Hansen, County Attorney, met with the Commissioners. Mr. Hansen stated that he does not foresee any changes to the Attorney's budget for Fiscal Year 2015.

The meeting recessed at 10:35 a.m. and reconvened at 10:40 a.m. with all present.

Byrand Streeter, Mondell Airport Manager; John Patik and Dan Moudree, Airport Board Members, met with the Commissioners and discussed the Airport Runway Overlay Project. Mr. Streeter stated that the overlay project has been delayed from June 2014 to the spring of 2015. Mr. Streeter related that an additional match of approximately \$10,000.00 each would be needed from the City of Newcastle and the County, raising the County portion from \$75,000.00 to \$84,444.00. Mr. Streeter requested an increase of \$1,040.00 per year to the County paid portion of contract wages for the Mondell Airport Manager position.

Doug Jorrey, Homeland Security Coordinator, met with the Commissioners and turned in an official letter of resignation effective July 31, 2014. Mr. Jorrey recommended that the County consult with the Sheriff and Fire Warden when filling the position of Homeland Security Coordinator, due to the need for a close working relationship between the three departments. Mr. Jorrey requested an increase of \$2,428.00 per year for his Deputy due to the fact that she has seventeen years of service with Weston County; stating that half of the wages will be paid out of the Road & Bridge Department's budget. Mr. Jorrey discussed grant funding and warned that radios will become a County expense when the Homeland Security Grant funding goes away.

The meeting recessed at 11:09 a.m. and reconvened at 11:14 a.m. with all present.

Roger Hespe, Coroner, met with the Commissioners and turned in a budget request with no increases over Fiscal Year 2014.

The Commissioners discussed the cost of employee raises. No action was taken.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

Attest: Mamie C. Krank
County Clerk

Lenard D. Seeley
Chairman