

January 17, 2012

The regular meeting of the Weston County Commissioners convened at 9:00 a.m. with Chairman Tom W. Bruce presiding. Present for the meeting were Commissioners: Tom W. Bruce, Marty Ertman, Randy Rossman, Lenard D. Seeley, Jerry Shepperson, and County Clerk, Mamie C. Krank.

Good of the Order

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

Northern Wyoming Mental Health

Christine Winter, County Manager for the Northern Wyoming Mental Health Center, met with the Commissioners to request letters of support addressed to the Division of Behavioral Health concerning the agencies annual funding. A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Rossman, to draft two letters of support for the Northern Wyoming Mental Health Center. Carried.

Weston County Event Center

The Commissioners discussed a follow up letter received from Schutz Foss Architects regarding the Weston County Event Center. The letter reiterated that pressure grouting was the approved method of stabilizing the foundation at the Weston County Event Center and that recommendation will be relayed to Paul Reed Construction. No action was taken.

The meeting recessed at 9:30 a.m. and reconvened at 9:33 a.m. with all present.

Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Rossman, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held January 3, 2012, as published. Carried.

2011 Legislative Redistricting

Commissioner Shepperson read aloud a letter drafted by Commissioner Ertman, addressed to Representative Peter Illoway, concerning redistricting and telephone calls he made to the County Clerk's Office and Chairman Bruce. A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Rossman, to sign the letter and send copies to Governor Matt Mead and Speaker of the House Edward Buchanan. Carried. The Commissioners discussed the 2011 Legislative Redistricting process and the proposed changes to Weston County.

Malt Beverage Permit

The hour being 10:00 a.m. Chairman Bruce opened a Public Hearing to consider applications for an available Malt Beverage Permit in Weston County. No applications were received. A motion was made by Commissioner Seeley, seconded by Commissioner Ertman, to let the Malt Beverage Permit rest due to a lack of applications. Carried. The Public Hearing was closed at 10:05 a.m.

Wyoming Surplus Property

The Commissioners discussed a resolution received from Wyoming Surplus Property which would authorize representatives to acquire surplus property from the State of Wyoming. A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Ertman, to adopt the resolution and name the authorized signatories as: Mamie C. Krank, Weston County Clerk, Douglas Jorrey, Homeland Security Coordinator, and Rick Williams, Road & Bridge Foreman. Carried.

Mountain Pine Beetle

The Commissioners discussed a resolution declaring Weston County an area of emergency due to the Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) epidemic. A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Seeley, to adopt and sign the Mountain Pine Beetle Resolution. Carried.

The meeting recessed at 10:28 a.m. and reconvened at 10:35 a.m. with all present.

Wyoming Gray Wolf

Commissioner Shepperson discussed emails received from Harriet Hageman regarding the Wyoming Gray Wolf. Governor Mead is in favor of controlling wolves in the state of Wyoming. No action was taken.

Sage Grouse Planning Strategy

The Commissioners discussed correspondence from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the US Forest Service (USFS) regarding a management plan for Sage Grouse in Wyoming. Commissioner Seeley volunteered to draft a letter listing issues of concern and to request Weston County remain involved in the National Greater Sage Grouse Planning Strategy. No action was taken.

Sheriff's Department

Bryan Colvard, Weston County Sheriff, met with the Commissioners and gave the department report including the quarterly Youth Services report. Doug Jorrey, Homeland Security Coordinator, joined the meeting and discussed signing a grant from WyoLink, which is a backup communications system for Weston County. A motion was made by Commissioner Rossman, seconded by Commissioner Ertman, to authorize Chairman Bruce's signature on the WyoLink Membership Agreement between the Weston County Sheriff's Office, Wyoming Public Safety Communications Commission, and WyoLink. Carried.

The meeting recessed at 11:55 a.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m. with all present.

Mountain Bike Trail

Linda Hunt met with the Commissioners to discuss the possibility of Weston County applying for a Special Lease Permit for a Mountain Bike/Hiking Trail. The trail is on State Land by the Flying V Cambria Inn North of Newcastle. Ms. Hunt discussed the benefits to the community from the four mile long "Serenity Trail", including the fact that if the County or City accepted the lease, inmate crews could be utilized for maintenance of the trail. The Commissioners raised concerns pertaining to liability issues, and decided to have these concerns addressed by Don Hansen, County Attorney, before proceeding with the twenty-five year lease. No action was taken.

Road & Bridge Department

Rick Williams, Road & Bridge Foreman, met with the Commissioners and gave the department report. Mr. Williams stated that the reports which were due to Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) regarding bridges in Weston County have been completed and returned to the state. Mr. Williams stated he has been in contact with John and Sharron Ackerman and discussed progress on the Salt Creek Road. Mr. Williams relayed that the impound yard for the Sheriff's Department has been completed, including the fencing and gravel. No action was taken.

Upton Fairview Road

The Commissioners discussed progress regarding obtaining easements for the Upton Fairview Road. The next round of funding for the State Lands and Investment Board (SLIB) is in February 2012. Commissioner Rossman will contact Fran Lehman, GIS Coordinator, for an update and report back to the Commission at the next meeting. No action was taken.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Attest: Mamie C. Krank
County Clerk

Tom W. Bruce
Chairman