

November 15, 2011

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

Chairman Bruce gave the Invocation and Commissioner Shepperson 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 on November 1, 2011. Carried.

Planning & Zoning Board

The Commissioners discussed the Planning & Zoning Board Meeting to be held Thursday, November 17, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. Members of the Wyoming Club are scheduled to attend and discuss the Phase 1 plat for the development. Commissioner Rossman will attend and report back to the Commission. No action was taken.

Old Mill Inn

The Commissioners received a letter from State Historic Preservation Officer, Mary Hopkins, which was addressed to Maverick County Stores Corporation, regarding demolishing a portion of the Old Mill Inn. Lucille Dumbrill, Chair of the Weston County Historic Preservation Board, also wrote a letter to the Maverick Corporation offering alternatives to demolition of one of Weston County's historic sites. The Commissioners discussed private property rights. No action was taken.

Cancellation of Taxes

Susan Overman, County Treasurer, presented Cancellations of Taxes #949 for Batta Oil in the amount of \$305.49, and #950 for M&K Oil in the amount of \$101.66. A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Seeley, to accept and sign the Cancellation of Taxes numbered 949 and 950. Carried.

Power Line

Ed Kiesling met with the Commissioners to discuss a Forest Service meeting he attended where the construction of a proposed 230 volt power line was discussed. The power line would run through Weston County to South Dakota. Mr. Kiesling opposes the new power line construction and stated that it would increase rates and would not benefit Wyoming customers. Sundai Balander, also in attendance, commented that taxpayers would pay for the construction of the power line and receive no rate reduction once completed. Commissioner Rossman discussed the proposed route choices for the project and explained that construction costs would be dependent on which route was chosen. Mr. Kiesling stated that "smart meters" which do not require meter readers, are used as surveillance devices and emit radiation. Mr. Kiesling was concerned that the Public Service Commission (PSC) denied Weston County residents a hearing and requested a letter be written by the Commissioners to request a hearing. Chairman Bruce and Commissioner Shepperson stated that they had attended meetings at the Forest Service Building and Senior Citizens Center and had received literature on the proposed power line construction. Commissioner Rossman commented that "smart meters" used by Powder River Energy read power usage and transmit that usage through the lines. No action was taken.

Budget Amendment Hearing – Homeland Security

The hour being 10:00 a.m., Chairman Bruce opened a Budget Amendment Hearing to consider transferring monies in the General Fund portion of the budget because of an unanticipated grants through the Office of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Assistance Program (FEMA), in the amount of \$306,590.36, and an unanticipated grant through the Office of Homeland Security, Hazardous Materials Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), in the amount of \$2,251.06. Chairman Bruce called for public comment; hearing none, the public comment portion of the hearing was closed at 10:06 a.m. A motion was made by

Commissioner Rossman, seconded by Commissioner Shepperson, to approve both amendments for grant monies from the Office of Homeland Security. Carried.

The meeting recessed at 10:10 a.m. and reconvened at 10:20 a.m. with all present.

Weston County Event Center

The Commissioners discussed a letter addressed to the Wyoming Business Council from the Weston County Board of Commissioners, requesting an extension of the grant for the Weston County Event Center project. Concerns regarding finalizing the grant documents were raised. It was decided to request an extension of the grant until such time as the problems with the Weston County Event Center can be resolved. No action was taken.

Public Hearing – Restaurant Liquor License

The hour being 10:30 a.m., Chairman Bruce opened a Public Hearing to consider granting a Restaurant Liquor License to Frank J. Rawhouser, DBA: Canyon Springs Stage Stop Steakhouse. Chairman Bruce called for public comment; hearing none, the public comment portion of the hearing was closed at 10:32 a.m. A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Rossman, to accept the Restaurant Liquor License Application applied for by Frank J. Rawhouser, upon payment to the County Clerk. Motion carried.

Fair Board Resignation

The Commissioners received and read aloud a resignation letter from Fair Board Member Troy Claycomb. Mr. Claycomb stated that he would complete his current term on the Fair Board through December 2011. This vacant position will be advertised with the January Board appointments. No action was taken.

Legal Newspaper

The Commissioners discussed the need to appoint a legal Newspaper for the upcoming year. A sample advertisement will be sent out for bid to the local Newspapers. No action was taken.

Weston County Co-op Extension Service

Vicki Hayman, Food Safety and Nutrition Educator, met with the Commissioners and introduced two new Co-op Extension Educators: Whit Stewart and Brian Sebade. Mr. Stewart and Mr. Sebade will be representing a five county district including: Weston, Johnson, Sheridan, Crook and Campbell Counties. Whit Stewart, originally from Western New York, began in January 2011, and asked for input from the Commissioners on how he could best serve the community. Discussion ensued, including less regulation, brucellosis, trichomoniasis, wetland designation, leases and federal versus state lands. Chairman Bruce discussed the need for marketing and advanced advertising, Commissioner Shepperson stated he would like to see the educators visit local schools to promote Ag awareness. Commissioner Seeley would like the importance of agriculture in Wyoming highlighted, as well as modern grazing techniques. Commissioner Ertman stressed the importance of justifying their jobs as Co-op Agents and would like to see a “hands-on” effort made by the new employees. Brian Sebade, originally from Lander, Wyoming, began in June of 2011, and focuses on rangeland ecology and sustainable range lands. Discussion ensued, including the profitability of ranching, maintaining Wyoming culture and lifestyle, solar water wells, and controlling noxious weeds. The Commissioners welcomed the new members and requested quarterly reports on the activities and progress of the Co-op Extension employees. No action was taken.

Sheriff's Department

Sheriff Bryan Colvard met with the Commissioners and gave the department report. Sheriff Colvard discussed equipment, including quotes obtained for two pickups and a new emergency vehicle through the Department of Corrections at a reduced rate. Price quotes from local dealerships will be gathered for comparison before a decision to purchase the equipment is made. Sheriff Colvard briefed the Commissioners on a prisoner who was brought to the Weston County Detention Center by the Upton Police Department and escaped upon arrival. A group effort by Weston County Sheriff's Deputies and Newcastle Police Officers ended in the apprehension of the escapee. Sheriff Colvard discussed the negligent discharge of a firearm which occurred in the Law Enforcement Center. The firearm was discharged by a Newcastle Police Officer and traveled through an interior wall of the facility before lodging in

an exterior wall. The Commissioners shared a letter received from Guy Cameron, Office of Homeland Security, regarding suggested items to be purchased for increased Courthouse security. Sheriff Colvard agreed that at this time the items listed are not needed for the Courthouse. No action was taken.

The meeting recessed at 12:10 p.m. and reconvened at 1:24 p.m. with all present.

Homeland Security

Doug Jorrey, Homeland Security Coordinator, met with the Commissioners and discussed funding for Courthouse security. Mr. Jorrey explained that while there are no new funds available, the letter received from Guy Cameron, Office of Homeland Security, simply stated the authorized items which could be purchased with Homeland Security funds. No action was taken.

Reverse 911

Doug Jorrey, Homeland Security Coordinator, requested Weston County change the emergency 911 system from the current "Code Red" system to "Delta Alert" reverse 911 messaging. The current system is more expensive and has unresolved problems; the new system is expected to provide better service at half the cost. The Commissioners agreed that the change should be made to Delta Alert emergency messaging. Discussion ensued regarding the conversion of radios to narrowband frequency. No action was taken.

Mallo Camp Retrofit Project

The Commissioners discussed an invoice received from ITC Electrical for \$468.00 for work completed at Mallo Camp Motel. The invoice is above the accepted bid price for work to be performed. The Commissioners will speak with Gideon Dixon, Mallo Camp Board Member, regarding authorization for the additional work. No action was taken.

United States Forest Service (USFS)

The Commissioners received an invitation from the USFS, to attend a prairie dog translocation meeting to be held on November 21, 2011. The meeting will be held at the Armory in Douglas, Wyoming, at 1:00 p.m. Chairman Bruce, Commissioner Shepperson, and Commissioner Seeley agreed to attend. No action was taken.

Employee Appreciation Day

A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Rossman, to grant an Employee Appreciation Day on November 25, 2011. Carried.

Great American Smoke Out Proclamation

Kristy Lipp, Prevention Specialist, met with the Commissioners and presented a proclamation for the Commissioners to sign in observance of the Great American Smoke Out on November 17, 2011. A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Seeley, to authorize Chairman Bruce's signature on the Great American Smoke Out Proclamation, with changes in the verbiage to read Weston County Commissioners instead of City of Newcastle. Carried.

Weston County Event Center

Ted Ertman, concerned citizen, attended a meeting held by Kyle Gillette, Schutz Foss Architects, on November 14, 2011 at the Fountain Inn. Paul Reed Construction, Geotechnical Consultants and Geotechnical Engineers, also attended the meeting. Mr. Ertman reported to the Commissioners that the Architect and Contractor agreed to work together to fix the issues at the Weston County Event Center. Mr. Ertman relayed that the owner of Paul Reed Construction stated he was 100% committed to fixing the problems at the Weston County Event Center. A bore drilling test to obtain core samples is scheduled for November 16, 2011. Results from the boring are expected mid December, 2011. Mr. Ertman was thanked for his attendance and report. No action was taken.

Mallo Camp

The Commissioners addressed Mallo Camp Board Members Gideon Dixon and Ted Ertman, and asked if the Mallo Camp Board had authorized work completed by ITC Electrical to install a three way switch in the Mallo Camp Motel. Mr. Dixon remembered a conversation regarding the three way switch and agreed to take a copy of the invoice to present to Mallo Camp Board

for payment. Mr. Dixon and Mr. Ertman requested Weston County pay for a part time relief manager position for Mallo Camp. The Commissioners stated that the position would need to be paid for by the Mallo Camp Board for the remainder of this fiscal year, and could be requested in the next budget session. Mr. Dixon reminded the Commissioners that handicap sidewalks are needed at Mallo Camp and inquired about the progress of the Mallo Camp Flood Hazard Grant. The Commissioners will contact Rick Williams, Road & Bridge Foreman, regarding the Flood Hazard Grant. No action was taken.

National Rifle Association (NRA) Grant

Ted Ertman, Mallo Camp Board Member, discussed the possibility of a \$10,000.00 grant award through the National Rifle Association (NRA) for Mallo Camp. The grant could be used to add to the shooting range at Mallo Camp and possibly build a shed to house targets and supplies. Mr. Ertman will forward information to the Commissioners on the NRA Grant. No action was taken.

Mallo Camp Board Subpoena

Gideon Dixon, Mallo Camp Board Member, informed the Commissioners that the Mallo Camp Board had been subpoenaed to deliver records to the Wyoming Game & Fish Department for review. The subpoena is related to the Lacey Act and is regarding an on-going investigation of poaching in Weston County. No action was taken.

Tree Thinning Project

Ted Ertman, Mallo Camp Board Member, discussed an upcoming tree thinning project at Mallo Camp. A temporary easement was discussed to gain access to the most heavily wooded areas. Removing some of the trees behind the Mallo Camp Lodge which may become problematic or pose a fire hazard was also discussed. No action was taken.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

Attest: Mamie C. Krank
County Clerk

Tom W. Bruce
Chairman