

December 17, 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, Jerry Shepperson, Randy Rossman, Marty Ertman, Tracy Hunt and County Clerk, Mamie C. Krank.

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Commissioner Rossman 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 December 3, 2013, as published. Carried.

**Sheriff's Department Canine Unit**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hunt, seconded by Commissioner Shepperson, to send a letter and return donated funds received from the Harry Thorson Foundation in the amount of \$10,000.00. The funds were donated for a canine unit in the Sheriff's Department, which was not implemented. Discussion ensued, carried.

**Buffalo Creek Traffic Study**

Commissioner Shepperson discussed the Buffalo Creek Traffic Study (BCTS) meeting held December 10, 2013, at the Tiger Transfer Office in the Upton Logistics Center. Commissioner Shepperson discussed Wyoming Department of Transportation's selection procedures and the first choice selection of Kadrmas, Lee and Jackson Inc. (KLJ) as consultant for the BCTS project. A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Rossman, to authorize Chairman Seeley's signature on a letter of notification to KLJ Inc. Carried. A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Rossman, to approve KLJ for "the preferred first choice" as consulting firm for the BCTS Project. Carried, as amended. (See amendment under "Contract Engineer" heading.) A motion was made by Commissioner Rossman, seconded by Commissioner Shepperson, to authorize Chairman Seeley's signature on letters informing the applicants who were not selected as consultant on the BCTS Project. Carried.

**Employee Bonuses**

The Commissioners discussed the possibility of allowing bonuses for County employees who are paid through Weston County's payroll. A motion was made by Commissioner Ertman, seconded by Commissioner Rossman, to allow a \$250.00 bonus for all employees paid through the County's payroll excluding elected officials. Discussion ensued, carried. The recorded votes are as follows: Yea: Commissioners Seeley, Shepperson, Rossman, Ertman; Nay: Commissioner Hunt.

**Prairie Dogs**

Chairman Seeley updated the Board on a prairie dog meeting he attended with Bob Harshbarger, resident expert, in Cheyenne, WY. Chairman Seeley met with Jeremiah Rieman, Natural Resource Policy Advisor for Governor Mead, who offered support to control prairie dogs that encroached on private lands. No action was taken.

The meeting recessed at 9:35 a.m. and reconvened at 9:40 a.m. with all present.

**Wyoming County Commissioners Association (WCCA)**

Commissioner Ertman, WCCA Executive Board Member, presented a joint letter from WCCA and Wyoming Association of Municipalities (WAM) supporting Governor Mead's funding allocations for the 2015-2016 budget; including local government funding, direct distribution and capital expenditures for review by the Board. Commissioner Ertman requested permission to write an email in support of the letter from the Weston County Board of Commissioners. A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Rossman, to support the joint letter from WCCA and WAM concerning Governor Mead's recommendations for local government funding in the 2015-2016 budget. Discussion ensued, carried.

**Citizen Complaint**

David Garrison, local citizen, met with the Commissioners and asserted a claim that the Weston County Sheriff's Department had overruled a judge's order and removed personal property from his home. Commissioner Hunt explained that the Board of Commissioners does not oversee the Sheriff's Department, other than the department's budget. Commissioner Hunt stated that the judge in the case has the authority to enforce the order and that Mr. Garrison's remedy would lie within the legal system. Mr. Garrison requested reimbursement from the County and was given a voucher. No action was taken.

#### **Liberty National Life Insurance**

Nancy Palmer and Matalyn Onstad, Liberty National Life Insurance, met with the Commissioners and discussed an employee paid life insurance plan. The Commissioners thanked Ms. Palmer and Ms. Onstad for the information. No action was taken.

The hour being 10:15 a.m. Shawnda Morrison, Deputy Clerk, joined the meeting.

#### **Wyoming Educators Benefit Trust (WEBT)**

Cheryl Hageman, WEBT, met with the Commissioners and discussed upcoming health care changes and how Weston County would be affected. Ms. Hageman stated that all Weston County offered health care plans comply with the Patient Protection and Affordability Care Act (PPACA) which becomes effective January 1, 2015. Ms. Hageman discussed "Pay or Play" effective on January 1, 2015, for employers with fifty or more employees. Under Pay or Play the employer must have the following: Minimum Essential Coverage, Minimum Value, and Affordability. Ms. Hageman briefed the Commissioners on changes Weston County will need to implement prior to July 2014. The Commissioners thanked Ms. Hageman for her presentation and requested a refresher course in the near future. No action was taken.

The meeting recessed at 11:25 a.m. and reconvened at 11:32 a.m. with all present.

#### **Sheriff's Department**

Bryan Colvard, Sheriff, met with the Commissioners and discussed the accounts receivable and fees for his department. Sheriff Colvard discussed advertising for drug prevention and the Wyoming Civil Air Patrol, which were questioned by the Commissioners in the last meeting. Sheriff Colvard invited the Commissioners to visit the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on January 8, 2014, at approximately 11:00 a.m., when Pat Amend, Architect for EOC Project will be on-site. The Commissioners informed Sheriff Colvard of David Garrison's earlier visit and complaint against the Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Colvard explained that his department acted on a judge's order to remove firearms from the home for a period of time. All items were returned to Mr. Garrison and were signed for when removed and returned. No action was taken.

The meeting recessed at 12:03 p.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m. with all present.

#### **Contract Engineer**

Jerry Hunt, Weston County Contract Engineer, met with the Commissioners and discussed the Road & Bridge Roof Project. Mr. Hunt discussed the Buffalo Creek Traffic Study (BCTS) Project and the Wyoming Department of Transportation's selection process.

Amendment: Commissioner Shepperson amended a previous motion under the heading "Buffalo Creek Traffic Study" to include Kadrmass, Lee and Jackson Inc. as "the preferred first choice" for consultant on the BCTS project. Commissioner Rossman, who seconded the original motion agreed to the amendment.

#### **Weston County Event Center**

Ray Hunkins, Hunkins Newton Law Firm, met with the Commissioners and discussed the Weston County Event Center.

#### **Executive Session**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hunt, seconded by Commissioner Shepperson, to enter into executive session to discuss proposed litigation to which Weston County may be a party under W.S. 16-4-405 (a)(iii). Carried. The recorded votes are as follows: Yea: Commissioners Shepperson, Rossman and Hunt; Nay: Commissioner Ertman.

The meeting entered executive session at 2:00 p.m. and returned to open session at 3:25 p.m. with all present.

The meeting recessed at 3:25 p.m. and reconvened at 3:33 p.m. with all present, except Commissioners Ertman and Hunt who escorted Mr. Hunkins, Attorney, to the Weston County Event Center.

**Road & Bridge Department**

Rick Williams, Road & Bridge Foreman, met with the Commissioners and discussed equipment and gravel. Mr. Williams discussed the purchase of a motor grader to replace an aging machine. The Commissioners agreed that the purchase should be made in this fiscal year, prior to June 2014. Mr. Williams stated the approximate price of the new motor grader would be \$350,000.00 with a trade in value on the old machine of approximately \$100,000.00. No action was taken.

**Cancellation of Taxes**

A motion was made by Commissioner Rossman, seconded by Commissioner Shepperson, to approve and sign a cancellation of taxes numbered 1080, in the amount of \$3,198.54 to Grace Davison. Carried.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Attest: Mamie C. Krank  
County Clerk

Lenard D. Seeley  
Chairman