

December 20, 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.

**Upton Fairview Road**

A motion was made by Commissioner Rossman, seconded by Commissioner Shepperson, to authorize the signing of a plat presented by Fran Lehman for the Upton Fairview Road. Carried. After further discussion, Commissioner Seeley offered a friendly amendment to the motion to postpone signing the Upton Fairview Road plat until all easements have been obtained. It was agreed the Upton Fairview Road plat map will not be signed until all easements have been obtained.

**Approve Minutes**

A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Rossman, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 6, 2011. Carried. A motion was made by Commissioner Rossman, seconded by Commissioner Seeley, to approve the minutes of a Special Meeting held on December 15, 2011. Carried.

**Mallo Camp Retrofit Project**

Discussion ensued regarding invoice #5945 in the amount of \$468.50, received from ITC Electrical, for additional work completed at the Mallo Camp Motel. The invoice was above the bid submitted to Weston County by ITC Electrical and had been denied by the Mallo Camp Board in a meeting held on December 14, 2011. A motion was made by Commissioner Rossman, seconded by Commissioner Shepperson, to deny payment of invoice #5945 submitted by ITC Electrical because it was not approved prior to the work being completed. Carried.

**United States Forest Service (USFS)**

Commissioner Shepperson read aloud a letter he drafted to the Regional Forester, Jerome Thomas, concerning the Weston County Commissioners' displeasure with United States Forest Service (USFS) Deputy District Ranger, Misty Hays. A motion was made by Commissioner Seeley, seconded by Commissioner Ertman, to type the letter regarding Misty Hays, as drafted and mailed to various members of the USFS, as well as the Converse County Commissioners, and members of the Wyoming Legislature. Carried. The letter will be typed and mailed by Mamie C. Krank, Weston County Clerk.

**2011 Legislative Redistricting**

The Commissioners discussed at length the 2011 Legislative Redistricting process and the working proposals currently being sponsored by the Joint Corporations, Elections, & Political Subdivisions Committee. The Commissioners have reservations regarding the current Senate Plan being offered by the Committee. The Commissioners agreed to sign a letter drafted by Commissioner Ertman, concerning the proposed Senate plan which will be addressed to Governor Mead and the Joint Corporations Committee Members. You may view the 2011 Legislative Redistricting plans online at:  
<http://legisweb.state.wy.us/lsoweb/Redistricting/LegislativeRedistricting.aspx>

**Budget Amendment Hearing – Fran Lehman**

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 for the Fiscal Year 2012, in the amount of \$14,413.50, for Fran Lehman's payroll expense. Chairman Bruce called for public comment; hearing none, the public comment portion of the hearing was closed at 10:01 a.m. A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Ertman, to approve the amendment as advertised. Carried.

The meeting recessed at 10:02 a.m. and reconvened at 10:15 a.m. with all present.

### **Budget Amendment Hearing – Consensus Funding**

The hour being 10:15 a.m. Chairman Bruce opened a Budget Amendment Hearing to consider increasing the General Fund portion of the budget for Fiscal Year 2012, for the Countywide Consensus List Block Allocations received in the amount of \$300,019.00 with a county match of 39,581.00. Chairman Bruce called for public comment; hearing none, the public comment portion of the hearing was closed at 10:17 a.m. A motion was made by Commissioner Ertman, seconded by Commissioner Rossman, to approve the amendment as advertised. Carried. The Budget Amendment Hearing was closed at 10:18 a.m.

### **Board Appointment Hearing**

A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Rossman, to set a January Board Appointment Hearing for January 3, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. to consider appointing new members to various boards whose terms will expire in January, 2012. Motion carried.

### **Weston County Event Center**

The Commissioners received Amendment #1 to the Business Ready Community Grant between the Wyoming Business Council and Weston County for the Weston County Event Center Project. The purpose of the amendment is to extend the construction service completion date from September 30, 2011 to September 30, 2012; and to extend the Grant Agreement expiration date from June 30, 2014 to June 30, 2015. The Commissioners discussed investigative work in progress at the Weston County Event Center. A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Ertman, to authorize Chairman Bruce's signature on two copies of the Amendment #1 received from the Wyoming Business Council. Motion carried.

### **WYDOT Bridge Program**

The Commissioners received forms from the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) to be completed on bridges owned by Weston County with undetermined foundations. A motion was made by Commissioner Rossman, seconded by Commissioner Shepperson, to give the forms to Rick Williams, Road & Bridge Foreman, for completion. Carried.

### **Sheriff's Department**

Sheriff Bryan Colvard met with the Commissioners and discussed needed repairs for the front doors of the Law Enforcement Center as well as minor roof repairs, which have been completed. Sheriff Colvard discussed equipment for the department, as well as legislation which would consolidate law enforcement officers with Sheriff's law enforcement. No action was taken.

The meeting recessed at 12:05 p.m. and reconvened at 1:15 p.m. with all present.

### **Electric Meters**

Ed Kiesling, concerned citizen, met with the Commissioners to discuss the dangers of electric meters called "smart meters" which do not require meter readers, used by Black Hills Power & Light. Mr. Kiesling warned the group that high levels of radiation were emitted by the smart meters. No action was taken.

### **Mountain Pine Beetle**

The Commissioners reviewed a resolution received from Crook County and discussed the possibility of adopting something similar in Weston County. No action was taken.

The meeting recessed at 2:28 p.m. and reconvened at 2:34 p.m. with all present.

### **Legislative Budget Session**

Representative Hans Hunt met with the Commissioners to discuss the upcoming Legislative Budget Session beginning in February 2012. Chairman Bruce brought up the need for funding to fight the Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic. Chairman Bruce also stated that direct funding to the Counties would be more helpful than funding which had to be split between the County and Municipalities. Representative Hunt stated that how the funding is allocated should be addressed in the 2013 General Session. Representative Hunt also stated that Governor

Mead's proposed budget includes administrative budget cuts of five to eight percent at the state level. Concerns were raised that local funding may be reduced. No action was taken.

**2011 Legislative Redistricting**

Representative Hans Hunt met with the Commissioners to discuss the 2011 Legislative Redistricting process. Representative Hunt stated that the Joint Corporations Committee had submitted a final plan to be approved by the Governor. Discussion ensued regarding the proposed Senate Plan, which would split Weston County into two separate Senate Districts. The Commissioners drafted a letter and discussed the possibility of meeting with Governor Mead to convey concerns for the citizens of Weston County. No action was taken.

**Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB)**

Bill Kohlbrand, WY State Forestry – District Forester, met with the Commissioners to discuss the Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) epidemic. Mr. Kohlbrand stated that Weston County is in a critical situation with the MPB and that Federal Lands play into the problems seen on private property in our area. The Wyoming State Forestry has requested that Weston County consider administering three federally funded grants to fight the MPB in our area. County Clerk, Mamie C. Krank, will have County Attorney, Don Hansen review the grant paperwork before the Commissioners make a decision. No action was taken, this issue will be revisited.

The meeting recessed at 3:35 p.m. and reconvened at 3:48 p.m. with all present.

**Road & Bridge Department**

Rick Williams, Road & Bridge Foreman, met with the Commissioners and gave the department report. Mr. Williams stated that he had received the new CAT Grader purchased for the Road & Bridge Department, and requested the Commissioners allow the Weston County Fire Protection District to purchase a 1989 Freightliner semi tractor. The Commissioners agree the piece of equipment should be sold if it can be utilized by the Fire Protection District. Discussion ensued regarding implementing an agreement with the Weston County Fire District for the use of county equipment. No action was taken.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Attest: Mamie C. Krank  
County Clerk

Tom W. Bruce  
Chairman