

February 21, 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

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

2012 Legislative Session

Commissioner Ertman gave an overview of the Legislative Meetings held in Cheyenne last week. Commissioner Rossman spoke about his first experience at the State Capital. Commissioner Seeley spoke about the Wyoming County Commissioners Association (WCCA) meetings he attended in Cheyenne. No action was taken.

Sage Grouse

The Commissioners discuss a Sage Grouse Scoping Meeting which was held at the Forest Service Building on February 9, 2012. No action was taken.

The meeting recessed at 9:55 a.m. and reconvened at 10:05 a.m. with all present.

Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Rossman, seconded by Commissioner Shepperson, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held February 7, 2012, as published. Carried.

Public Health Nursing Services

A contract between Weston County and the Wyoming Department of Health, for Public Health Nursing Services, was reviewed by the Commissioners. It was decided that the County Attorney should review the contract before action is taken. No action was taken.

Public Health Building

The Commissioners discussed a low voltage problem discovered at the Public Health Building last week. The voltage problem was investigated and repaired by a local electrician. No action was taken.

County Grounds

Mamie C. Krank, County Clerk, discussed an estimate received from CJ's Landscaping & Maintenance to trim trees located on county grounds. Two of the trees in question are located on the Library lawn and were damaged in a wind storm. Ms. Krank explained that she had met with Al Padova, a Certified Arborist for CJ's Landscaping & Maintenance, had walked the grounds and felt comfortable with his experience and expertise. The Commissioners recalled that Cliff Perkins had previously been contacted on this subject and asked that he be contacted again before accepting another bid. No action was taken.

Tax Authorities

The Commissioners received a letter from the Department of Revenue regarding the taxing authorities in Weston County and their compliance. The report stated that West End Water District was not in compliance and therefore stated that the County Commissioners are not authorized to approve a tax levy for tax year 2012. No action was taken.

Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB)

The Commissioners discussed the Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) fight in Weston County. Chairman Bruce relayed that he had discussed specific funding for Weston County with Governor Mead's Office. Commissioner Shepperson gave a report on the meeting he attended in Rapid City on February 13, 2012, and the need for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be able to control the MPB on private, state and federal lands. A motion was made by Commissioner Seeley, seconded by Commissioner Shepperson, to contact the Weed & Pest Board to inquire if they would be willing to administer the federal grants for the Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) referred to by Bill Kohlbrand of the WY State Forestry Division. Carried.

Sheriff's Department

Bryan Colvard, Weston County Sheriff, met with the Commissioners and gave the department report. Sheriff Colvard stated that the pickup which was ordered from Newcastle Motors had been received and a voucher was submitted. A grant for the Emergency Operations Center was discussed. Sheriff Colvard will provide the project details and scope of work to Mamie C. Krank, County Clerk, so that a letter can be written in response to the Office of State Lands & Investments (SLIB) to extend the grant funding. Sheriff Colvard will be in Cheyenne next week to attend legislative meetings. No action was taken.

The meeting recessed at 11:53 a.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m. with all present.

Ag Department

Vicki Hayman, Ag Director, met with the Commissioners to introduce a new employee, Stacy Madden. Ms. Madden was hired as the new Weston County 4-H Youth Development Educator. Ms. Madden distributed a worksheet of activities she is involved with; the Commissioners welcomed her to our community. No action was taken.

Private Property Rights

Dan Bau, Dan Fouche, Gary Allison, and William Curley, concerned citizens, met with the Commissioners and stated they are sponsoring a private property expert, Karen Falen, Attorney, who will answer questions pertaining to private property rights. Mr. Bau explained that the prairie dog issues facing Weston County and its residents would be discussed as well. The group requested the Commissioners and Sheriff submit questions to be answered by Ms. Falen. Questions will be emailed to Mr. Bau by Mamie C. Krank, County Clerk, once submitted. No action was taken.

Federal Coordination

Bob Harshbarger, Jean Harshbarger and Gary Jacobson, resident experts, met with the Commissioners to discuss the Federal Coordination process for Prairie Dog and Sage Grouse Management in Weston County.

Commissioner Rossman left the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

Mr. Harshbarger discussed amending Weston County's Land Use Plan to address issues with the prairie dog and sage grouse management plans. The Commissioners would rather draft a resolution to address these issues instead of trying to amend the Land Use Plan at this time. Mr. Harshbarger believes the NEPA processes may not have been followed by the Federal Agencies in the Sage Grouse Management Plan.

Commissioner Rossman rejoined the meeting at 2:33 p.m.

Commissioner Bruce requested a letter be drafted by Mr. Harshbarger on behalf of Weston County to address the Sage Grouse Scoping Notice. Mr. Harshbarger agreed to provide a draft to the Commissioners. Mr. Jacobson questioned if the Weed & Pest Board has the right to remove pests within one half mile of private residences. Mr. Jacobson also questioned Weston County's resolve to follow through with court action on issues involving the violation of private citizen's rights. There was a lengthy discussion regarding management plans and private lands. No action was taken.

The meeting recessed at 3:07 p.m. and reconvened at 3:26 p.m. with all present.

Weston County Event Center

Kyle Gillette, Schutz Foss Architects, was on the agenda, however was unable to attend and rescheduled for March 6, 2012, at 1:30 p.m. No action was taken.

Road & Bridge Department

Rick Williams, Road & Bridge Foreman, met with the Commissioners and gave the department report. Mr. Williams discussed the Fiscal Year 2012 Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Grant Application. A printed copy of the application was supplied by Mamie C. Krank, Weston County Clerk, and given to Commissioner Ertman. Commissioner Ertman will meet with Mr. Williams and complete the application. Various county roads were discussed. No action was taken.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Attest: Mamie C. Krank
County Clerk

Tom W. Bruce
Chairman