

June 19, 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 Shepperson led the delegation in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Drought Declaration

The Commissioners discussed the possibility of a drought declaration in Weston County, and input received from county residents. No action was taken.

Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Rossman, seconded by Commissioner Seeley, to approve the minutes of a regular meeting held June 5, 2012, as advertised. Carried.

Library

Chairman Bruce discussed a conversation he had with Lee Hughes of the Library Foundation concerning placing a light on top of the Newcastle Branch Library to illuminate a statue. The Board agreed that if the Library Foundation would like to purchase the light, there were no objections to its placement on the roof. No action was taken.

Vacate Streets/Alleys in Osage

A request was made by Cliff Perkins, Osage Improvement & Service District (OISD), to refund remaining monies from the vacation of certain streets and alleys in Osage, Wyoming, back to the OISD. A motion was made by Commissioner Seeley, seconded by Commissioner Ertman, to refund the remaining \$158.00 to the Osage Improvement & Service District. Carried.

County Board of Equalization Rules

Tina Conklin, Assessor, and Karen Bowman, Deputy Assessor, met with the Commissioners to discuss updates to the County Board of Equalization Rules for Weston County. Binders were passed out to all Board Members and Mamie Krank, County Clerk. The Commissioners reviewed the binders and agreed they were well organized and informative. Mrs. Conklin and Mrs. Bowman were thanked for their work on the project. No action was taken.

WIC Contract

A Fiscal Year 2013 contract for Women Infants and Children (WIC) in the amount of \$9,500.00 was reviewed by the Commissioners. A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Rossman, to authorize Chairman Bruce's signature on the WIC Contract for Fiscal Year 2013. Carried.

2011 CMAQ Right of Way

A motion was made by Commissioner Seeley, seconded by Commissioner Ertman, to sign a Right of Way (ROW) and Utility Certificate for the 2011 Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Grant, requested by Taylor Rossetti, WY Department of Transportation (WYDOT). Carried. Discussion ensued; upon review it was discovered that the ROW Certification for the 2011 CMAQ projects had been signed in August of 2011. Copies of both certificates will be forwarded to Taylor Rossetti, WYDOT.

Resolution to Vacate Streets

A resolution to vacate streets and alleys on a parcel of land owned by the Osage Improvement & Service District, which is known as the Kitty Moats Building, in the unincorporated town of Osage, Wyoming, was read aloud by Chairman Bruce. A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Seeley, to authorize Chairman Bruce's signature on the Resolution to Vacate Streets and Alleys in Osage, WY, and have it recorded in the County Clerk's Office. Carried.

Fireworks Display

The Commissioners received a letter from Donny Munger, Newcastle Volunteer Fire Department, requesting a permit to host a public display of Fireworks for the July 4, 2012 celebration at the Weston County Fairgrounds. A motion was made by Commissioner Rossman, seconded by Commissioner Ertman, to approve a permit for the public fireworks display at the Weston County Fairgrounds on July 4, 2012. Carried.

The meeting recessed at 9:50 a.m. and reconvened at 9:59 a.m. with all present.

Board Appointment Hearing

The hour being 10:00 a.m. Chairman Bruce opened a hearing to consider Board Appointments. Letters from interested applicants were read aloud for the available positions.

Airport Board:

A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Seeley, to appoint Dan Moudree to a five-year term on the Airport Board. Motion carried.

Library Board:

A motion was made by Commissioner Ertman, seconded by Commissioner Shepperson, to reappoint Scott Shoop to a three-year term on the Library Board. Motion carried.

Lodging Tax Board:

A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Rossman, to reappoint Norma Shelton to a three-year term on the Lodging Tax Board; and re-advertise an available position on this board. Motion carried.

Child Support Authority Board:

A motion was made by Commissioner Rossman, seconded by Commissioner Shepperson, to reappoint Sandra Walford to a three-year term on the Child Support Authority Board. Motion carried.

The hour being 10:06 a.m. Chairman Bruce closed the Board Appointment Hearing.

Denied Vouchers

The Commissioners discussed two vouchers for payment which were denied in a regular meeting held June 5, 2012. The vouchers were: a portion of the Visa payment for Bill Taylor's attendance at a master gardener's class in the amount of \$183.60, and the renewal of dues to the Wyoming County Commissioners Association (WCCA) in the amount of \$4,937.00. A motion was made by Commissioner Seeley, seconded by Commissioner Shepperson, to rescind the previous motion to deny payment to Visa and WCCA made in the regular meeting of June 5, 2012. Carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Seeley, seconded by Commissioner Shepperson, to pay the charges incurred to Visa for a master gardener's class attended by Bill Taylor in the amount of \$183.60. Discussion ensued. Carried.

Lengthy discussion ensued regarding an invoice received for Weston County's Dues to the WCCA for Fiscal Year 2013. The Commissioners also discussed a letter received from the WCCA on June 15, 2012. Commissioner Seeley discussed the value of leaving the Association, and stressed the differences in opinion on the "Coordination Process" versus "Cooperating Agencies" status when dealing with the Federal Government. Commissioner Ertman agreed and does not believe that Weston County will benefit from WCCA Membership. Mamie C. Krank, County Clerk, voiced concerns regarding valuable information provided to both the Clerk and Treasurer during budget sessions by the WCCA. Ms. Krank also stated that the WCCA provides email notifications on grants and funding. Commissioner Shepperson discussed the increase in dues, the new WCCA building, and the redistricting process. No action was taken, this issue will be revisited.

Upton Industrial Park

Dave Spencer, WY Business Council; Joni Kachelhoffer, WYDOT; Kevin McCoy, WYDOT Planner; Dave Mullen, WYDOT; and Tom Barritt, Upton Industrial Park; met with the Commissioners to discuss upgrades and roads within the Upton Industrial Park. Mr. McCoy discussed funding in the amount of \$50,000.00 available through WYDOT to Weston County for a planning/traffic study on the Buffalo Creek Road. The planning study grant would require a local match of \$12,500.00. Mr. Spencer stated that funding in the amount of \$33,000.00 from the WY Business Council could be used as a portion of the local match required for the traffic study, and could lower the County's portion to approximately \$8,000.00. Mr. McCoy explained that the funding of \$50,000.00 was a federal grant which requires certification on the county level. The Commissioners discussed sending Jerry Hunt, as Weston County's Contract Engineer, to the certification classes. Mr. McCoy explained that the traffic study does not expire, and

would be a good foundation on which to apply for future grants. Mamie Krank, County Clerk, volunteered to complete the certification and stated that having two County employees certified would be valuable. Mr. McCoy stated that the certification fees are minimal and the next opportunity would be the fall of 2012. Susan Overman, County Treasurer, also volunteered to complete certification requirements. No action was taken, this issue will be revisited.

The meeting recessed at 11:24 a.m. and reconvened at 11:32 a.m. with all present.

Bob Bonnar, News Letter Journal, discussed writing an article on the plans at the Upton Industrial Park and requested sources for information. The Commissioners suggest he contact Tom Barritt, Dave Spencer, and Joni Kachelhoffer for more information.

Catering Permit

A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Rossman, to approve a three day catering permit for Perkins Tavern to host a beer garden on August 1 - 3, 2012, at the Weston County Fairgrounds. The applicant presented a letter of good standing from the City of Newcastle, licensing authority for Perkins Tavern. Carried. Recorded votes are as follows: Yea: Commissioners Shepperson, Rossman, and Ertman; Nay: Commissioner Seeley.

Sheriff's Department

Bryan Colvard, County Sheriff, met with the Commissioners and discussed the recent escape from the Wyoming Honor Conservation Camp North of Newcastle. Sheriff Colvard stressed the importance of early community notification, and credited the public for providing information which led to the successful capture of the escaped inmate. Sheriff Colvard related that Weston County Search and Rescue played a big role in the capture. Doug Jorrey, Homeland Security Coordinator, stated that the State Homeland Security Office provided a helicopter for two days to aid in the search. Discussion ensued regarding Code Red notifications made by the Homeland Security Office, instead of the notifications which should have come from the WY Honor Conservation Camp. Sheriff Colvard and Mr. Jorrey were commended by the Commissioners for a job well done. No action was taken.

The meeting recessed at 12:10 p.m. and reconvened at 1:31 p.m. with all present.

Drought Declaration

Peggy Livingston, Farm Services Agency, and Tim Tysdal, Vice Chair Farm Services Committee, met with the Commissioners to discuss the drought conditions in Weston County. Mr. Tysdal stated the loss of agriculture in Weston County averages seventy percent due to the drought. Ms. Livingston stated that without a disaster designation, Weston County would not qualify for relief due to drought. This relief could come in the form of low interest loans and catastrophic loss payments. Ms. Livingston stated that surrounding counties such as Crook and Niobrara have declared drought disasters this year. The Commissioners discussed letters received from Weston County ranchers and telephone conversations with constituents. A motion was made by Commissioner Shepperson, seconded by Commissioner Rossman, to proceed with notification to Governor Mead and declare Weston County, WY, a drought disaster area. Carried.

Wyoming County Commissioners Association (WCCA)

The Commissioners resumed discussion regarding renewal of membership with the WCCA for Fiscal Year 2013. Commissioner Rossman spoke on behalf of continued membership. Chairman Bruce discussed retaining membership and effecting change from within the organization. Commissioner Shepperson agreed with the Chairman. Commissioner Seeley voiced concerns that Weston County may be better represented if it were not a part of the Association. A motion was made by Commissioner Rossman, seconded by Commissioner Shepperson, to continue membership with the WCCA and approve a voucher in the amount of \$4,937.00 for Fiscal Year 2013 Dues. The recorded votes are as follows: Yea: Commissioners Shepperson and Rossman, Nay: Commissioners Seeley and Ertman. In the event of a tie, Chairman Bruce voted: Yea. Motion carried.

The Commissioners agreed that a letter will be drafted to the WCCA addressing issues of concern and the fact that Weston County will retain membership for Fiscal Year 2013.

The meeting recessed at 2:39 p.m. and reconvened at 2:50 p.m. with all present.

Contract Engineer

An agreement has been drafted by Don Hansen, County Attorney, for Contract Engineer Services between Weston County and Weston Engineering. Weston County will revise the agreement and request Jerry Hunt, Weston Engineering, attend a meeting in July for signatures. No action was taken, this issue will be revisited.

Road & Bridge Department

Rick Williams, Road & Bridge Foreman, met with the Commissioners and discussed county roads including the Purvis Road. Mr. Williams gave the department report including equipment. The Commissioners discussed proposed changes to the Salt Creek Road. Mr. Williams, Commissioner Rossman, and Darrell Schlup of Tri Star Surveying will contact the Ackerman's to follow up on requested improvements to the Salt Creek Road. No action was taken.

The hour being 4:00 p.m. Chairman Bruce left the meeting on personal business. Jerry Shepperson, Vice Chairman, presided over the remainder of the meeting.

The Board apprised Mr. Williams of the planning/traffic study to be completed in the Upton Industrial Park, on the Buffalo Creek Road. No action was taken.

Board Appointment

The Commissioners discussed the appointment of Lodging Tax Board Members with the City of Newcastle. Because it is a Joint Powers Board, Weston County, City of Newcastle, and the Town of Upton each appoint members to the Board. A motion was made by Commissioner Seeley, seconded by Commissioner Rossman, to strike the following verbiage from the Lodging Tax Board Appointment Hearing motion, "and re-advertise an available position on this board." Motion carried.

The meeting recessed at 4:22 p.m. and reconvened at 4:29 p.m. with all present except Chairman Bruce.

Budget Work Session

The Commissioners reviewed the proposed Fiscal Year 2013 Budget. After reviewing the assessed valuation presented by Tina Conklin, Assessor, discussion ensued regarding employee raises. A motion was made by Commissioner Ertman, seconded by Commissioner Rossman, to allow raises in the amount of fifty cents per hour for all Weston County employees. Carried.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Attest: Mamie C. Krank
County Clerk

Tom W. Bruce
Chairman