

**WESTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OFFICIAL MINUTES  
December 17, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Weston County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Vice-Chairman Marty Ertman at 9:00 a.m. at the Weston County Courthouse. Commissioners Marty Ertman, Ed Wagoner and Nathan Todd, and Weston County Attorney Alex Berger and Clerk Becky Hadlock were present. Natural Resource Policy Consultant Dru Bower led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Hunt joined the meeting at 9:08 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Wagoner requested to have a phone conference report added to the agenda under old business and Clerk Hadlock requested to have the Department of Audit letter added under new business and an update to the pre-disaster mitigation grant under old business.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Todd would like to have the Secretary of States signature line removed from the Special meeting minutes of November 22, 2019. Commissioner Todd moved to approve the consent agenda, which includes the minutes of December 3, 2019, the special meeting minutes of November 22, 2019, Chairman's signature on USFS Patrol Agreement, Chairman's signature on Upton Police Department Cooperating Agreement, Chairman's signature on Location Release, Tax Roll Corrections #1362-#1379; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Carried.

**COMMISSIONER WAGONER**

Commissioner Wagoner updated the Board that the Governor's Office approval date, of the Natural Resource Management Plan, is June 30, 2020. Commissioner Wagoner has e-mailed a consultant list to Clerk Hadlock and will forward this list on to the Board.

**THUNDER BASIN NATURAL GRASSLANDS PLAN UPDATE**

Ms. Bower visited with the Board about putting in a proposal, once the RFP's are received back from the Board. Commissioner Wagoner made a motion to have Dru Bower put a proposal together to be a consultant for the Weston County Thunder Basin Natural Grassland Plan; seconded by Commissioner Todd. Carried. Ms. Bower also updated the Board on the work that is being done on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Ms. Bower continues to work closely on this and feels it is not perfect, but it is moving in the right direction. Ms. Bower gave a handout to the Board that had a lot of information on the Thunder Basin Nation Grassland 2020 Plan Amendment.

**PRAIRIE DOG UPDATE**

Bob and Jean Harshbarger came before the Board to comment on the DEIS as well. Mr. Harshbarger doesn't fully agree with Ms. Bower and believes that Weston County Land Use Plan of 1977 is the current plan. Commissioner Hunt wanted to know what Mr. Harshbarger would like from the Board. Mr. Harshbarger would like Resolution 13-03 to be sent to the Forest Service. Mr. Harshbarger also stated there are six different Resolutions that are to go with this plan. Clerk Hadlock will get these to Ms. Bower.

**ROAD & BRIDGE**

Road and Bridge Superintendent Rick Williams reported he had paperwork for the CMAQ project for the Bruce Road and Old Hwy 85 with a local match of \$58,702.00 as well as the HRRR Project for Painted

Hills, with a local match of \$47,055. Commissioner Todd moved to approve the Chairman's signature on the FY2020 CMAQ and FY2020 HRRR Sub Recipient Agreements between the WYDOT and Weston County; seconded by Commissioner Hunt. Carried.

Superintendent Williams asked Clerk Hadlock where the money for the blade purchase had been put. Clerk Hadlock reported it had been put into account 100.00.14.0138000.0000.

Sheriff Bryan Colvard was present for the discussion of the purchase of the new pick-ups for Road and Bridge and the Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Colvard stated the bids were not correct and Deputy Dan Fields should have the new bids soon.

### **SHERIFF**

Sheriff Colvard let the Board know the agreement for the Upton Police Department Cooperating is so that the Upton Police Department can assist the Sheriff's Department outside of the Upton City limits. Sheriff Colvard stated this also allows the Sheriff's Department to cover the Upton Police Department until they return to Upton while on an out of town run. Sheriff Colvard was happy to report that Shop with a Cop was very successful and credited Upton Police Chief Susan Bridges with helping to get this started in Weston County. Vice-Chairman Ertman asked Sheriff Colvard what the status of the Courthouse Security Officer was. Sheriff Colvard stated he was waiting for the input from the Judges on what requirements they wanted to see on the job application. Once this is received back from the Judges, he will start accepting applications. Commissioner Todd asked Sheriff Colvard to stay for the Law Enforcement Ramp discussion.

The meeting was recessed at 10:45 a.m. and reconvened at 11:00 a.m.

### **BRIDGER PIPELINE**

Ken Dockweiler - Director Land, Government & Compliance with Belle Fourche Pipeline stated that he did not have a lot to report to the Board. Mr. Dockweiler reported there is currently 20 miles of Right of Way built and they have weekly update calls with the contractors every Thursday. When Mr. Dockweiler met with Weed and Pest they were concerned about the spread of white top, but added wash stations will be added to minimize the spread of this. Mr. Dockweiler also stated when he met with Road and Bridge and the Fire District there were no concerns with either of these Departments

### **RABE ELEVATOR**

Dennis Rabe and Maintenance Foreman Steve Price met with the Board to discuss the option of having an elevator in place of the Law Enforcement Ramp. Mr. Rabe stated it was possible to put the shaft where the steps are and allow the dispatcher to be in control of the elevator. Mr. Rabe added that maintenance on an elevator is very minimal and suggested a Lula instead of a Commercial. Commissioner Todd asked if there needed to be an alternative exit in case of an emergency. Mr. Rabe reported that the elevator will still work unless there is a fire close enough to it. Commissioner Hunt asked if Mr. Rabe was the current maintenance guy for the elevator in the Courthouse and he responded that he was. Mr. Rabe, when asked, gave an estimate that it would be \$60,000 for a Lula and \$120,000 for a Commercial and the shaft would be \$75-100,000. Mr. Rabe suggested knocking a window out and putting in a door with a temporary ramp until the project is completed. Mr. Rabe sees no reason this project couldn't be completed by late June, early August. Sheriff Colvard likes the idea that dispatch has control of the elevator.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

## **IRP**

County Attorney Alex Berger stated they are waiting on a viewer's report.

## **LETTER TO MICHAELS' – PANIC BUTTON**

Attorney Berger has sent a letter to Michaels. Clerk Hadlock will ask Golden West for an itemized statement on the panic button invoice and have it by the next meeting.

## **ATTORNEY**

Attorney Berger let the Board know that the first Jury Trial, since the Courtroom remodel, was coming up. Attorney Berger stated the new jury table and bread board were installed.

## **OLD BUSINESS – CONT.**

### **LAW ENFORCEMENT RAMP/ELEVATOR**

Commissioner Wagoner would like to pursue having an elevator instead of a ramp and would like to have an RFP put out for this. Commissioner Wagoner made a motion to request an Architect RFP for an option for elevator access to the Law Enforcement; seconded by Commissioner Todd. Carried.

### **PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION GRANT – UPDATE**

Clerk Hadlock let the Board know that there were only two sections of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant that had easements, so the County Share is now \$97,518.75. Homeland Security Coordinator Gilbert Nelson let Clerk Hadlock know the deadline to submit the application is December 31, 2019.

Commissioner Wagoner made a motion to go through with the Salt Creek and Dewey Road Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Application; seconded by Commissioner Todd. Carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Clerk Hadlock read a letter to the Board from the State of Wyoming Department of Audit about two Special Districts that have not filed required annual reports and are in danger of being dissolved. Clerk Hadlock reported it was required to place a public notice in the paper and as of the meeting, the notice had been placed for the Cambria Improvement and Service District and Weston County Fair Board.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES**

Commissioner Hunt moved to approve the Executive Session Minutes of November 22, 2019; seconded by Commissioner Todd. Carried.

## **PLANNING & ZONING**

Rick Dunford, Planning & Zoning Board Member, presented the Board with his letter requested to be reappointed to the Planning & Zoning Board.

## **OLD BUSINESS – CONT.**

Commissioner Wagoner let the Board know that the Legislature is scheduled for February 10 – March 12, 2020.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

Marty Ertman  
Vice-Chairman

Attest: Becky Hadlock  
Weston County Clerk