

**WESTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**OFFICIAL MINUTES**  
**February 18, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Weston County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Ed Wagoner at 9:00 a.m. at the Weston County Courthouse. Commissioners Ed Wagoner, Nathan Todd, Marty Ertman, Tracy Hunt, and Tony Barton, and Weston County Attorney Alex Berger and Clerk Becky Hadlock were present. Commissioner Ertman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Barton requested to have the legislative session update added to the agenda and to have the minutes pulled from the consent agenda. Vice-Chairman Todd moved to approve the agenda with changes; seconded by Commissioner Barton. Carried.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Ertman moved to approve the consent agenda, which includes the Chairman's signature on the Consulting Service Agreement, the Chairman's signature on the letter of Support to Northern Mental Health Centers Contracts for 2020-2022; seconded by Commissioner Barton. During discussion Chairman Wagoner wanted it read into record that Resolution 2020-04 was passed. Carried.

Commissioner Ertman moved to approve minutes of February 4, 2020 with corrections; seconded by Commissioner Barton. Carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**IRP**

Attorney Alex Berger stated he had nothing to update on the IRP. Commissioner Ertman wondered if it would be better to move this project to the next Fiscal Year as the money that had been set aside for this project is more than likely no longer available. Commissioner Barton suggested putting a time of June as a completion date. Commissioner Ertman pointed out that Ted Ertman had been appointed as a viewer on this project and has yet to be contacted. Attorney Berger will try to have a report at the next meeting.

**WARRANT #65893/ACED EMBROIDERY**

Attorney Berger reported that the Department Head is allowed to spend budgeted money as they see fit and the Board can only question a department if they see what's being done is illegal. Attorney Berger stated the remedy is: one, the Board adjusts the budget next year to account for these kinds of expenditures; two, politically, if an elected official uses their budget in a way that the elector doesn't find satisfactory, they do not have to vote for them next time. Commissioner Hunt agrees, but would like to look at cutting the Department Head's Budget. Commissioner Hunt stated it is irresponsible on her part and believes the purchase is just so everyone looks great. Clerk Hadlock stated this bill had already been paid by Treasurer Susie Overman and the Board decided that Treasurer Overman can submit a voucher for payment. Commissioner Barton stated that her budget would be looked at very hard at budget time. Commissioner Ertman suggested putting something in the handbook pertaining to this issue. Commissioner Hunt commented that if this was put into the handbook that everything would have to be listed on what could and couldn't be purchased. Commissioner Todd added that it does help when they go to Upton and they have different shirts on to know they are with the Treasurer's Office. Commissioner Barton stated that they could have name tags on to help with this.

### **ANNEX PARKING LOT**

Attorney Berger reported that he has obtained written authorization for the County to maintain the pavilion while he works on the finalization of the sale. Attorney Berger hopes to have the documents of the sale by the next meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS (CONTINUED)**

#### **ROAD & BRIDGE – BLACK THUNDER BRIDGE UPDATE**

Road and Bridge Superintendent Rick Williams reported to the Board that the Black Thunder Bridge was completely built and would be ready to ship by March 28<sup>th</sup>. Superintendent Williams stated this project still is not ready to be put out for bid and he feels with the timing, it is too late to do this now, as he doesn't want to cause the residents to be stranded. When the bridge is ready, Superintendent Williams will have it delivered on location so that the County does not have to pay to have it moved twice.

#### **BILL TO BIG R STATUS**

Superintendent Williams stated he did not know anything about this bill and it was tabled until the next meeting.

#### **IRP UPDATED (CONTINUED)**

Commissioner Barton stated that the Board would like to see this project ready to go by the end of April. Superintendent Williams reported that he was informed that Haliburton had not gotten their permits from the BLM yet. Superintendent will go and visit with the BLM about this to find out more, because without this step nothing further can be done.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **OLD HWY 85 BRIDGE**

Commissioner Ertman stated the Board needs to decide if they want to keep the bridge on Old Hwy 85 or not and then decide if they want to have public hearings on this. Commissioner Ertman added the Wyoming Department of Transportation will pay for the public hearings, the Board just needs to decide if this is what they would like to move forward with. Commissioner Ertman wanted the Board to know the Railroad would have to be included as well, as the County has never granted them a right of way access. Commissioner Barton stated that if Newcastle expands it would be important to keep the bridge. Commissioner Ertman added that another deciding factor would be if the new landfill would need access to Old Hwy 85. Chairman Wagoner stated the new landfill would access off of Hwy 85 not Old Hwy 85. Commissioner Ertman will send an e-mail to WYDOT District Engineer, Scott Taylor to let him know the Board would like to have public meetings set up. Superintendent Williams suggested having a trial closure to see how the public reacts. Commissioner Hunt asked about traffic counters and Superintendent Williams stated these have already been set up on this road.

#### **GRANT PROCESS UPDATE**

Clerk Becky Hadlock reported to the Board that she had visited with the other Clerks in the State and because each Grant is so different, a step by step grant process would not be a good idea to have on the website. Clerk Hadlock stated that Campbell County is working on putting a grant book together and will send this as soon as it is complete. Clerk Hadlock shared that it is recommended, that anyone who applies for any type of a grant, attend grant training to help them to better understand the grant process.

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Commissioner Barton, Commissioner Ertman and Chairman Wagoner gave updates on the WCCA meetings that they attended in while in Cheyenne during the Legislative Session.

## **COURTHOUSE SECURITY JOB DESCRIPTION**

Sheriff Bryan Colvard let the Board know that Joe Czrobowski and Jason Jenkins were the new Courthouse Security employees. Sheriff Colvard stated they are still tweaking a few things but the public likes seeing someone walking in the building. Sheriff Colvard asked the Board to please let him know if any of them are getting negative feedback.

Chairman Wagoner asked Sheriff Colvard about the new pickups that were purchased and Sheriff Colvard stated they should be arriving at the end of March. Sheriff Colvard added that one of the radios would have to be replaced. Commissioner Ertman let Sheriff Colvard know that the bill dealing with WYO-LINK had not passed so the County could be responsible for paying for usage. Sheriff Colvard updated that even though his department uses WYO-LINK, all of his radios can work on the old system if they start charging the County.

## **BRIDGER PIPELINE**

Ken Dockweiler - Director of Land, Government & Compliance with Belle Fourche Pipeline let the Board know that they are making progress. Commissioner Ertman stated that there are a lot of crews in town and they are all very polite. Sheriff Colvard reported that he hasn't had any issues with them. Chairman Wagoner wanted to let Mr. Dockweiler know that a landowner had reported to him that one of the welders had went through their fence, one mile north of Hwy. 16 on Oil Creek Road. Chairman Wagoner stated that the landowner has the welder's tools and will return them to them as soon as they fix the fence that was torn down. Commissioner Barton stated the frost is starting to come out of the ground and wanted to make sure Mr. Dockweiler is working with the Road and Bridge Department to mitigate this.

## **ATTORNEY**

Attorney Berger stated that the Hospital Board is on the agenda at 10:45 and he knew the Board was wanting to go into executive session on this, but Attorney Berger cannot see that there is any reason that this falls under these circumstances.

Attorney Berger asked what the status was on the monitors that were purchased for the Judge's chambers and the Courtroom and if the Courtroom Security Grant was being used to purchase these. Clerk Hadlock let him know that these have already been ordered and that this grant would be used.

Attorney Berger updated the Board that he has hired another Attorney for his office, Michael Stalkin, and he would be moving to Newcastle in April. Attorney Berger reported that his office continues to have record breaking numbers and that Jeani Stone is working out great.

## **HOSPITAL BOARD**

Realtor Matt Ramsey came before the Board to try and answer a few questions about the property located next to the hospital. Mr. Ramsey has been approached by a potential buyer who is interested in purchasing this land. Mr. Ramsey stated this new business will employ approximately fifteen full-time employees and will be a good thing for the community. Commissioner Barton asked if this was the property located in the drainage ditch and Mr. Ramsey answered that it was. Commissioner Hunt asked

how many acres of land and Mr. Ramsey let the Board know that there was about three acres and the company was offering between \$200,000 and \$300,000. Commissioner Ertman stated the contract was written the way that it was for a reason. Mr. Ramsey stated that this opportunity might be lost if it's not jumped on soon. Commissioner Hunt wants to talk to the Hospital Board first. Commissioner Barton stated to do a 50/50 split. Attorney Berger stated he believed a deal could be made but the Hospital doesn't want the County to micromanage. Commissioner Hunt feels the County should get all of the profit and again would like more information from the Hospital Board. Commissioner Ertman would like to speak to the prior Board of Commissioners, that signed the agreement, and see if they are ok with the current Board of Commissioners decision. Commissioner Todd stated the Hospital was gifted this land, they currently receive a MIL Levy and he feels this needs to be brought back to the County. Commissioner Wagoner stated he would like to see all of the profit given to the County. Commissioner Barton moved to authorize the County Attorney to negotiate with their attorney to waive the right of reverter and let them sell the land and set up the terms of the deed restrictions on that they pay the County all of the net proceeds, 100%; seconded by Commissioner Hunt. Ayes: Wagoner, Todd, Hunt, Barton. Nays: Ertman. Carried.

#### **WESTON COUNTY HISTORICAL PRESERVATION BOARD**

Chairman of the Weston County Historical Preservation Board Lucille Dumbrill came before the Board to give an update on projects the Preservation Board has been working on. Chairman Dumbrill let the Board know she wrote a letter to the editor about a tour that the Preservation Board took of the Courthouse. Chairman Dumbrill stated the Antler's Hotel will be recognized in May and will be giving tours on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Chairman Dumbrill reported that the Preservation Board will be applying for a Rural Development Grant from the Wyoming Business Council for the Stampede Street Project. Linda Hunt has been working really hard on this project and Chairman Dumbrill shared a packet on the items that this grant with help with. Commissioner Barton moved to sign the Rural Development Grant from the Wyoming Business Council for the Stampede Street Project; seconded by Commissioner Ertman. Carried.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

Ed Wagoner  
Chairman

Attest: Becky Hadlock  
Weston County Clerk