

WESTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
UNOFFICIAL MINUTES
November 17, 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, Tracy Hunt, Tony Barton and Nathan Todd, and Weston County Attorney Alex Berger and Clerk Becky Hadlock were present. Vice-Chairman Todd led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice-Chairman Todd asked to remove the CWCSWDD from the agenda and Attorney Berger would like to add Court System update under New Business. Commissioner Barton moved to approve the agenda with changes; seconded by Vice-Chairman Todd. Carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Vice-Chairman Todd requested to have the minutes of November 5, 2020 pulled from the consent agenda. Commissioner Barton requested to pull the Easement and Access Agreement between the Board of Weston County Commissioners and Bruce Ranch for discussion. Commissioner Barton moved to approve the consent agenda, which includes the Executive Session Minutes of November 5, 2020, Chairman's Signature on CLG Grant Application FY 2021; seconded by Vice-Chairman Todd. Carried.

MINUTES

Commissioner Barton moved to approve the minutes of November 5, 2020 with changes; seconded by Vice-Chairman Todd. Carried.

EASEMENT/EASEMENT ADDENDUM

Attorney Berger discussed the Easement and Easement Addendum Agreement between the Board of Weston County Commissioners and Bruce Ranch, Inc. Attorney Berger stated he had met with the Chairman and the landowner and the landowner had wanted the items listed in the original Easement and Jerry Hunt had left them out which required the Addendum. Commissioner Hunt stated he believes the landowner's requests are well within reason. Commissioner Barton added the Board can be proactive in the future and this will be a start to a shift in policy. Commissioner Barton moved to approve the Chairman's signature on the Easements; seconded by Commissioner Hunt. During discussion Vice-Chairman Todd asked what we are doing now that wasn't done before. Commissioner Hunt answered that before the Board would not pay for fill dirt etc. Carried.

ROAD & BRIDGE

Road and Bridge Superintendent Marty Habeck and Road and Bridge Foreman Jim Hansen came before the Board to give an update on the Road and Bridge Department. Superintendent Habeck let the Board know that the Contractor has torn out the Black Thunder Bridge and is now waiting on information from Jerry Hunt before they can continue. The Board let Superintendent Habeck know that he is going to have to stay on top of Mr. Hunt and Chairman Wagoner stated it is best to reach out to Mr. Hunt via e-mail so that there is a paper trail. Foreman Hansen updated the Board on the current road status. Commissioner Barton let Superintendent Habeck know that the Board had put together a list of things that they would like to see him accomplish.

OLD BUSINESS

VARIANCE ON STATE ORDERS

Chairman Wagoner stated that the County Public Health Officer Dr. Jording had asked the Governor for a mask mandate and feels that with the current situation the Board could put in for all the variances we want but they would not get a second look. The Board agreed to hold off on applying for more variances at this time.

CHEYENNE RIVER ROAD

Diane Simon and Mike Harris came before the Board to discuss the portion of the Cheyenne River Road that runs through a part of Diane Simon's deeded property. Ms. Simon currently puts up a gate and then the Sheriff's Office goes down and takes it down. Attorney Berger let the Board know that there are two Plat maps that clearly identifies a 60' wide easement on this County Road. Ms. Simon understands there is no easement and her attorney would like to review it. Mr. Harris stated there is access via Old Hwy 85. Commissioner Barton stated that a lot of the times easements were signed and not always recorded. Commissioner Hunt explained that at this time both sides will have to agree to disagree.

BUDGET AMENDMENT HEARING

At 10:00 a.m., a budget amendment hearing was opened to receive unanticipated revenue from grant funds in the amount of \$252,208 for the Airport Construct Taxilane B (phase 2); Construct Taxilane C and Rehabilitate Access Road for the airport. Chairman Wagoner asked for public comment three times. Chairman Wagoner closed the budget amendment hearing. Commissioner Barton moved to approve the Budget Amendment; seconded by Vice-Chairman Todd. Carried.

POWDER RIVER BASIN CORE – Critical Minerals – SUPPORT LETTER

Chairman Wagoner let the Board know that a support letter was needed for the University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources application for the CORE-CM Initiative. Commissioner Barton moved to authorize the Chairman's signature on the Powder River Basin Core – CM – Support Letter support letter; seconded by Vice-Chairman Todd. Carried.

HOMELAND SECURITY

Homeland Security Coordinator Gilbert Nelson updated the Board that the CARES request was not approved by the SLIB Board. Coordinator Nelson will be putting in another request for PPE, tele networking items, Courthouse staff laptops and misc. other items. Coordinator Nelson will get with Department Heads to see what else is needed before submitting the next request. Commissioner Hunt would like to have a list of projects and priorities considered when putting together the request. Attorney Berger volunteered to help write the next request. Commissioner Barton moved to have Coordinator Nelson get the Emergency Sirens fixed for an amount between \$18,000 - \$19,000; seconded by Vice-Chairman Todd. Carried.

COURT SYSTEM UPDATE

Attorney Berger let the Board know that the Court System has shut down again and is more restrictive than when the shutdown occurred in March. Attorney Berger let the Board know that the Court is set up with live streaming, it is running smoothly and there will not be any jury trials for a while. Attorney Berger has a quote for a pocket door and will get it to Coordinator Nelson to be added to the next CARES request.

PUBLIC COMMENT

During public Chairman Wagoner updated the Board on the WCCA Conference call. Chairman Wagoner stated the WCCA discussed the current mask mandate as well as the 9% fuel tax increase.

Publisher/Editor, for the *Weston County Gazette*, Nick Trandahl asked who had dropped the ball on the CARES grants. Chairman Wagoner explained that no one had dropped the ball, there had already been requests put in, but they had been denied by the SLIB board.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:52 p.m.

Ed Wagoner
Chairman

Attest: Becky Hadlock
Weston County Clerk