

WESTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
January 5, 2021

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, Marty Ertman, Tony Barton and Don Taylor, and Clerk Becky Hadlock were present. Commissioner Nathan Todd and Weston County Attorney Alex Berger joined via hub. Commissioner Taylor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Wagoner requested to have Chairman's Signature on Pay App #2 to Reiman Corp added under New Business and CARES-ACT funding added at 11:45 a.m. Commissioner Barton moved to have the minutes of December 15, 2020 pulled from the consent agenda. Commissioner Barton moved to approve the agenda with changes; seconded by Commissioner Ertman. Ayes: Wagoner, Barton, Taylor. Nays: Ertman. Carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Commissioner Ertman reminded the Board that a second was not needed for the nominations. Commissioner Barton nominated Commissioner Ertman for Chairman. Carried. Chairman Wagoner nominated Vice-Chairman Todd for Vice-Chairman. Carried.

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

Price quotes were requested from the two newspapers that are published in Weston County. A specific set of minutes were given to each, requesting submission of a cost per column inch and to include a total cost for publishing that set of minutes. A quote was received from the *Weston County Gazette* in the amount of \$6.00 per column inch with a total cost to publish the sample of \$364.50, with a paid circulation of 690. A quote was received from the *News Letter Journal* in the amount of \$9.50 per column inch with a total cost to publish the sample of \$608.00, with a paid circulation of 1762. Commissioner Barton moved to appoint the *Weston County Gazette* as the official Weston County newspaper in 2021; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. During discussion Commissioner Barton stated it was a monetary decision and Commissioner Wagoner said he echoed Commissioner Barton. Kim Dean, Managing Editor of the *News Letter Journal*, addressed the Board about putting information in both newspapers. Commissioner Taylor stated the number of readers should be considered in the decisions not only the price. Carried. Ayes: Ertman, Wagoner, Barton. Nays: Taylor. Carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Barton moved to approve the consent agenda, which included the vouchers, payroll, collections for December 2020, Special Meeting Minutes of December 23, 2020, Treasurer's Report, Board Appointments – Historic Preservation – Kasey Keeler, Weston County Solid Waste – Sam Haptonstall, Bob Hartley, Mallo – John Prell, Fair – Mike McFarland, Predator – Jason Williams, Planning & Zoning – Nicole McFarland, Weed & Pest – Troy Lynch, Scott Sewell, Taylor Tavegia, Clay Branscom; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Chairman Ertman also asked to have Voucher #67330 to Hannah's Heavenly Treats be pulled for discussion and Commissioner Barton asked to have Voucher #67384 to Weston Engineering be pulled for discussion with the Road & Bridge Superintendent Marty Habeck. Carried.

MINUTES

Commissioner Barton moved to approve the minutes of December 15, 2020 with changes; seconded by Commissioner Taylor. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

VARIANCES

Dr. Jording contacted Clerk Hadlock via e-mail stating he had sent the COVID-19 Variances to Dr. Harrist without changes and then notified Clerk Hadlock that Dr. Harrist had responded back that she agreed with Dr. Jording that the Variances were not appropriate for Weston County at this time. Commissioner Ertman would like to again ask for a Mask Variance. Commissioner Wagoner agreed that this is good for public relations. Commissioner Barton would like Chairman Ertman and Clerk Hadlock to put forth a Variance to bring to the Board. Mask Mandate Variance discussion was moved to 12:00 p.m.

BILL FROM HEIN | BOND – COUNTY ATTORNEY

Attorney Berger indicated that his last response to Hein | Bond was that the County would not pay for the bill submitted. Attorney Berger does not feel the County will hear back on this issue.

VOUCHER #67330

Commissioner Barton moved to approve Voucher #67330 – Hannah’s Heavenly Treats; seconded by Commissioner Taylor. Ayes: Wagoner, Barton, Taylor. Nays: Ertman. Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

CHAIRMAN’S SIGNATURE PAY APP #2 – REIMAN CORP

Commissioner Wagoner moved to approve a pre-pay in the amount of \$144,612.50 to Reiman Corp and the Chairman’s Signature on Pay App #2; seconded by Commissioner Taylor. Carried. Commissioner Barton moved for the Commissioners’ Signatures on the eligibility forms and scope of work for the Treasurer’s records; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Carried.

ROAD & BRIDGE

Jerry Hunt with Weston Engineering discussed the voucher presented to the County. Road and Bridge Superintendent Marty Habeck stated that the two projects on the bill had been advertised for final payment. Engineer Hunt stated that he was not notified of this and he still needed paid. Chairman Ertman asked that when final payment is advertised, that every bill with the project is submitted. Commissioner Barton moved to approve the voucher #67384 in the amount of \$13,886.80 and #67384 in the amount of \$34,742.95 and approve the Commissioners’ signature on the eligibility forms; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. During discussion, Commissioner Taylor asked Engineer Hunt why he waited so long to submit his bill. Engineer Hunt responded the he always does. Carried.

Engineer Hunt discussed the payment process to Reiman Corp. Clerk Hadlock explained how the vouchers are to be submitted to Road and Bridge first and because this did not happen, there was a delay.

Engineer Hunt updated the Board on the Black Thunder Bridge and stated that the bridge structure was in place.

Superintendent Habeck let the Board know that the State gave 5,000 tons of chips to the Road and Bridge Department. Haliburton has contacted Superintendent Habeck about paying for a new bridge to

replace the one that burnt down on Old Hwy 85. Attorney Berger stated that a legal arrangement would need to be made between Haliburton and the County. Chairman Ertman would like Superintendent Habeck to go through the Wyoming D.O.T. as well. Commissioner Wagoner asked if Haliburton would build the bridge to meet D.O.T. specs. Superintendent Habeck responded that it would and he would contact Haliburton, the State and Attorney Berger to get this project started.

Superintendent Habeck discussed with the Board about giving raises to the Road and Bridge employees. The Board let him know that this is something that has to be done during budget time. Superintendent Habeck stated that his employees had not gotten raises in over three years. The Board let him know that the employees received raises when the other County employees did as these raises were given to all employees.

ANNEX UPDATE

Attorney Berger let the Board know that the State Public Defender is completely moved out of the Annex Building and FOCUS would like to move into these vacant spaces. Clerk Hadlock advertised for these spaces and Attorney Berger did not have any calls. Attorney Berger would like the Board's permission to enter into a new lease with FOCUS. Commissioner Taylor asked what FOCUS is paying now. Attorney Berger responded that they pay \$600 for 3 offices. Commissioner Barton stated that Attorney Berger is in charge of the Annex. Chairman Ertman responded that FOCUS will now have a separate entrance. Commissioner Barton moved to allow the County Attorney to negotiate with FOCUS on a new agreement; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Carried.

COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER

Vice-Chairman Todd joined the meeting via hub.

Vice-Chairman Todd stated he is not happy where they are with the Current County Health Officer. Commissioner Taylor added that he understands things would be better if the communication was there. Commissioner Barton stated he has the utmost respect for Dr. Jording, but wishes there wasn't a mask mandate. Chairman Ertman stated the Board had asked for communication from Dr. Jording during their last discussion. The Board was told there would be discussion if Dr. Jording did not like the variances, but instead, he sent them off without signing them. Walter Sprague, reporter for the *News Letter Journal*, stated he had seen an e-mail from Dr. Jording asking for the Governor and State Health Officer to deny the variance request. Mr. Sprague added Alexis Barker, reporter for the *News Letter Journal*, had tried to contact Dr. Jording asking why the variance had been denied but Dr. Jording was not responding to why he denied the request. Attorney Berger stated that if the Board does not have a County Health Officer, the State Health Officer is responsible until the Board fills the vacancy and there is no time limit. Sheriff Colvard said the Board has to do whatever is best for Weston County and we have the State Health Officer as our Health Officer anyway. Commissioner Taylor made a motion to remove Dr. Jording as the County Health Officer and start the process to find a replacement; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. During discussion Commissioner Wagoner stated he has respect for Dr. Jording too. Commissioner Wagoner added that Dr. Jording has loyalty to his profession but the well-being should be to the County and the variances should have went through. Vice-Chairman Todd stated the Board needs someone who thinks outside of the box. Commissioner Taylor added the Board asked for communication from Dr. Jording and hadn't gotten any. Commissioner Wagoner asked Sheriff Colvard if he feels there would be pressure from the State to enforce the variances. Both Sheriff Colvard and Attorney Berger stated there would be no changes from either of them. Vice-Chairman Todd wanted to clarify that the Board is going to be looking for a replacement. Attorney Berger will research

the qualifications and have a write-up for the Board. Ayes: Ertman, Todd, Wagoner, Taylor. Nays: Barton. Carried.

CARES ACT

Commissioner Wagoner made a motion to take applications for the Charitable Organization Cares Act Funds; seconded by Commissioner Taylor. During discussion Commissioner Barton asked if there should be parameters for maximum funds determined before the applications are received. The Board would like to do something similar to Carbon County's process, but add that the applicants provide a contact number that they can be reached at when the Board reviews the applications. Clerk Hadlock will also attach a Provider of Service agreement and ask that a voucher be filled out when everything is brought into the Clerk's Office. The Board agreed that the applications be received in the Clerk's Office by February 10th and the Board will award them at 2:00 P.M. on February 16th. Carried.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the Board knew how much of the 2nd round of COVID funds Weston County might receive. The Board has not heard anything.

VARIANCES (continued)

Commissioner Wagoner feels the Board should ask for a mask mandate, use Niobrara County's and pass it. Chairman Ertman stated she will work with Clerk Hadlock on it, they will make it fit Weston County and send it via e-mail for review. Commissioner Wagoner moved to ask for a mask variance for Weston County after Chairman Ertman and Clerk Hadlock work on it and it is approved by e-mail; seconded by Commissioner Taylor. Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

VOUCHERS

066 NCPERS, financial admin, \$240.00, AFLAC, payroll ded, \$2,157.36, Blue Cross Blue Shield, financial admin, \$64,164.00, Circuit Court, payroll ded, \$670.25, Delta Dental of WY, payroll ded, \$2,852.00, Great West Trust Co, payroll ded, \$1,760.00, New York Life, financial admin, \$491.28, VSP of Wyoming, financial admin, \$595.23, WEBT, financial admin, \$16.00, WC Clerk, financial admin, \$49,373.81, WC Treasurer, financial admin, \$20.00, WY Child Support, payroll ded, \$1,250.00, WY Dept of Workforce Services, financial admin, \$20.49, WY Retirement System, financial admin, \$37,610.10, Pitney Bowes Global Financial Services, supp, \$650.07, Grossenburg Implement, r&b repair/maint, \$12,941.34, WC Children's Center, child cntr, \$3,187.50, WC Health Services, hlth srvc, \$1,275.00, WC Natural Resource District, ntrl rsrc, \$1,168.75, WC Library, block allocation, \$25,889.56, A&B Business, financial admin, \$34,500.00, Alex Berger, attny equip, \$5,801.93, Golden West Technologies, equip, \$14,839.00, Communication Technologies, financial admin, \$21,524.29, Newcastle Motors, financial admin, \$113,678.00, PROPAC, financial admin, \$19,057.07, Motorola Solutions, misc, \$5,751.82, Reiman Corp, black thunder bridge, \$90,666.00, B.R.E.A.D., emergency relief, \$50,000.00, Seventh Day Adventist Church, emergency relief, \$25,000.00, 21 Electric, repair/maint, \$873.30, Ad Pro, supp, \$456.23, Airport Lighting Company, airport repair/maint, \$424.00, Alpha Communications, tower rent, \$55.00, AT&T Mobility, comm, \$1,167.47, BAM Document Destruction & Recycling, misc, \$163.90, Becky Hadlock, misc, \$5.00, BH Chemical & Janitorial, brd of prisoners, \$150.95, BH Energy, util, \$5,190.93, BH Occupational Medicine, law exp, \$35.00, BH Plumbing, repair/maint, \$1,012.40, Bobcat of Gillette, repair/maint, \$914.90, Bomgaars, repair/maint, \$1,275.73, Byrand Streeter, contract wage, \$1,332.09,

Cambria Discount Drug, jail med, \$101.94, Cambria Supply, r&b repair/maint, \$556.09, Campbell Co Memorial Hospital, invol commit, \$4,303.65, Carmen Simon, p-hlth post/freight, \$3.80, Charm-Tex, inmate exp, \$599.70, Chrisjen L McIlvain, coroner exp, \$50.00, City of Newcastle, util/dispatch/p-hlth exp, \$5,165.44, CNA Surety, misc insurance, \$340.00, Communication Technologies, r&b veh maint, \$371.25, Comtronix, misc, \$87.00, Crook Co Medical Services, law exp, \$253.00, Culligan Water Conditioning, misc, \$75.00, Decker's Market, supp, \$212.12, Dennette J Price, mile/trvl, \$37.38, Dite's Tinkering Designs, misc, \$80.00, Double D, r&b repair/maint, \$938.99, DRU Consulting, financial admin, \$2,125.00, Eastern WY Equipment, sheriff veh maint/fuel, \$151.99, Election Systems & Software, supp, \$458.00, Erickson Family Dental Center, jail med, \$465.00, Fisher Sand & Gravel, gravel/rd mtrl, \$14,154.07, Frontier Home Ranch & Hardware, repair/maint/sup, \$407.64, Godfrey's Brake Service, r&b repair/maint, \$1.93, Golden West Technologies, software/comm, \$2,704.00, Hannah's Heavenly Treats, hmlnd sec exp, \$150.00, Hillyard/Sioux Falls, supp, \$384.43, Hoffman Construction LLC, repair/maint, \$1,275.00, Hometown Medical Clinic, p-hlth exp, \$2,200.00, Humphrey Law, spc attny, \$947.10, Hurricane Services, crths supp, \$450.00, Inland Truck Parts, r&b repair/maint, \$422.72, Jones & Bartlett Learning, law exp, \$6.57, Jub Jub Inc, financial admin, \$194.85, KASL, p-hlth exp, \$2,304.00, Kyra L Evick, other emp, \$450.00, Lori Bickford, p-hlth exp, \$1,924.47, Lubnau Law Office, spc attny, \$668.70, Marina Renee McIlvain, coroner exp, \$100.00, Mastercard, sheriff/attny/r&b exp, \$1,978.68, Matthew Bender & Co, law library, \$65.08, Max Masters, gis land records, \$1,900.00, Michael Jording, p-hlth exp, \$6,666.66, Minuteman Lube Center, maint/fuel, \$103.99, Motor Power Equipment, r&b repair/maint, \$86.18, Mountain States Lithographing, supp, \$177.44, Newcastle Ambulance Service, ambulance, \$14,054.80, News Letter Journal, supp, \$2,152.65, Northern WY Mental Health, mntl hlth, \$2,125.00, Osage Improvement & Service District, coroner exp, \$312.00, Postmaster, p-hlth exp, \$318.00, Powder River Energy, p-hlth/hmlnd/r&b/airport/sheriff util, \$1,398.45, Power Plan, r&b repair/maint, \$463.12, Radar Shop, sheriff maint/fuel, \$378.00, Range, comm, \$2,387.28, Renegade Paint & Pipes, coroner exp, \$1,062.35, Roadrunner Disposal Service, airport util, \$60.00, Servall Uniform/Linen Co, supp, \$166.62, Sundance Extinguisher, repair, \$51.79, Syn-Tech Systems, r&b tank maint, \$73.00, Tammy Cleverdon, mile/trvl, \$37.38, Team Lab Chemical Corp, repair/maint, \$151.00, Thomas L Bennett, coroner exp, \$2,000.00, Timberline Services, cong-mit/rd mtrl, \$355.46, Top Office Products, supp, \$1,112.52, Travelers, misc insc, \$540.00, Upton Co-op, oil/gas/lube, \$12,184.62, UW-Admin Business, ext service exp, \$5,130.00, Verizon Wireless, comm, \$232.06, Visionary Communications, attny exp, \$309.15, WC Sheriff's Search & Rescue, srch & rscue, \$576.00, West End Water District, airport util, \$60.00, WC 4-H Council, ext service supp, \$385.71, WC Gazette, print/pub, \$1,635.75, WC Health Services, r&b/jail med, \$163.00, WC Library, block allocation, \$25,889.56, WC Road & Bridge, maint/fuel, \$2,231.12, WC Sr Services, brd of prisoners/sr meal, \$2,154.00, WC True Value, repair/maint, \$26.97, Weston Engineering, engineering svcs, \$48,629.75, Woody's Food Center, brd of prisoners/supp, \$253.62, Word's Window Washing, repair/maint, \$340.00, WY Behavioral Institute, invol commit, \$3,016.00, WY Dept of Environmental Quality, airport fuel tank maint, \$400.00, WY Dept of Health, p-hlth exp, \$133.65, WY Machinery, repair/maint, \$1,081.32, WY Network, financial admin, \$270.00, WY Public Health, p-hlth exp, \$14.00, Y2 Consultants, financial admin, \$9,804.56, Net Payroll, \$168,751.93.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Marty Ertman
Chairman

Attest: Becky Hadlock
Weston County Clerk