

**WESTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**OFFICIAL MINUTES**  
**November 16, 2021**

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairwoman Ertman asked to add Redistricting under New Business. Commissioner Wagoner moved to approve the agenda with changes; seconded by Commissioner Barton. Carried.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Barton moved to approve the Consent Agenda which included the Minutes of November 2, 2021, Executive Session Minutes (1) of November 2, 2021, Executive Session Minutes (2) of November 2, 2021, Chairman's Signature on Resolution 2021-14 – Amendment to the 2021-2022 Budget, Chairman's Signature on Plat Map – Single Land Division Plat – L Curtis, Chairman's Signature on Weston County Historical Preservation Annual Report; seconded by Commissioner Taylor. Carried.

**DOUG & DIANE HUDSON**

Doug Hudson came before the Board to discuss the subdivision that the Board had approved for him. Mr. Hudson indicated that the title companies are not approving him for title insurance due to the access for Whitetail Run belonging to Sunset Ranch Subdivision. Mr. Hudson asked if the Board was able to help him. Attorney Michael Stulken indicated he had done research and there may be public access, but could not give Mr. Hudson legal advice. Commissioner Barton stated this was not a County issue.

**LAW ENFORCMENT RAMP UPDATE**

Nick White with Howard White Construction gave the Board an update on the Law Enforcement Ramp RFP. Mr. White indicated that Sheriff Bryan Colvard feels that an elevator is the way to go due to the cost of maintaining the ramp. Mr. White has been working with Heath Overfield of Engineering Associates as well as Denny Rabe with Rabe Elevator on getting a price and feels confident that the total price would be no more than \$300,000. Mr. White asked for direction from the Board to put together a design proposal which will cost \$10,000. Commissioner Barton moved to authorize Howard White Construction to engage Engineering Associates firm for a price not to exceed \$10,000 drawn up so they can get a firm price from Howard White Construction; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Carried.

**OUTSIDE BUILDING**

John Francis came before the Board with suggestions on how to protect the degradation of the stone on the outside of the Courthouse. Mr. Francis stated water is the buildings worse enemy and they need to keep the water away from the building. Mr. Francis did a walk around the building and noticed the sprinklers spray the building, could see a spigot leaking which is staining the stone, steps on the bottom corner are damaged from the water running down the stairs and the stone is peeling off. Mr. Francis suggested moving the sprinklers, fixing the leaking hydrant and fixing the water leaking on the steps. Chairwoman Ertman asked if this would be a quick fix and if Mr. Francis could address the joints. Mr. Francis stated he could for \$150. Commissioner Barton asked if Maintenance Foreman Al Costello could join the meeting. Commissioner Barton then asked that Mr. Francis work with Foreman Costello and put

some time into the Courthouse to help increase its longevity. Vice-Chairman Todd agreed to let Foreman Costello know that as long as something was under \$3,000 he could go ahead and get it fixed.

### **CORONER MOU UPDATE**

Attorney Stulken let the Board know that the Coroner MOU that was signed in October by the Chairman is still not signed by Crook County. Attorney Stulken contacted Crook County Attorney Joe Baron and the reason this is not signed is due to lack of communication between the two Coroners. Attorney Stulken stated that once the Coroners come to an agreement they will get back to him. Clerk Hadlock will contact Weston County Coroner Cynthia Crabtree for an update at the next meeting.

### **ROAD & BRIDGE**

Road & Bridge Superintendent Marty Habeck and Road & Bridge Foreman Jim Hansen came before the Board to give the Road & Bridge report. Superintendent Habeck presented a Road Report to the Board. Superintendent Habeck gave the Board his letter of resignation effective December 3, 2021. Foreman Hansen reported that they are getting caught up on blading. Foreman Hansen added this is the first time in three months that there is a full crew. Superintendent Habeck reported that he met with Glen Wise on milling up the Fairgrounds Road as well as looking at the parking lot. Superintendent Habeck stated the remaining funds from the Black Thunder Grant can be used on the Cheyenne River Road. The Board needs to write a letter to them asking for permission to spend the funds. Commissioner Barton moved for the Chairman's signature on a letter requesting to use MRG funds to purchase gravel for the Cheyenne River Road; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Carried. Vice-Chairman Todd stated there is land by the Post Office in Osage that the County owns that needs to be bladed and have a load of rock put on it. Chairwoman Ertman indicated that because this falls within the State right-of-way, they need to be contacted first. Foreman Hansen stated he had been contacted by Search & Rescue about a drainage issue at the Fairgrounds. Commissioner Barton stated that Road & Bridge needed to fix it. Foreman Hansen will contact the Fairgrounds first.

Commissioner Barton moved to go into Executive Session per W.S. 16-4-405(a)(ii); seconded by Commissioner Taylor. Carried. Executive Session began at 10:37 a.m.; regular meeting reconvened at 10:50 a.m. Matters concerning the Road & Bridge Supervisor were discussed in Executive Session; no action was taken.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **REDISTRICTING LETTER**

Representative Eric Barlow sent out a letter indicating that all of the Campbell Counties Legislators are proposing a redistricting map that keeps Campbell County whole and leaves Crook and Weston Counties sharing and Weston also sharing with Niobrara and another county. The Board would like to keep Weston County whole so that Weston County has a Representative within the boundaries of Weston County. Commissioner Barton stated it's important that Weston County has a Representative that represents the whole county as well as both school districts. Commissioner Wagoner stated Representative Hans Hunt would vote for something and Representative Chip Neiman would vote against it, therefore Weston County would not have a vote. Chairwoman Ertman stated that when you share a representative, it's hard for them to make all of the meetings to see what's needed. Commissioner Wagoner made a motion to write a letter to the Joint Corporations Committee that they strongly support Weston County staying whole in the re-districting process; seconded by Commissioner Taylor. Carried. Commissioner Wagoner moved to support the letter the Clerk writes on keeping the County whole; seconded by Commissioner Barton. Carried. Commissioner Barton asked what were some

specific instances that have harmed Weston County by not having Weston County whole? Chairwoman Ertman stated there was a bill pertaining to school districts and because the school districts were split, the Representatives were split, one Representative would have represented both districts. Assistant Publisher/Editor, for the *Weston County Gazette*, Nick Trandahl stated that the Upton Town Council does not feel represented by their Representative so much so that they have invited him to come speak with them to have more presence in Upton.

**ROAD & BRIDGE**

Commissioner Barton moved to offer the full-time Road & Bridge Superintendent position to Jim Hansen effective December 2, 2021; seconded by Vice-Chairman Todd. Carried.

**AIRPORT BOARD INTERVIEW #1**

The Board interviewed Bob Svara for the vacant seat on the Airport Board.

**AIRPORT BOARD INTERVIEW #2**

The Board interviewed John Max Patik III for the vacant seat on the Airport Board.

Commissioner Barton moved to appoint Bob Svara to the Airport Board; seconded by Commissioner Taylor. Clerk Hadlock will notify the applicant and thank them all for applying. Carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Marty Ertman  
Chairwoman

Attest: Becky Hadlock  
Weston County Clerk