

WESTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
December 7, 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, Ed Wagoner, Tony Barton and Don Taylor, Attorney Michael Stulken and Clerk Becky Hadlock were present. Ray Norris led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Wagoner moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Commissioner Barton. Carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Barton moved to approve the consent agenda which included the vouchers – minus warrant #68658, payroll, AP vouchers, collections for November 2021, Treasurer’s Report, Minutes of November 16, 2021, Executive Session Minutes of November 16, 2021, Chairman’s Signature on Cooperative Agreement Between the Wyoming Department of Transportation and Weston County (CRIP Project on Count Road 1A – Old Hwy 85); seconded by Commissioner Taylor. Carried.

Commissioner Barton moved to approve warrant #68658; seconded by Commissioner Taylor. Carried.

MUSEUM DISTRICT

Cindy Dysart, Director of Weston County Museum District, came before the Board to receive clarification as to why the Museum District did not receive a full MIL. Weston County Assessor Tina Conklin explained that the Museum District did not request the full MIL. Commissioner Barton explained that the process is based on what is requested. Commissioner Wagoner explained that when doing the budget to always ask for more than what is needed. Assessor Conklin suggested that a cover letter be given with the Final Budget as well. Commissioner Wagoner would like Director Dysart to come back to the Board if the shortage causes a hardship for the Museum.

DISPATCH UPDATE

Sheriff Bryan Colvard let the Board know that the dispatch meetings are going really well. Sheriff Colvard added that the contracts are about ready for approval. Sheriff Colvard reported that the grants that were originally thought to be available for dispatch do not qualify, however they have found one that does, but it needs verbal consent from the Board to move forward. Commissioner Taylor asked if a Joint Powers Board is still something that is being considered. Sheriff Colvard stated it is still on the table but is touchy due to the Chiefs having to answer to others.

Commissioner Barton moved to go into Executive Session per W.S. 16-4-405(a)(iii); seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Carried. Executive Session began at 10:24 a.m.; regular meeting reconvened at 10:39 a.m. Matters concerning possible litigation were discussed in Executive Session; no action was taken.

Commissioner Barton moved to authorize support for Sheriff Colvard to move forward with the grant for new computers up to \$40,832 as a match; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Carried.

DRU CONSULTING

President of Dru Consulting, Dru Bower phoned in to discuss moving forward with the letter requesting Federal Natural Resource Policy Account funding to work on the Black Hills National Forest Land Use Plan Revision process. Commissioner Barton felt Weston County needs to be a cooperating agency. Commissioner Wagener felt that if FNRPA funds are available, the Board should move forward. Chairwoman Ertman added this is the first step. Commissioner Barton moved to approve FNRPA Approval Letter to participate in the Black Hills National Forest Land Use Plan Revision as a cooperating agency; seconded by Commissioner Wagener. Carried.

President Bower stated that the Weston County Resource Management Plan will be ready for approval at the next meeting. Commissioner Barton moved to authorize Dru Consulting to draft an approval for FNRPA funds to revise at the next meeting; seconded by Commissioner Wagener. During discussion, it was agreed upon that there could be a match of 15% by the Counties, 5% per County. Carried.

President Bower stated the Weston County Land Use Plan revision draft has been completed and reviewed with the final edits being ready to present to the Board before Christmas. President Bower would like to set up a meeting with Y2 Consulting, Falen Law Office and the Board to go over the changes. The Board set up a workshop for January 18th, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. in the Courthouse.

The Thunder Basin National Grassland Record of Decision lawsuit has been filed and unfortunately, the Forest Service has to step away from the table. President Bower is still trying to move forward without the Forest Service as they are having to submit their comments in writing. Commissioner Barton asked if Tri-County or the State could take the lead and President Bower indicated they could have a conversation about this.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Melanie Pearce, State of Wyoming Public Health Nursing Regional Supervisor, phoned in for her meeting with the Board. Supervisor Pearce reported the vacancy left by Public Health Director of Services Lori Bickford has been filled by Sara Gregory. Supervisor Pearce also would like guidance from the Board on hiring a Public Health Response Coordinator. Supervisor Pearce explained that this position has been shared with Crook County in the past, but Weston County now has a grant that will pay 100% of the wages and benefits from January 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Commissioner Taylor asked how this position would interact with Homeland Security Coordinator Gilbert Nelson. Supervisor Pearce indicated the positions would work really close. Commissioner Barton indicated his concerns being it's a short term position due to the funding running out and wants to make sure it is advertised as a contract position with the understanding that when the funding goes away, the position goes away. Chairwoman Ertman asked why the position is needed. Supervisor Pearce went over the job description with the Board. Commissioner Taylor feels that if there is not a liability to the County and there is a short term contract, there is no harm filling the position. Chairwoman Ertman tabled the discussion for the moment and added it under New Business.

AWARDING CORONAVIRUS STATE & LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS

The County Elected Officials came before the Board to discuss using the ARPA funds for premium pay to all current county employees who worked during the COVID-19 pandemic. The elected officials explained that other counties have done this and it is how they were made aware of this and felt it was a good idea. Treasurer Susie Overman explained that the premium pay is one of the things that the Board can spend the \$600,000 available on, which is half of what Weston County was awarded. Commissioner Taylor stated he was in favor of this idea. Treasurer Overman added that this would be an investment in the employees. Chairwoman Ertman stated that it had been discussed that these funds

would be spent on dispatch or given back. Commissioner Taylor commented that he had looked into the grant and believed that it could not be spent on dispatch and asked Chairwoman Ertman to explain her reasoning for sending it back. Chairwoman Ertman stated that there are rules and spending money just because we have it, does not make it right. Commissioner Taylor stated that it is just a portion of the funds and he feels that the County employees deserve the premium pay. Commissioner Barton would like to table this until the next meeting and would like to add the Fairgrounds and Library employees as well. Commissioner Barton added that he is not opposed to this and agrees that the staff is underpaid. Commissioner Taylor feels that the Commissioners do not need this but the Elected Officials do. Commissioner Wagoner added that he too is not opposed to it, but the way he reads it anyone in the County can ask for it. Commissioner Barton moved to table Awarding Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to the next meeting and add it under Old Business; seconded by Commissioner Taylor. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

CORONER MOU

County Attorney Michael Stulken let the Board know that the MOU between the Weston County Coroner & the Crook County Coroner was ready to have the Chairman's signature. Attorney Stulken stated this MOU protects both counties. Commissioner Barton moved to authorize the Chairman's signature on the MOU pending approval from the Weston County Coroner; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Carried.

ROAD & BRIDGE JOB DESCRIPTION

The Board agreed to add a workshop for Road & Bridge Office Manager Job Description to the next meeting's agenda at 1:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEALTH

Commissioner Barton moved to allow Melanie Pearce, State of Wyoming Public Health Nursing Regional Supervisor, to hire a Public Health Response Coordinator at Tier I, with a performance evaluation in four months after hire; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. During discussion, Commissioner Wagoner wanted to make it very clear that when they are hired, their employment is contingent on the grant being renewed. Commissioner Taylor added, based on their education and experience, good luck finding someone to fill the position for that amount of money. Commissioner Barton stated that all employees start on the Tier I. Ted Ertman, member of the public, commented that just because the grant is still there, if the employee is not doing their job, fire them. Ayes: Barton, Wagoner and Taylor. Nays: Ertman. Carried.

ASSESSOR

Chairwoman Ertman read the retirement letter from Weston County Assessor Tina Conklin effective December 31, 2021. Chairwoman Ertman stated she had learned a lot from Assessor Conklin and wished her the best. Commissioner Wagoner agreed with Chairwoman Ertman. Commissioner Barton stated it was going to be a big loss for Weston County. Assessor Conklin indicated she had three weeks remaining and her office will be prepared when she leaves. Commissioner Wagoner moved to accept Tina Conklin's resignation, with regret, effective December 31, 2021; seconded by Commissioner Taylor. Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

During Public Comment, Connie Tooman stated that grants aren't free money. Ms. Tooman added that people of Weston County are tired of no prioritization from the Board. Mike Tooman stated; anytime you put the money towards employees you set expectations. Ray Norris asked why there is nothing under Old Business about the secret vote.

VOUCHERS

066 NCPERS, financial admin, \$192.00, AFLAC, payroll ded, \$1,688.27, Blue Cross Blue Shield, financial admin, \$70,873.00, Delta Dental of WY, payroll ded, \$3,067.00, Great-West Trust Co, payroll ded, \$1,710.00, New York Life, financial admin, \$512.59, VSP of Wyoming, financial admin, \$593.89, WEBT, financial admin, \$193.25, WC Treasurer, financial admin, \$15.00, WY Child Support, payroll ded, \$1,250.00, WY Retirement System, \$35,603.61, WC Clerk, financial admin, \$47,588.95, WY Department of Workforce Services, financial admin, \$2,244.99, 21 Electric LLC, supp/repair, \$545.40, ABMDI, coroner comm, \$50.00, Ad Pro, supp, \$409.17, Advanced Communications, maint comm, \$85.00, Alpha Communications, tower rent, \$55.00, AT&T Mobility, comm, \$1,638.53, Becky Hadlock, clerk mile/trvl, \$54.21, Black Hills Energy, util, \$4,996.89, Black Hills Plumbing, repair/maint, \$1,659.31, Blue Dog Cleaning, crthse other emp, \$780.00, Bomgaars, supp/repair/maint, \$302.80, Brice Remus, shrf-wy lvstk brd ptrl, \$522.50, Byrand Streeter, contract wages, \$1,332.11, Cambria Supply, r&b repair/maint, \$133.52, Carmen Simon, p-hlth supp reimb, \$28.60, Catherine Alison Emmert, law enf repair/maint, \$420.00, Central WC Solid Waste District, cwcswd, \$1,875.00, City of Newcastle, util, \$5,599.54, Culligan water Conditioning, r&b supplies, \$49.50, DBT Transportation Services LLC, airport awos repair/maint, \$6,669.75, Decker's Market, ext supp, \$18.87, Double D, r&b repair/maint, \$1,736.56, Dru Consulting LLC, financial admin, \$2,000.00, Eastern WY Equipment Company, r&b repair/maint, \$29.99, Erin Darlington, brd of prisoners, \$75.00, FOCUS, focus, \$956.25, Frontier Home, Ranch & Hardware, repair/maint/supp, \$514.74, Golden West Technologies, software/comm, \$2,786.00, Hillyard/Sioux Falls, crthse janitor supp, \$321.88, Hometown Medical Clinic PC, law enf repair/maint, \$350.00, Humphrey Law LLC, dist crt spec attny, \$217.70, Inland Truck Parts, r&b repair/maint, \$1,400.84, Jodi Brooks, WIC spec proj, \$16.58, John Francis Masonry, bldg & grnds maj repair, \$150.00, Jones & Bartlett Learning, law enf jailor schools, \$258.28, KASL, covid-19 vaccine/campaign, \$992.00, Lexis Nexis-Matthew Bender, misc law library, \$73.08, Lubnau Law Office, PC, dist crt spec attny, \$382.18, Mallo Camp, mallo, \$1,250.00, MARCO, Inc, annx comp exp, \$249.77, Mastercard, gen exp, \$1,893.06, Max Masters, gis land records, \$1,900.00, McKesson Medical-Surgical, p-hlth immuniz, \$77.17, MG Oil Company, r&b oil/gas/lube, \$4,259.00, Minuteman Lube Center, shrf veh maint/fuel, \$324.21, Motor Power Equipment, r&b repair/maint, \$928.86, News Letter Journal, print/publ/supp, \$1,714.13, Office Ally, p-hlth exp, \$35.00, Osage Improvement & Service District, coroner rent, \$312.00, Parkridge Behavioral Healthcare, law enf pre empl, \$500.00, Plainsman, financial admin, \$352.62, Postmaster c/o Sheriff, shrf post/freight, \$371.00, Powder River Energy Corp., util, \$1,131.02, Randy Bury, covid-19 vaccine/campaign, \$157.08, RANGE, comm, \$2,699.67, Rapid Delivery, r&b post/freight, \$13.80, Rapid Fire Protection, bldg & grnds maj repair, \$4,812.00, Ringer Law, PC, dist crt spec attny, \$11,717.33, Roadrunner Disposal Service, airport util, \$60.00, Self Storage, LLC, elctn misc, \$150.00, Servall Uniform/Linen Co., crthse janitor supp, \$68.09, Skaggs Companies Inc, law enf uniforms, \$22.85, Steve Price, crthse other emp, \$132.00, Tammy Cleverdon, treas mile/trvl, \$36.40, Texas Refinery Corp., r&b oil/gas/lube, \$1,708.80, Thomas L. Bennett, coroner misc, \$2,200.00, Top Office Products, supp, \$3,209.78, Travelers Insurance, misc insc, \$1,203.00, Travis Garhart, shrf-wy lvstk brd ptrl, \$1,100.00, Upton Ambulance Volunteer Fire Department, upton ambulance, \$5,000.00, Upton Co-op Association,

r&b oil/gas/lube, \$67,367.40, Verizon Wireless, comm, \$181.28, Vicki Hayman, ext exp reimb, \$31.58, Visionary Communications, comm, \$155.65, West End Water District, util, \$60.00, Weston County Childrens Center, wcchld ctr, \$3,187.50, Weston County 4-H Council, ext spprt/edctr, \$464.60, Weston County Detention Center, law enf jail medical, \$50.00, Weston County Gazette, print/publ, \$637.50, Weston County Hospital District, in-home hlth, \$1,500.00, Weston County Humane Society, humane soc, \$750.00, Weston County Library, library block alloc, \$26,583.33, Weston County Road & Bridge, veh maint/fuel/mile/trvl, \$5,268.07, Weston County Senior Services, sr services, \$1,734.00, Weston County True Value, crthse repair/maint, \$35.96, Wheeler Lumber, r&b lmr/clvrts/brdg, \$788.64, Woody's Food Center, supp, \$278.09, WY Behavioral Institute, ward-invol, \$3,770.00, WY Department of Health/Rental, p-hlth reimb to state, \$112.50, WY Network, financial admin, \$270.00, WYDOT-Financial Services, r&b lmr/clvrts/brdg, \$5.30, Wyoming Lawn Pro, bldg & grnds maj repair, \$150.00, Net Payroll, \$158,630.86.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

Marty Ertman
Chairwoman

Attest: Becky Hadlock
Weston County Clerk