

WESTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
January 17, 2023

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 Nathan Todd, Don Taylor, Vera Huber and Garrett Borton, Deputy Attorney Anthony Toscana and Clerk Becky Hadlock were present. Vice-Chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Wagoner asked to have the Chairman's Signature on Certificate of Statement added to the Consent Agenda and Executive Session at 11:00 a.m., Vice-Chairman Todd asked to have Steve Price added under New Business. Vice-Chairman Todd moved to approve the agenda as amended; seconded by Commissioner Taylor. Carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Vice-Chairman Todd moved to approve the Consent Agenda which included the Minutes of January 10, 2023, Special Meeting Minutes of January 10, 2023, Executive Session Minutes of January 10, 2023, Treasurer's Report, Tax Roll Corrections #1555-#1564, Chairman's Signature on Resolution 2023-1-Local Government Project ARPA Grants Resolution for Weston County Solid Waste District, Chairman's Signature on Certificate of Statement, Board Appointments: Historical Preservation – Kay Thomas, Planning – Carole Mark, Mallo – Gideon Dixon; seconded by Commissioner Taylor. Carried.

CITY OF NEWCASTLE REFUSAL OF COUNTY UTILITY PAYMENTS

Sheriff Bryan Colvard came before the Board to explain that the City of Newcastle had billed him \$11,809.16 for Dispatch fees for the month of November. Sheriff Colvard explained he cannot pay this as this was not budgeted for. Deputy Sheriff Dan Fields discussed the bill and let the Board know portions of the bill have already been paid for by the County, so the County is paying 85% instead of 35% indicated on the bill. Sheriff Colvard added the call volume listed is also incorrect. Commissioner Huber commented that the City can't just say they are going to charge the new amount without a new contract. The City of Newcastle refused the County's utility payments along with the dispatch payments and indicated that this could result in the County's water being shut off and a tap fee being charged for turning the water back on. Vice-Chairman moved to issue a pre-pay for last month's utilities that the City of Newcastle refused and pay in full the Law Enforcement's part of the bill; seconded by Commissioner Taylor. Vice-Chairman Todd moved to issue a pre-pay to the City of Newcastle for \$9,000 for Dispatch Services for November and December as there is no current agreement in place; seconded by Commissioner Huber. Ayes: Wagoner, Todd, Huber, Borton. Nays: Taylor. Carried.

CALL WORK SYSTEM

Homeland Security Coordinator Gilbert Nelson discussed purchasing a new 911 system. The Board would like to review the quote and asked to add this under Old Business for the next meeting.

NARCAN PROGRAM

Coordinator Nelson would like to work with the Weston County Public Health Office and get a NARCAN Program established for the County. Vice-Chairman Todd moved to make Homeland Security Coordinator Gilbert Nelson the authorized representative for Weston County and to move forward with the NARCAN program; seconded by Commissioner Huber. Carried.

UPDATE POC FOR THUNDER BASIN NATIONAL GRASSLANDS, BH NATIONAL FOREST PLAN REVISION, BLM RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVISION

Dru Bower with Dru Consulting joined the meeting via phone to visit with the Board about the National Forest Land Use Revision, BLM Resource Management Plan Revision and the Thunder Basin National Grasslands. Ms. Bower would like to have a Commissioner as a point of contact for all three of the plans that she is currently working with the County on. Vice-Chairman Todd stated he would be the POC for the Board. Commissioner Taylor moved to engage Dru Consulting on the BLM Greater Sage-grouse Plan Amendment EIS; seconded by Vice-Chairman Todd; Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT

Newsletter Journal publisher Bob Bonnar joined the meeting via Zoom to propose that for \$5,000 per year the Board of Commissioners advertise the County website on their website. This will be added under Old Business for the next meeting.

UPDATE ON BARTON ROAD – VIEWER’S REPORT

Clerk Hadlock presented the Board the Viewer’s report from Road & Bridge Superintendent Jim Hansen. Jim Darlington was present to discuss the Barton Road.

NEW BUSINESS

CELL PHONE ETIQUETTE

Chairman Wagoner reminded the Board to not be texting or talking on their phones during the meeting.

EMPLOYERS COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Clerk Hadlock presented options for the Board becoming members of Employers Council. Deputy Attorney Jeani Stone joined via zoom and recommended that the Board go with this service. Vice-Chairman Todd moved to move forward with Employers Council on the Enterprise Subscription for \$7,700 per year to come out of the Financial Admin Account line item #100.00.20.0099000.0000; seconded by Commissioner Huber. Carried.

STEVE PRICE

Steve Price would like to come back as the Maintenance Supervisor on a part-time basis and help out for a couple of months. Mr. Price hopes in these couple of months the Board can hire someone and he can help train them. Vice-Chairman Todd moved to hire Steve Price for the maintenance position for part-time employment not to exceed 30 hours per week at \$25 per hour; seconded by Commissioner Taylor. Carried. Clerk Hadlock will add maintenance position under New Business for the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Stanley Jasinski spoke during public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – POTENTIAL LITIGATION

Commissioner Taylor moved to go into Executive Session per W.S. 16-4-405(a)(iii), seconded by Vice-Chairman Todd. Carried. Executive Session began at 11:45 a.m. and reconvened into regular session at 12:05 p.m. Matters concerning possible litigation were discussed in Executive Session, no action was taken.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Ed Wagoner
Chairman

Attest: Becky Hadlock
Weston County Clerk