

WESTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
January 16, 2024

The regular meeting of the Weston County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Don Taylor at 9:00 a.m. at the Weston County Courthouse. Commissioners Ed Wagoner, Nathan Todd, Vera Huber and Garrett Borton, Attorney Michael Stulken and Clerk Becky Hadlock were present. Walter Sprague, reporter/photographer for the *News Letter Journal* led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Wagoner asked to pull Chairman's Signature on Weston County Solid Waste District Final Lease and Resolution 2024-1 – Resolution Authorizing Weston County, State of Wyoming, to Enter into a Lease Purchase Agreement Relating to the Acquisition and Construction of a New 5-Acre Cell, Access Road, Electrical Infrastructure and Storage Pad at the Landfill Site South of Newcastle, Wyoming for discussion. Vice-Chairman Borton moved to approve the agenda as amended; seconded by Commissioner Huber. Carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Vice-Chairman Borton moved to approve the Consent Agenda which included the Minutes of December 19, 2023, Treasurer's Report, Chairman's Signature on Wyoming SHPO-CLG Annual Report Form 2022-2023, Board Appointments: Weston County Solid Waste District – Sam Haptonstall, Historical Preservation Board – Mike Jording; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Carried.

Clerk Hadlock and Commissioner Wagoner explained the Weston County Solid Waste District Lease and Resolution 2024-1. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Huber moved to authorize the Chairman's signature on Resolution 2024-1 and authorize the Chairman's signature on Weston County Solid Waste District Final Lease Agreement; seconded by Vice-Chairman Borton. Commissioner Wagoner abstained from voting. Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Stanley Jasinski spoke during public comment.

OLD BUSINESS

VAULTSIDE UPDATE

Attorney Stulken and Clerk Hadlock gave the Board an update on Vaultside. Discussion ensued. This will be added under Old Business for the next meeting.

ATTORNEY ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

Attorney Stulken gave the Board a schedule of when he would be in Court. Discussion ensued. This will be added under Old Business for the next meeting.

HANDBOOK

The Board and Deputy Attorney Jeani Stone went over the changes that were made to the proposed Weston County Employee Handbook. Commissioner Todd moved to approve the January 16, 2024 Weston County Handbook with training for people under the influence being added; seconded by Vice-Chairman Borton. Carried

DOOR IN COURTROOM

Clerk of District Court Clerk Tina Cote came before the Board to discuss the addition of a door in the Courtroom. Clerk Cote will bring the previous quotes to the Board. Clerk Hadlock reminded the Board the Historical Preservation Board will need to be contacted regarding a historical preservation study needing to be done on the building.

UPDATE ON NEWCASTLE BLM RMP REVISION, BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST PLAN REVISION, THUNDER BASIN NATIONAL GRASSLANDS & GREATER SAGE-GROUSE EIS

Dru Bower with Dru Consulting and Jeanne Whalen with Whalen Consulting visited with the Board about the Black Hills Nation Forest Plan Revision and Greater Sage-grouse EIS. Ms. Bower and Ms. Whalen did not have updates on the Newcastle BLM Resource Management Plan Revision or the Thunder Basin National Grasslands. Commissioner Wagoner moved to approve the Chairman to sign the letter on the updated Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Rock Springs RMP Revision; seconded by Vice-Chairman Borton. Carried. Commissioner Wagoner moved to have Dru draft a scoping comments letter for Old Growth EIS, on behalf of the Board; seconded by Vice-Chairman Borton. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS, CONT.

COUNTY BOARDS

Commissioner Huber prepared a letter to send out to the County Boards.

LIBRARY BID UPDATE

Maintenance Foreman Brandon Turner presented two bids to the Board to replace the AC at the Library. The first from G&R Controls and the second from Powder River Heating & Air Conditioning. Vice-Chairman Borton moved to pay the quote from Powder River Heating & Air Conditioning for \$74,833 out of Building and Grounds with consideration at a later date for the \$46,394; seconded by Commissioner Huber. Carried. This will be added to the May agenda for discussion.

HIRING FREEZE DISCUSSION

Clerk Cote asked the Board if it was ok to give step raises to the employees in her office. Commissioner Huber let her know that as long as the funds were in her budget it was ok.

JUROR PRE-PAY DISCUSSION

Clerk Cote would like to have the Board approve to have Jurors paid as soon as the trial is completed. Commissioner Wagoner moved to authorize immediate payment for jurors after the trial; seconded by Vice-Chairman Borton. Carried.

ROAD MAINTENANCE MCGREW STREET – OSAGE

Mark Myers came before the Board for guidance on who is responsible for maintaining the roads in Osage. Commissioner Todd explained that the Board of Directors of the District in Osage is responsible. Discussion ensued.

LEGISLATURE UPDATE

Representatives Chip Neiman and Allen Slagle came before the Board to discuss the upcoming Legislative Session and what items the Board feels are important. Senator Cheri Steinmetz joined the meeting via Teams.

WESTON COUNTY MUSEUM DISTRICT BOARD UPDATE

Weston County Museum District Board President Mike Mills, Board Secretary Harriett Birkley and District Director Cindy Dysart gave the Commissioners an update on the Museum.

AIRPORT BOARD UPDATE

Airport Board members Don Cooksey, Bob Svava and Alan Parks and Airport Manager Tuff Streeter came before the Board to discuss upcoming projects at the Airport. Commissioner Wagoner moved to allow the Airport Board to move forward with the 2024 Airport Crack Seal Project and the 2024 Seal Coat and Mark Pavements for \$2,829 & \$7,200; seconded by Vice-Chairman Borton. Discussion ensued. Carried.

ADVERTISING PROPOSAL

News Letter Journal Managing Editor Kim Dean gave the Board a proposal to continue advertising in the *News Letter Journal* and Publisher/Co-Owner Bob Bonnar joined via Teams. Commissioner Huber moved to approve the advertising with the *News Letter Journal* including the ballot and tax delinquent notices; seconded by Vice-Chairman Borton. Ayes: Wagoner, Borton, Huber. Nays: Todd. Carried.

SECURITY POLICY – TRAVEL POLICY

Sheriff Bryan Colvard presented the Board with an updated Credit Card Use Agreement. Commissioner Huber moved to accept the Credit Card Use Agreement as amended; seconded by Vice-Chairman Borton. Discussion ensued. Carried. Sheriff Colvard presented a security policy to the Board. This will be added under Old Business for the next meeting.

4-H UPDATE

4-H/Youth Development Extension Educator Erin Persche gave the Board an update on 4-H.

NEW BUSINESS

EMPLOYERS COUNCIL RENEWAL

Clerk Hadlock let the Board know it was time to renew Employers Council for the year. Commissioner Huber feels that there are possibly companies that offer better services. This will be added under Old Business for the next meeting.

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION INVITATION

Clerk Hadlock let the Board know that Historical Preservation Board member Lucille Dumbrill invited the Board to the next Historical Preservation meeting.

OPENING PRAYER

Vice-Chairman Borton would like to have the opening prayer added inside the meeting. Discussion ensued. Attorney Stulken advised this is opening up the County for litigation and the Board doesn't want that. Vice-Chairman Borton moved to move opening prayer inside the agenda; seconded by Commissioner Huber. Ayes: Huber, Borton. Nays: Wagoner, Todd. Chairman Taylor voted Aye. Carried.

AGENDA STRUCTURE

Chairman Taylor would like to have the vouchers moved to the end of the meeting. Chairman Taylor would also like to add Commissioner Comments to the agenda and Public Comment to the end of the meeting. Vice-Chairman Borton moved to move the voucher to the end of the meeting for this yearly cycle; seconded by Commissioner Huber. Ayes: Huber, Borton. Nays: Wagoner, Todd. Chairman Taylor voted Aye. Carried. Commissioner Huber moved to add to the agenda Commissioner Comments and a second public comment; seconded by Vice-Chairman Borton. Ayes: Huber, Borton. Nays: Wagoner, Todd. Chairman Taylor voted Aye. Carried.

Vice-Chairman Borton moved to re-appoint Kasey Keeler to the Historical Preservation Board; seconded by Commissioner Wagoner. Carried.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

Don Taylor
Chairman

Attest: Becky Hadlock
Weston County Clerk