

WESTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
September 16, 2025

The regular meeting of the Weston County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Nathan Todd at 9:00 a.m. at the Weston County Courthouse. Commissioners Ed Wagoner, Garrett Borton and Vera Huber, Attorney Michael Stulken and Clerk Becky Hadlock were present. Commissioner Garrett Borton opened the meeting with prayer, and Vice-Chairman Ed Wagoner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Attorney Michael Stulken asked to add an Executive Session – 16-4-405 (a)(ii) – Personnel after the Executive Session at 12:00. Commissioner Borton moved to approve the agenda as amended; seconded by Commissioner Huber. Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Stanley Jasinski, Dana Mann-Tavegie, Jason Jenkins and Troy Allen spoke during public comment.

ROAD & BRIDGE

Road and Bridge Superintendent Jim Hansen and Ken Rathburn with Engineering Associates discussed with the Board an engineering agreement between the County and Engineering Associates. The Board would like to have some changes made and this will be added to the next agenda under Old Business. Superintendent Hansen also gave the Board an update on the Road & Bridge Department.

OLD HWY 85

Callie Hilty with Engineering Associates joined the meeting via zoom to discuss the research she has done on Old Hwy 85. Landowner Ted Ertman joined the meeting via phone as well to hear the discussion. This will be added to the next meeting under Old Business.

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

Vice-Chairman Wagoner moved to approve the minutes of September 2, 2025; seconded by Commissioner Borton. Carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

Vice-Chairman Wagoner moved to approve the executive session minutes of September 2, 2025; seconded by Commissioner Borton. Carried.

BOARD'S SIGNATURE ON TREASURER'S REPORTS

Commissioner Borton moved to approve the Board's signature on the Treasurer's Reports; seconded by Vice-Chairman Wagoner. Carried.

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

Dru Bower-Palmer with Dru Consulting and Jeanne Whalen with Whalen Consulting, visited with the Board about the Newcastle BLM Resource Management Plan Revision, Black Hills National Forest Plan

Revision, Thunder Basin National Grasslands, Greater Sage-grouse EIS, BLM EIS & Forest Service Old Growth. Ms. Bower-Palmer informed the Board that the deadline to send comments for the USDA Roadless Rule Rescission letter is Friday September 29th. The Board will schedule a Special Meeting so that this letter can be signed. Clerk Hadlock will put this on the website, post signs on the doors and get this sent to the *Weston County Gazette*. Commissioner Huber moved to allow Dru to write a BLM Conservation & Landscape Health Rule Rescission Comments letter in November and send the bill directly to the Board; seconded by Commissioner Borton. Carried.

BOARD'S SIGNATURE ON TAX ROLL CORRECTIONS #1666-1674

Vice-Chairman Wagoner moved to approve the Board's signature on Tax Roll Corrections #1666-1674; seconded by Commissioner Huber. Carried.

BOARD'S SIGNATURE ON RESOLUTION 2025-22 – AMENDMENT TO THE 2025-2026 BUDGET

Commissioner Huber moved to approve the Board's signature on Resolution 2025-22 – Amendment to the 2025-2026 Budget; seconded by Commissioner Borton. Carried.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE UPDATE

Assessor Kara Lenardson updated the Board on the property tax exemptions. Assessor Lenardson also explained that she could possibly need a budget adjustment as the 4-wheel drive went out of her Assessor vehicle and this was not budgeted for. Deputy Assessor Stephanie Derifield has put in her letter of resignation and will be leaving at the end of the month. Assessor Lenardson will start advertising for this open position.

CITY OF NEWCASTLE

City of Newcastle Public Works Supervisor Greg Stumpff presented the Board with a proposal for a road mill and overlay project for Morrissey Road. This project is planned for 2029 and has an estimated cost of \$400,000 which the city is hoping to split with the County.

FAIRGROUNDS UPDATE

Fair Board member Francie Hamilton came before the Board to give an update on the Fairgrounds. Ms. Hamilton asked if the Board would be willing to put the \$25,000 left over from their last year's budget could be put into the new account created for the Fairgrounds wall. Ms. Hamilton also informed the Board that the Four Seasons Arena needed several upgrades. These both will be added under Old Business to the next agenda.

2025 LAW ENFORCEMENT HVAC REPLACEMENT RFP DISCUSSION

Vice-Chairman Wagoner let the Board know that putting out an RFP for a complete replacement of the HVAC system at the Law Enforcement Center is going to be more than what was first discussed. Commissioner Huber moved to approve the bid from 21 Electric in the amount of \$10,875 for a new HVAC in the Law Enforcement Building; seconded by Commissioner Borton. Discussion ensued. Carried.

APPROVAL FOR ANNUAL PROPERTY INSURANCE & INLAND MARINE INSURANCE – PRE-PAY WHEN BOTH BILLS ARE RECEIVED

Clerk Hadlock let the Board know that because of the insurance claim at Mallo Camp and the vehicle claim from the Sheriff's office, the current insurance company is not renewing our policy. Vice-Chairman

Wagoner moved to approve the Insurance quote from Solberg Insurance premium for one year and pay the additional \$65,767.10 out of the Tribal Funds, account 150.00.32.0159000.0000; seconded by Commissioner Borton. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

CONFLICT OF INTEREST FORMS

Clerk Hadlock reported that the Departments that have not filled out the conflict of interest forms are the Sheriff, Attorney & Homeland Security. Attorney Stulken handed out a letter to the Board giving his opinion that these forms should be managed by each Department, and the Board does not need to see these. Attorney Stulken added this is in the County Handbook and the forms should be housed and managed differently. Clerk Hadlock explained to the Board that the Conflict of Interest in the Handbook is inter office conflicts and these forms are completely different and were requested by the Auditor. The Board feels that this is for preventative measures, and they would like these filled out. Clerk Hadlock will reach out to the auditor, and this will be added to the next agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Commissioner Borton appreciated the School Board's involvement on the bus stop discussion. Chairman Todd brought up the Special Meeting for Friday at 11:00 a.m. for the signing of the Forest Service EIS letter.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – W.S. 16-4-405 (a)(xii) – EMPLOYMENT

Vice-Chairman Wagoner moved to go into Executive Session per W.S. 16-4-405(a)(xii); seconded by Commissioner Borton. Carried. Executive Session began at 12:00 p.m. and reconvened into regular session at 12:15 p.m. Matters concerning employment were discussed in Executive Session, no action was taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – W.S. 16-4-405 (a)(ii) – PERSONNEL

Vice-Chairman Wagoner moved to go into Executive Session per W.S. 16-4-405(a)(ii); seconded by Commissioner Borton. Carried. Executive Session began at 12:15 p.m. and reconvened into regular session at 1:10 p.m. Matters concerning employment were discussed in Executive Session, no action was taken.

Commissioner Borton moved to hire Reece Childress for the cleaning position for the Courthouse at \$20 per hour; seconded by Vice-Chairman Wagoner. Carried.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

Nathan Todd
Chairman

Attest: Becky Hadlock
Weston County Clerk