

WESTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
February 17, 2026

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, Marty Ertman and Vera Huber, and Clerk Becky Hadlock were present. Commissioner Huber opened the meeting with prayer, and City of Newcastle Mayor Ty Owens led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Ertman moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Commissioner Huber. Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Walter Sprague spoke about the Career Day at the Newcastle High School and Town of Upton Mayor Nick Trandahl let the board know that the Upton Chamber of Commerce President wanted to extend an invitation to the Festival of Tables on March 21st.

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 3, 2026

Commissioner Ertman moved to approve the minutes of February 3, 2026, as amended; seconded by Vice-Chairman Wagoner. Carried.

CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE ON WARRANTY DEED

Commissioner Ertman moved to approve the Chairman's signature on Warranty Deed from Weston County to William Bregar; seconded by Commissioner Huber. Carried.

CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE ON LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT APPLYING FOR A GRANT SUPPORTING THE NE WYOMING HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Vice-Chairman Wagoner moved to approve the Chairman's signature on letter of support for the Natural Resource District applying for a grant for the NE Wyoming habitat improvement project; seconded by Commissioner Ertman. Carried.

6TH PENNY TAX AND JOINT ENGINEER WITH CITY OF NEWCASTLE

Mayor Owens and Mayor Trandahl came before the board to discuss having the 6th Penny, Special Purpose Tax placed on the General ballot. Mayor Owens discussed the possibility of having an additional ½ Penny economic development tax as well for Newcastle. This will be added to the second meeting in March for further discussion.

Mayor Owens and Newcastle City Engineer Steven Dietrich offered the board the option of sharing the services of Engineer Dietrich. The Board appreciated the offer and will visit with the Road and Bridge Foreman about this option.

FAIR BOARD BUDGET ADJUSTMENT OUT OF SALARIES

Fair Board member Francie Hamilton joined the meeting via Teams to discuss moving funds from the ir checking account into their Repair and Maintenance and Utilities accounts. The Board let her know that they did not need to approve this however they would like to have her come to the next meeting to discuss the financial situation at the Fairgrounds.

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 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.

COMBINED COMMUNICATION DISPATCH JOINT POWER BOARD DISCUSSION

Mayor Trandahl let the Board know there will be a meeting at the Annex pertaining to the Combined Communication Dispatch on February 18th at 4:30 p.m. The Commissioner's emphasized that they are not interested in dissolving the Combined Communication Dispatch Joint Power Board or the Hospital Board, but they did have many concerns about the Combined Communication Dispatch Joint Power Board.

MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Vice-Chairman Wagoner moved to pay Western State Fire Protection Co. \$1,500 to upgrade the fire monitoring system with a monthly fee of \$65 per month; seconded by Commissioner Ertman. Carried.

REVIEW ACCESS & FUNCTIONAL NEEDS POLICY AND WESTON COUNTY SEVERE WINTER WEATHER ANNEX WITH HOMELAND SECURITY COORDINATOR – BOARD'S SIGNATURE ON RESOLUTION 2026-2

The Board reviewed the Access & Functional Needs Policy and Weston County Severe Winter Weather Annex with Homeland Security Coordinator Gilbert Nelson. Commissioner Huber moved to approve the Board's Signature on Resolution 2026-2 – Adoption of Weston County Access & Functional Needs Policy and Weston County Severe Winter Weather Annex; seconded by Commissioner Ertman. During discussion Coordinator Nelson let the Board know that moving forward he would bring the final plan to the Board focusing on their input during the building of the plan itself. The Board asked that Coordinator Nelson schedule time to discuss the plans with the Board as he has been doing as they appreciate knowing what is going on with them. Carried.

JOB DESCRIPTION REVIEW – HOMELAND SECURITY COORDINATOR/MAINTENANCE FOREMAN

Maintenance Foreman Brandon Turner met with the Board to review the current job description for the Maintenance Foreman. After discussion on issues brought to light it was decided that Foreman Turner's number would be posted on the doors of the Courthouse as well as the website for issues arising be brought directly to him.

Attorney Michael Stulken joined the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Coordinator Nelson met with the Board to review the current job description for the Homeland Security Coordinator.

TRANSFERRING SHERIFF'S VEHICLE TO WESTON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT

Undersheriff Dan Fields came before the Board to discuss transferring the 2015 Chevy Tahoe to the Weston County Fire District. Commissioner Ertman moved to transfer the 2015 Chevy Tahoe to the Weston County Fire District; seconded by Vice-Chairman Wagoner. Carried.

CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE ON CREDIT CARD PRE-AUTHORIZATION REQUEST – SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Commissioner Ertman moved to approve the Chairman's signature on the credit card pre-authorization request to pay \$885 for supervisor and command training to Daigle Law Group; seconded by Vice-Chairman Wagoner. During discussion Undersheriff Fields explained this was for eight hours of training every month and is a renewal. Carried.

ROAD & BRIDGE UPDATE

Road and Bridge Superintendent Jim Hansen presented quotes from Wyoming Machinery Company and RDO Equipment for the purchase of a new motorgrader. Vice-Chairman Wagoner authorized Superintendent Hansen to purchase a 2026 motorgrader from Wyoming Machinery in the amount of \$500,230 and take the funds from the depreciation reserve fund and pay it out of the equipment purchase depreciation account; seconded by Commissioner Ertman. Carried. The Board discussed sharing the City of Newcastle Engineer. Superintendent Hansen will visit with the engineer and see how this will fit with the County's needs.

BOARD'S SIGNATURE ON RESOLUTION 2026-3 – AMENDMENT TO THE 2025-2026 BUDGET

Commissioner Ertman moved to approve the Board's signature on Resolution 2026-3 – Amendment to the 2025-2026 Budget; seconded by Vice-Chairman Wagoner. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 2026-4 – CONCERNING SPECIAL APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY ATTORNEY

The Board asked Attorney Stulken to explain again the need for this special appointment of a deputy attorney, and he would not. The Board asked if he had reached out to other County Attorneys and Attorney Stulken indicated he had not because he had been sick. The Board asked to go into Executive Session and Attorney Stulken told the Board there was not a statute that this would fall under. The Board asked if this was time sensitive and Attorney Stulken let them know that it was not. The Board would like Attorney Stulken to reach out to other County Attorneys, and this will be added to the next agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nick Trandahl let the Board know that the Town of Upton purchases two tables for the Festival of Tables and let the Board know they were welcome to join them at their tables.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Commissioner Ertman gave the Board an update on the WCCA convention and would like for the Board to tour the Fairgrounds in the next couple of months. Commissioner Huber would like to commend the City of Newcastle and the Town of Upton on how well they are working together. Vice-Chairman Wagoner spoke about attending the WCCA meetings as well but unfortunately, he got sick.

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 Ertman. Carried. Executive Session began at 12:24 p.m. and reconvened into regular

session at 12:33 p.m. Matters concerning personnel were discussed in Executive Session, and no action was taken.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

Nathan Todd
Chairman

Attest: Becky Hadlock
Weston County Clerk