

WESTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
May 19, 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 Upton Town Hall. Commissioners Ed Wagoner, Marty Ertman, Garrett Borton, and Vera Huber, and Acting Clerk Amber Green were present. Commissioner Huber opened the meeting with prayer, and Commissioner Borton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Ertman asked to add a budget workshop after the meeting and to change the time for Commissioner Comment from 11:50 to 12:50. Commissioner Borton moved to approve the amended agenda; seconded by Commissioner Ertman. Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

MINUTES OF MAY 5, 2026

Commissioner Ertman moved to approve the minutes of May 5, 2026, as amended; seconded by Commissioner Borton. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

AP VOUCHER REPORT

Commissioner Ertman moved to approve the Board's signature on the Accounts Payable reports; seconded by Vice-Chairman Wagoner. Carried.

BOARD'S SIGNATURE ON RESOLUTION 2026-16; AMENDMENT TO THE 2025-2026 BUDGET OPIOID FUNDS

Commissioner Ertman moved to approve the Board's signature on Resolution 2026-16, to amend 100.00.20.0104000.0000 titled Gen. Misc. NOAT with unanticipated opioid revenue in the amount of \$4,167.73; seconded by Vice-Chairman Wagoner. Carried.

BOARD'S APPROVAL OF 2026-2027 LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWALS

Vice-Chairman Wagoner moved to approve the 2026-2027 liquor license renewals for the following seven establishments:

- Perkins Enterprises LLC dba Newcastle High Plains Liquor
- VFW 2516 dba VFW Club
- Upton Golf Association dba Cedar Pines Country Club
- Pam Gualtieri dba Pizza Bar

- Maha Laxmi Krupa Inc dba Fountain Inn
- Dale Stietz dba Buckhorn Bar & Grill
- Cambria Inn Inc dba Flying V Lodge

Seconded by Commissioner Borton. Carried.

BOARD'S SIGNATURE ON 24-HOUR LIQUOR PERMIT FOR DEANNA STEELE, dba ROCKING COWBOY CUISINE: 5/23/2026-5/24/2026

Commissioner Borton moved to approve the Chairman's signature on a 24-hour liquor permit for Deanna Steele, dba Rocking Cowboy Cuisine, at the Fairgrounds during the Full House Horse Sale; seconded by Commissioner Ertman. Carried.

CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE ON SIX 24-HOUR PERMITS FOR CAMBRIA INN INC, DBA FLYING V LODGE

All one-day permits are for weddings and one retirement party. The permit for August 8–16, 2026, is for the Sturgis Rally.

Vice-Chairman Wagoner moved to approve the Chairman's signature on six 24-hour liquor permits for Cambria Inn Inc., dba Flying V Lodge, for the following dates:

- June 5–6, 2026
- June 20–21, 2026
- June 27–28, 2026
- July 18–19, 2026
- August 8–16, 2026
- September 12–13, 2026

Seconded by Commissioner Ertman. During discussion, Commissioner Ertman questioned whether the liquor license could be extended to the outside patio to avoid the need for annual permits. Acting County Clerk Green stated she would look into the matter. Carried.

BOARD'S SIGNATURE ON RESOLUTION 2026-17 IN-HOME VISITATION SERVICES

The fees associated with this resolution will be used solely for the purpose of seeking reimbursement from Medicaid and/or private insurance carriers. Weston County Public Health Nurse Manager Angela Phillips emphasized that, as required by law, the home visitation program will continue to be provided at no cost to program participants. Mrs. Phillips stated this structure could generate up to \$100,000 in revenue. Patients will be given the choice to participate, and the billing to Medicaid would be applied toward their deductible. No participant will incur any out-of-pocket cost.

Commissioner Ertman moved to approve the Board's signature on Resolution 2026-17, Adopting a Fees and Billing Schedule for Home Visitation Services for Weston County Public Health; seconded by Commissioner Huber. Carried

CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE ON GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION AND WESTON COUNTY

The total funds are to not exceed \$34,000, consisting of \$19,000 in State funds and \$15,000 in Federal funds, for the term of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2028. These funds help support Public Health Nurse Michelle Sweet's MCH program. One change was noted by Health Nurse Manager Phillips, county employee within the Public Health office will be permitted to use the state vehicle.

Vice-Chairman Wagoner moved to approve the Chairman's signature on the grant agreement between the Wyoming Department of Health, Public Health Division, and Weston County; seconded by Commissioner Borton. Carried

BOARD'S SIGNATURE ON RESOLUTION 2026-18 AMENDMENT TO THE 2025-2026 BUDGET

Vice-Chairman Wagoner moved to approve Resolution 2026-18 to amend the budget to cover Assistant Deputy Attorney Anthony Toscana's salary from the beginning of the fiscal year for the period during which he was completing his caseload, in the amount of \$4,600; seconded by Commissioner Huber. During discussion, the Board clarified that the intent of the resolution was to cover the remainder of Deputy County Attorney Stone's salary. Commissioner Ertman requested an amendment to reflect this clarification, and the amendment was accepted by both the motion maker and the seconder. Carried.

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF PROBLEMATIC GAMBLING BEHAVIOR FUNDS

Vice-Chairman Wagoner moved to approve the Chairman's signature on the form accepting funding for Problematic Gambling Funds in the amount of \$4,584.70; seconded by Commissioner Borton. During discussion, it was noted that the previous allocation of these funds was awarded to 21 Wellness. The Board discussed advertising again, and reaching out to mental health professionals. Commissioner Ertman stated she would like to see some of the funds used for training providers or covering treatment costs for individuals who cannot afford services. The Board requested that applicants provide a clear plan outlining how the funds will be allocated and used. Also finding out if our voucher system would work for payments. Carried

CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE ON GRANT AWARD AGREEMENT BETWEEN WYOMING OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND WESTON COUNTY(EMPG)

The 2025 Emergency Management Performance Grant, in the federal award amount of \$35,168, is due June 26, 2026. Commissioner Ertman requested that the item be tabled until the next meeting so that Homeland Security Coordinator Gilbert Nelson could attend, noting there was misinformation regarding how the grant is budgeted, as well as questions about qualifications and compliance requirements.

Commissioner Ertman moved to add the 2025 Emergency Management Performance Grant to the June 2, 2026 agenda; seconded by Vice-Chairman Wagoner. Carried

CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE ON AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM-AGREEMENT FOR TRANSFER OF ENTITLEMENTS

The agreement will transfer \$150,000 of Fiscal Year 2026 federal funds from Mondell Field to Afton Lincoln County/General Boyd L. Eddins Field. Commissioner Borton informed the Board that the FAA frequently reallocates funds between counties when one airport does not have an active project and another does. He noted that Weston County previously received transferred funds at the beginning of the hangar project.

Vice-Chairman Wagoner moved to approve the Chairman's signature on the Certification of Transferring Sponsors, transferring \$150,000 to the Afton-Wyoming-Lincoln County Board of Commissioners and Afton Lincoln County Airport Board; seconded by Commissioner Ertman. During discussion, Commissioner Borton recused himself from the vote. Carried.

CIRCUIT COURT REQUESTING FUNDING ON FURNISHING

No action was taken because the State is funding the purchases.

CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE ON ESRI AGREEMENT CONTRACT

This is a three-year renewal contract for use of GIS technology in the Assessor's Office. The cost is shared among multiple entities; however, the total amount has been revised from \$28,400 to \$30,200.

Commissioner Ertman moved to approve the Chairman's signature on the revised ESRI agreement contract; seconded by Vice-Chairman Wagoner. Carried

OLD BUSINESS

SET SALARIES

The Commissioners reported they had additional time to review research on potential 1%, 2%, and 3% salary increase scales, as well as the State-funded increase amounts for County Attorney pay for 2027 and 2028. It was also noted that research showed Weston County Commissioners earn approximately half the compensation of Commissioners in comparable counties performing the same duties.

Chairman Todd moved to reduce the Commissioners' salary to \$12,000 annually, with the savings applied toward a 1% increase for the other elected officials; seconded by Commissioner Borton. During discussion, it was noted that the other two Commissioners would continue to receive \$14,400 annually. Commissioner Huber stated she felt it would be irresponsible to approve salary increases without knowing the outcome of the upcoming property tax breaks. It was further stated that if a choice must be made between increases for elected officials and county employees, priority should be given to the employees. The Board also discussed the need for all departments to operate within their means and avoid relying on the county's cushion account. The motion failed on a vote of 0-4, with all Commissioners voting nay.

OPIOID FUND PURCHASE LIST

Undersheriff Dan Fields brought a list of six items prioritized for potential use of Opioid funds. The top three were:

- Detention transport vehicle-\$80,000
- ADA cell upgrade- estimate \$20,000-\$40,000
- Shields and breaching equipment-\$20,724.98

Commissioners suggested seeking grant funding to upgrade a cell to ADA.

Commissioner Ertman moved to approve the purchase of two full-sized ballistic shields in the amount of \$13,420 out of the Gen. Misc. NOAT fund 100.00.20.0104000.0000; seconded by Commissioner Huber. During discussion, Commissioner Ertman added that the County should apply some of the available Opioid funds toward the transport vehicle as well. Carried.

RESOLUTION 2026-19 ESTABLISHING SALARIES FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS PURSUANT TO W.S. 18-3-107

Commissioner Ertman moved to approve the Board's signature on Resolution 2026-19 establishing salaries for elected officials, which remain unchanged; seconded by Vice-Chairman Wagoner. Carried

NEW BUSINESS

TEMPORARY MAINTENANCE

Vice-Chairman Wagoner moved to hire Steve Price as a temporary maintenance employee during the interim period before filling the full-time position; seconded by Commissioner Borton. During discussion, the Board confirmed the pay rate would be \$25 per hour, consistent with the previous rate. Carried.

MAINTENANCE APPLICANT

The Board requested that the applicant be invited to the next meeting and that advertising continue until that time. No action was taken.

WEBSITE

The Board assigned itself to reviewing the County website to identify items that need to be updated or changed. They also requested that Department Heads be contacted for input regarding what they find problematic about the current site and what changes they would like to see.

COURT SECURITY FUND

District Court Clerk Riki Kaiser informed the Board that the County is now eligible to submit an application to the State for \$300,000 in security-related funding, based on the State's assessment of what upgrades are needed. The grant requires a 10% county match. Two major security concerns were highlighted: a lack of a metal detector and the need to have a full-time court security officer. The Board stated that they would like this item to be placed back on the agenda after their next Courtroom Security Meeting on May 28, 2026, so they can review updated information and determine how to proceed with the State funding application.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Trisha Baumann shared her reflections with the Board regarding the interview she had with them on May 5, 2026.

Stanley Jasinski provided the Board with a paper copy of his formal complaint alleging an election-code violation. He noted that he had already emailed the complaint to the county clerk on May 12, 2026.

Update from Upton Mayor Nick Trandahl (as read by Chairman Todd)

- Budget progress— Upton Town Council and staff are actively working through the budget, and ensuring most staff will receive a raise.
- Housing funding— The Town of Upton and The City of Newcastle jointly secured \$400,000 in State funding to address unmet housing needs in the area.
- Property development—At their most recent meeting, the Town sold 51 unused lots, with the long-term goal of them being developed into single-family homes.
- Police staffing—The Town has hired a third police officer, bringing the department to full staffing.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Honor Camp/Community Service Discussion

Chairman Todd reported on his inquiry with the State Forestry Service regarding whether Honor Conservation Camp inmates could again assist with county community service projects, as they had in previous years. He was informed that community service work is no longer part of the program's mission, which is now focused exclusively on forestry-related projects. The representative also cited ongoing challenges related to inmate work ethic and staffing available crews. The Board discussed the possibility of contacting other departments that may have interest in supervised inmate community service opportunities in the future, while acknowledging that such opportunities may remain limited under current policies.

Burn Restrictions & BLM Coordination

Chairman Todd discussed early season fire activity and the importance of coordinated burn restrictions across jurisdictions. He recalled a conversation with BLM Fire Management several years ago in which they indicated that BLM does not automatically follow Weston County burn restrictions, instead relying on its own criteria and assessment process.

The Board discussed the need for a more formal notification procedure when the County implements burn restrictions or a burn ban. Suggestions included developing a standardized notification form and incorporating a signature page for acknowledgment.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Nathan Todd
Chairman

Attest: Amber Green
Acting Weston County Clerk