WESTON COUNTY COMISSIONERS BOARD
OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES JULY 21, 2026, 9:00AM

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. Vice Chair Ed Wagoner, Commissioners, Garrett Borton, Vera Huber, and Marty Ertman, and Clerk Mike Tooman were present. Commissioner Huber opened the meeting with an invocation and, and Clerk Tooman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Chairman Todd stated Riki Kaiser needed to be added to the agenda under security grant. After RT comm, fiscal year 2027 budget will be added right before adjournment under new business. VOCA paperwork approval will be the last item under document approval. Commissioner Borton moved to approve the amended agenda. Vice Chair Wagoner seconded.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RT COMMUNICATIONS ON NEW PHONE SYSTEMS
Deputy Kim Jenkins came forth with information concerning the bid for RT phone system. Topics included internet speed, phone lines, and existing hardware issues. It was understood that Christina Connelly from RT Communications was to be at this meeting to answer some of these questions but was not in attendance at this time.

COURT HOUSE SECURITY GRANT – CLERK OF DIST. COURT RIKI KAISER
Clerk Riki Kaiser reminded the Commissioners the deadline for the grant is the 31st of August 2026. She also stated that each item must be applied individually but can be included in one application. Clerk Kaiser stated she believed there was a higher probability of requests being granted by the state if those requests were included in the original assessment. A list was requested by the board and Clerk Kaiser responded that she was currently working on the quotes and Bids.
Commissioners Ertman requested the grant be added to the next agenda.
NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

RT COMMUNICATIONS ON NEW PHONE SYSTEMS CONTINUED
Chris Connelly from RT Communications joined the meeting and Deputy Treasurer Kim Jenkins joined her. Topics discussed included a three-year lease and interest, purchase of phones as an option, firewall and equipment, previous phone purchased, prices quoted, requests from the county IT, and computer connections.
Chairman Todd stated this discussion will be added to the next agenda under old business.
NO ACTION TAKEN.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Stanley Jasinski brought forward concerns pertaining to the proposed budget

Mr. Jasinski announced tonight there will be a County Sheriff forum with candidates Susan Bridge and Bryan Colvard at the Newcastle Senior Center.

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DOCUMENT APPROVAL/ SIGNATURES/REVIEWS
PETITION AND AFFIDAVIT FOR TAX ROLL CORRECTION, AFFIDAVITS 1818-1826
Commissioner Ertman moved for approval of the petition and affidavits for Tax Roll Correction including 1818-1826. Commissioner Wagoner seconded. Chairman Todd called for discussion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

WESTON COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD
The Kimsey family went before the Planning and Zoning Board requesting permission to create a private family cemetery. The Planning and Zoning Board approved the exemption with a three-member quorum and brought the request to the county commissioners for approval.
Commissioner Ertman brought forth concerns including whether the land was to change ownership at any time to an unrelated individual or entity, the family may not be granted access to the private cemetery without an easement built into the property description.
Commissioner Ertman stated the family may want to consult the County Assessor and County Attorney concerning future access.
Commissioner Ertman moved to approve the cemetery and was seconded by Vice Chairman Wagoner. Chairman Todd called for discussion. Commissioner Ertman stated the board needed to contact County Assessor Kara Lenardson for tax purposes. Vice Chairman Wagoner stated that we may want to contact the family about the discussion of an easement. Chairman Todd stated he would contact the family with the board's concerns on an easement. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

SIGNING OF THE CORRECTED JUNE 2026 SUMMARY AND DETAIL REPORTS
Commissioner Ertman moved to approve the June 2026 Summary and Detail Reports. Vice Chairman Wagoner seconded. Chairman Todd called for discussion. Commissioner Borton asked if any new items that may arrive be moved to the end of the meeting. The Chairman and board agreed. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MONDEL AIRPORT, MONTHLY EARNINGS STATEMENT
NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

VOCA – STEPHANIE MARTINEZ
Commissioner Ertman stated there have been issues with VOCA at the state level. Ms. Martinez clarified the grant and explained some of the issues that were happening at the state level and how she was reassured at the last state meeting that things were running smoother than before.
Commissioner Ertman asked for the general fund to be more itemized; for example, the line items, be stated explaining this would clarify where the money is going. Ms. Martinez also stated that the current itemized accounts that have been set up have provided more transparency at the county level.
Commissioner Borton inquired, what happens when the reimbursement cap is reached at $68,494.00? Ms. Martinez stated they never reach the cap and if the money is not spent by June, then they take back the unused portion in July. Ms. Martinez stated when she receives the statement of unused funds she will bring the statement before the board. Vice Chairman Wagoner stated if the cap is exceeded the county is responsible for the exceeded portion.

VOCA – STEPHANIE MARTINEZ

Commissioner Ertman stated that the statement was not included in the budget therefore they would need to have a budget adjustment. Chairman Todd and Commissioner Ertman discussed how this would affect the budget. They agreed this would have to fall within the resolution, and an adjustment would need to be made at next month's board meeting.

Commissioner Huber moved to approve the Chairman's signature on the VOCA Contract. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Borton. Chairman Todd called for discussion.

MOTION CARRIED WITH FOUR AYES, AND ONE NAY VOTE BY COMMISSIONER ERTMAN.

Commissioner Ertman reminded the board that a resolution needs to be prepared before the next meeting.

Commissioner Huber thanked Ms. Martinez for the important work that she does for the county, reassuring her that she does a good job. Chairman Todd asked Clerk Tooman to create the resolution to the next agenda as unexpected revenue of $68,494.00.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Ms. Phillips stated that she did bring up her grant prior to the budget, however, it didn't make it onto the budget, therefore she would need a budget adjustment for Public Health. She stated this was for the PHRC position and the county health officer one has yet to come through. She stated that one would have to be resolved once she receives it as well. She stated it will be the same amount that the county was awarded last year, $94,000.

Ms. Phillips stated there was a change of personnel at the state level and she did talk to the supervisor and how we needed the contracts before the fiscal year started. Chairman Todd asked Ms. Phillips if they haven't received that money before next month, they would not be able to spend the money. Ms. Phillips stated the salary is a reimbursement grant. She also stated that the issue with this grant is they spend the money and are reimbursed the money. She also stated that she was informed by the state office that they will be processing invoices twice a month, allowing quicker payment reimbursements.

Ms. Phillips inquired if the NCH for $19,000 was added to the budget. Chairman Todd stated there is money in the budget for Ms. Phillips to pay her department.

Chairman Todd asked Ms. Phillips to contact Clerk Tooman to prepare a resolution for Public Health to bring in the grants as Unanticipated Revenue.

Vice Chairman moved to approve the $94,000.00 grant for Public Health. Commissioner Borton seconded the motion. Chairman Todd called for discussion. Commissioner Ertman asked for a review that the $19,000.00 was rolled over to the next fiscal year and was included in the budget.

MOTION CARRIED WITH FOUR AYES, ONE NAY BY COMMISSIONER ERTMAN.

PYE BARKER, SYSTEM CONTROL PANEL AND DETECTORS, REPLACEMENT-ANGIE PHILLIPS AND STEVE PRICE

Interim Maintenance personnel Steve Price informed the board that, in his opinion, the upgrade is needed and would replace the current system minus the strobe light

Inquiry was made to see if the June quote was still valid. Mr. Price will find out.

It was impressed upon the board that there is urgency due to the lack of confidence in the current system.

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PYE BARKER, SYSTEM CONTROL PANEL AND DETECTORS, REPLACEMENT- ANGIE PHILLIPS AND STEVE PRICE
Commissioner Huber moved to accept the June 8th bid for Pye Barker to replace the current fire suppression system at the Public Health building for $12, 409.00. Vice Chairman Wagoner seconded the motion.
Chairman Todd called for discussion. Discussion included amending the motion to add the line item, with agreement from the second, of which the money will be taken out of: Buildings and Grounds.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

LEO RILEY & COMPANY
Chairman Todd called Paul from Leo & Riley to explain the paragraph on the second to the last page where it reads, our fees for these services will be at our standard hourly rates plus out of pocket costs such as report productions, title, postage, travel, copies, telephone, etcetera. After discussion the Board accepted to agree that the gross fee excluding expenses will not exceed $48, 000.00.
Paul stated that paragraph was put in the contract as insurance in the case of a change order. He also stated before he charges the change order, he would have to come before the board of commissioners to get that amount approved.
Commissioner Huber requested a Request for Proposal (RFP) for an auditor. Chairman Todd stated this year, we are obligated to go with this company.
Commissioner Huber stated she doesn't think Leo & Riley does a bad job. She stated her thought process is we have used their services for quite a few years in a row and sometimes it is good, because it is an audit, someone else may be able to look at things differently, by auditing the auditor. Stating having a fresh set of eyes on something may be a good thing. She inquired about asking Upton again who they use and maybe add that company's name to the list.
Mayor Nick Trandahl stated they use Clinger-Hauerman out of Cheyenne.
Vice Chairman Wagoner moved to approve the Chairman's signature on the letter of engagement to Leo Riley & Co to 2026-year end audit. Commissioner Borton seconded the motion.
Chairman called for a vote. **MOTION CARRIED WITH FOUR AYES, NAY: HUBER.**
Commissioner Huber moved another motion to approve RFP for Fiscal year 2027 for audit services for the county budget. Commissioner Borton seconded the motion.
Chairman Todd called for discussion. Commissioner Ertman suggested looking for one that was used previously for the correct verbiage because we must use a certain type of auditing services.
Chairman Todd called for a vote. **MOTION CARRIED. AYE: TODD, WAGONER, BORTON, ERTMAN, NAY: HUBER.**

GRANT: 25-SHSP-WES-SO-CYB
Deputy Dan Fields presented a proposed Homeland Security cybersecurity grant in the amount of $21,630 for purchase of a server and firewall to improve and provide redundant network capability between the courthouse and Sheriff's Office.
Clerk Tooman inquired about specifics such as capacity, startup times, and systems diagram in place. Discussion further ensued concerning Golden West, hidden fees and the need for this server. It was determined that a grant such as this needs to be brought before the commission with a plan.

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GRANT: 25-SHSP-WES-SO-CYB CONTINUED
Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve GRANT: 25-SHSP-WES-SO-CYB for $21, 630.00 with the assumption the grant covered 100%. Commissioner Borton seconded the motion. Chairman Todd called for discussion. Chairman Todd began a discussion concerning finding a grant for a generator for the Courthouse with intent that it would serve as a backup.
MOTION FAILED AYE: HUBER, BORTON, NAY: TODD, WAGONER, ERTMAN.

MALLO CAMP BOARD RESIGNATION
A resignation letter was read by Chairman Todd concerning Mr. Greg Stumpf who serves on the Mallo Camp Board.
Commissioner Borton moved the acceptance of Mr. Stumpf's resignation. Vice Chairman Wagoner seconded the motion.
Chairman Todd called for discussion.
Commissioner Ertman stated she would like to express her sincere appreciation for Mr. Stumpf's time on the Mallo Board.
Chairman Todd called for a vote.
THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH APPRECIATION

NEW BUSINESS
APPLICANT FOR MAINTENANCE JOB OPENING
The applicant did not attend the meeting.
Chairman Todd suggested that the board receive a copy of the resume, and they could invite the applicant to the next meeting with time for an interview if warranted.

APPROVAL OF THE 2027 BUDGET

Motion	Approval of 2027 fiscal year budget	Moved:	Ertman	Second:	Wagoner
CARRIED	AYE: Todd, Wagoner, Borton, Huber, Ertman				

Chairman Todd stated he would like to note some changes on the 2027 Fiscal Budget that were different than past budgets. He stated in the past the board had allotted a fair amount of money to an account to use as their emergency funds. He stated that this year there wasn't a lot of extra there and they didn't set the emergency funds aside. Chairman Todd discussed the cash reserve. He stated that Clerk Tooman provided an explanation of the breakdown of the cash reserve and what we have for county use in an emergency.
Chairman Todd continued by stating that one thing the board did figure in was a three percent wage increase for the year for all county employees minus the elected county positions.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT
Commissioners reflected on the budget process and several long-term county priorities.
Commissioner Ertman thanked fellow commissioners, county staff, and department heads for their cooperation throughout an unusually challenging budget season. She noted that the Board had worked through unexpected circumstances and expressed appreciation for everyone's willingness to work together to move the county forward.
Commissioner Huber revisited the discussion regarding a courthouse generator, observing that while the Board has discussed the need on several occasions, it remains an important infrastructure project that should continue to receive attention as funding becomes available.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS CONTINUED

Vice Chairman Wagoner agreed that maintaining continuity of county operations remains a priority and expressed interest in developing a better understanding of how the county's facilities and technology systems are interconnected to assist with future planning.

Commissioner Borton shared a citizen concern regarding the courthouse handrails becoming excessively hot during the summer months and suggested the Board consider repainting them a lighter color to improve accessibility.

Vice Chairman Wagoner also thanked county staff and fellow commissioners for their patience and cooperation throughout the budget process, noting that the Board had accomplished a great deal while benefitting from the institutional knowledge of county employees

Chairman Todd commented on the strong public interest in county government and local elections observed during the recent Upton Fun Days celebration. He noted that while political discussions can sometimes become spirited, community engagement remains important and was encouraged by the level of participation from both candidates and citizens.

Before adjournment, Chairman Todd expressed condolences on behalf of the Board to Commissioner Ertman and her family on the recent loss of Connie Ertman. Commissioner Ertman thanked the Chairman and the Board for their support.

There being no further business, Chairman Todd adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joely Rightnowar,
Assistant Deputy Clerk