WESTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

OFFICIAL MINUTES

OCTOBER 20, 2026

The 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 Chairman Ed Wagoner, Commissioners Garrett Borton, Vera Huber, Marty Ertman and Deputy Clerk Kolby Pisciotti were present. Commissioner Borton opened the meeting with a prayer, and Walter Sprauge led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Borton moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Vice Chairman Wagoner. Chairman Todd asked for any discussion. Chairman Borton asked if the next meeting would be date adjusted being that it would be on Election Day. It was clarified that the November 3rd meeting would be only to approve payroll and AP vouchers. Chairman Borton also stated that since the November 3rd meeting is a short one that many of the items on the agenda is not tabled to the next meeting.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Todd acknowledged Upton Mayor Trandahl for a public comment. He stated that the Town of Upton and the City of Newcastle entered an MOU with each other for the housing needs of the communities. They had gone down to State Land Investment Board for funding and were successful. Both communities will pull funding from the pool to fund the housing situations. Both entities would have to agree to move forward with any of them.

ROAD AND BRIDGE

Chairman Todd acknowledged Jim Hansen from road and bridge for any updates. Jim reported that they were almost done with mowing and have not had any major problems with that. He also reported that they have been trying to do some blading of roads but with the lack of moisture it has not been very successful. There are a few guys working on some culverts since the Labor Day weekend storms caused some wash outs. An engineer did come to look at the ones on Dewy Road; Jim had not heard back from them as to what needed to be done. He did mention just digging out and resetting the culverts themselves to fix the problem. He did get an estimate from an outside contractor to fix it but felt that the quote is a little high to pay out of their funds and if they used County Road Funds, he felt they should have an engineer's opinion. Chairman Todd asked for clarification what Road and Bridge would be doing to fix the culver issues. Jim replied with upping the size of bands for the culvert and some covers on the ends of the culverts. Commissioner Ertman suggested writing a letter for clarification to future boards about the culvert failure as a reference. Jim reported that he did gain two new employees but did lose another so they are still considered one employee short. The road and bridge auction items did get to the Big Iron auction company, and Jim did not know when the sale dates would be. Chairman Todd brought up that he looked at the Road and Bridge equipment list and found that

over half of their pickup trucks are in the over 200,000-mile range. He asked Jim what he thought a time frame of needing new pickups would be. Jim replied that they had a few spares and that they replace parts as needed. Chairman Todd did bring up the old bridge down beaver creek and if there was any sort of interest in having it or a piece of it. Chairman Todd stated he would reach out the museum board to have a discussion with them about the bridge.

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 6, 2026

Vice Chairman Wagoner moved to approve the October 6, 2026, minutes as they read; seconded by Commissioner Borton. Commissioner Ertman abstained from voting due to not being present during the October 6, 2026, meeting. No discussion was had, motion carried.

RICKS ELECTRIC GENERATOR

Chairman Todd recognized Mr. Phillips of Ricks Electric to discuss the addition of a generator to power the Courthouse and Library during times of any power outages. Chairman Todd stated that the county did get approval from the state to help with funding of the generator. He stated that the concern with adding another generator to the parking lot would be too much. He asked if there were other options to run the courthouse and the heating system off one generator. Rick replied that there is, with a 100kw generator. The county would have to buy an automatic transfer switch, but he could put a manual switch as well. The county would have to put signage stating that the library is fed by two sources. Rick reported that the new quote, with the automatic transfer switch, would be less than the original quote. The original quote was for both generators at $167,000, with a single generator with two transfer switches would be roughly around $110,000. Commissioner Ertman asked if there was a load test done on both buildings, Rick stated there has not been one done but he believes that the buildings are not pulling more than 400amps. Commissioner Borton called to have a peaks test ran from Black Hills Energy to ensure that a 100kw generator would be sufficient or not. Commissioner Ertman stated another concern that natural gas being supplied to the courthouse if running a generator would be too much strain on some aspects of the utilities. Chairman Todd asked to investigate having the load tests done and peak reports to be given to Rick to ensure that everything would work as requested.

AIRPORT BOARD APPLICANT

Chairman Todd recognized Jake Hayes, applicant for the Airport Board open position. He has been a pilot for many years and is close to retiring as a professional pilot for Delta Airlines. He has built his own hanger and runway north of Newcastle on the turn off to Mallo camp. He was a pilot for the military, and he is a civilian pilot instructor. Vice Chairman Wagoner moved to appoint Jake Hayes to the airport board, Commissioner Huber seconded the motion, Chairman Todd opened it up for discussion. Commissioner Borton recused himself from the vote. Chairman Todd called for a vote and the motion passed.

TAX ROLL CORRECTIONS #1830, # 1831, and #1832

Chairman Todd passed the corrections down to the other commissioners to look at. Commissioner Ertman moved to approve the Tax Roll Corrections #1830, #1831, and #1832.

Vice Chairman Wagoner seconded, Chairman Todd opened it up for discussion. Seeing no discussion he called for a vote, the motion passed unopposed.

PROBLEM GAMBLING CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

Chairman Todd recognized Leslie Hayman and Kristi Lipp for the presentation of the conference that Leslie attended. She stated that it was a great conference to attend and that she learned a plethora of information to help within the community. She learned that gambling has evolved from just sitting in a casino to now online gambling and now to online betting which is worse than regular gambling. With online trading; it flies below the regulator boundaries that the conventional gambling websites and facilities are regulated from. These sites allow the person to bet on items like sports, gas prices, and many more day-to-day happenings. The commissioners thanked them for their time and all the information they provided and learned at their conference.

COLLECTIONS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH - $1,586.55, SHERIFF - $395.00, CLERK - $12,023.38, DISTRICT COURT CLERK, $1,324.34.

Commissioner Ertman moved to approve the collections for the Public Health, Sheriff, Clerk, and District Court Clerk as presented, Commissioner properly seconded. Chairman Todd opened it up to discussion, seeing none he called for a vote and the motion passed.

TREASURER REPORTS

Commissioner Ertman moved to approve the Treasurer reports, revenue reports, and the treasurer cash detail reports, Vice Chairman Wagoner properly seconded. Chairman Todd opened it up for discussion, seeing none he moved to a vote and the motion passed.

AP VOUCHER REPORTS

Commissioner Ertman moved to approve the AP voucher detail report, summary report and the reprint check listing report, Commissioner Huber seconded, Chairman Todd opened up for discussion, seeing none he called for a vote, motion passed.

CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE ON COURT SECURITY GRANT AGREEMENT

Chairman Todd asked the County Attorney, Michael Stulken if he saw anything concerning or out of the norm with the grant. Stulken stated he did not see anything to be concerned about. District Court Clerk, Riki Kaiser, clarified for the board that there is no deadline with the grant to be submitted and that no payments will be submitted until the agreement is signed. Vice Chairman Wagoner did ask if the generator cost goes over the grant amount, if the county is responsible for any overage fees. Kaiser replied that should would do some checking into that part and report back to the board. Commissioner Ertman did state that the accounts are reimbursable accounts. Chairman Todd asked if the board wanted to hold off on signing the agreement till they get more information from Riki Kaiser. Commissioner Ertman moved to approve the Chairmans signature on the court security grant agreement, Vice Chairman Wagoner seconded. Chairman Todd opened for discussion. Commissioner Ertman thanked Riki Kaiser for her hard work. Todd then moved to a vote and the motion passed.

COURT APPOINTED RATES

District Court Clerk, Riki Kaiser asked the board to approve, in writing, the rates for court appointed attorneys. She looked in past minutes to see when the one-hundred-dollar rate was decided. Commissioner Ertman asked if she looked at past resolutions. Commissioner Ertman asked for a resolution to be written and presented to the board on the second meeting in November.

CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE ON EMERGENCY FIRE SUPPRESSION ACCOUNT AGREEMENT

Daniel Tysdal presented that there have been changes in the prior agreement leaning towards the benefit of the county. Vice Chairman Wagoner moved to approve the Chairmans signature on the emergency fire suppression account agreement, Commissioner Borton properly seconded. Chairman Todd opened for discussion, Commissioner Ertman thanked Daniel for what he and the others do to help with fighting fires within the county. Chairman Todd called for a vote and the motion passed. Daniel Tysdal asked if that motion covered both agreements. It was decided there needed to be another motion to approve the Chairmans signature on the seconded agreement with the fire district. Vice Chairman Wagoner moved to approve the interagency agreement between Weston County and the Weston County Fire Protection District, Commissioner Ertman seconded, Chairman Todd called for a vote and the motion passed.

COPIER QUOTES

Commissioner Ertman asked what the main objective and question would be for the copiers. It was decided that the main question is whether purchasing outright or leasing the copiers would be the best option. It was discussed to maybe move this agenda item to a later time in the meeting. Chairman Todd moved to approve the purchase agreement with the cost per copy at the associated rate with the understanding to have a discussion with the department heads about the usage of color copies, Commissioner Ertman seconded. Todd opened for discussion. Chairman Todd stated he would vote in favor of the motion with the emphasis on the color copy discussion with the department heads. Commissioner Ertman agreed to looking at the bills that are coming each month and seeing how many color copies are used. Commissioner Borton asked if the maintenance agreement would be indefinite or not. After that question it was decided to table the current motion till 12:10pm. Commissioner Ertman moved to table the current motion by Chairman Todd till 12:10pm, Vice Chairman Wagoner seconded, motion passed. Once revisited it was determined to purchase the copiers outright at the quoted cost with the added maintenance plan as well. Chairman Todd opened for discussion seeing none called for a vote and the motion passed.

CREDIT CARD APPROVAL FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

It was presented to the board that Public Health would like to purchase an iPad for daily operations. Vice Chairman Wagoner moved to approve the credit card approval for Public Health not to exceed $425.00, Commissioner Borton seconded. It was open for discussion, Commissioner Huber asked if there would be a sticker to track the assets on the asset list. Deputy

Clerk Kolby Pisciotti explained to the board that there is a monetary value minimum to be added to the county asset list and that number is $6,000 or more. Commissioner Ertman had concerns with that number being so high when many other important county items do not meet that minimum requirement. Deputy Clerk Pisciotti assured us that there could be discussion about having a separate list of assets that do not meet the minimum monetary value to be kept ensuring that the asset does not fall through the cracks. Chairman Todd asked for a vote, motion passed with 1 nay and 4 yays, motion passed.

KINGS PLUMBING & HEATING ESTIMATE

The galvanized piping in the downstairs portion of the courthouse would be replaced with PEX piping to lessen the chance of leaks going into the future. There was a discussion about the difference in rates, it was clarified that there is a weekday rate and a weekend rate. With the weekday rate it would disrupt daily operation of the courthouse, but it would be doable, with the weekend rate it was higher, but it would allow longer workdays and no interruptions to the daily work. It was decided to voucher out of the building and grounds account. Vice Chair Wagoner moved to approve the Kings Plumbing and Heating bid at the weekend rate at $4,550.00, Commissioner Borton seconded. Chairman Todd opened for discussion, seeing none he called for a vote and the motion passed.

VEHICLE POLICIES

Chairman Todd had concerns about county law enforcement vehicles coming from out of state residents and striking wildlife. He asked if adding a tracker would be beneficial or not. His goal is to lower the county insurances on vehicles. He asked if the board should establish a policy on where the vehicle can and cant go. Commissioner Huber voiced her concern that with such policy there could be loss of employees for the county. Chairman Todd asked if it would be beneficial to bring in Brad Solberg of Solberg insurance to get an outline of what the policy should say. Chairman Todd asked for this item to be added to the to-do list to have for the next meeting. It was also asked to have Deputy Clerk Pisciotti to ask the county auditor what the IRS distinction between work and personal vehicle use is

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Vice Chairman Wagoner asked if the commissioners had seen what was happening in Fremont County. There is a data center being added to the county and the Commissioners have no say in whether it can happen. He also wanted to make everyone aware of the ballot initiative and how that could affect the county in a negative way.

October 20, 2026, MEETING

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Nathan Todd

Chairman

Attest: Kolby Pisciotti

Weston County Deputy Clerk