FULL DETAILED REPORT

The Board of Fremont County Commissioners met in Regular Session at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present: Chairman Larry Allen, Vice-Chairman Mike Jones, Jennifer McCarty, Clarence Thomas and Ron Fabrizius. Deputy County Clerk Margy Irvine and Deputy Civil Attorney Nathan Maxon were present.

Jennifer McCarty moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Clarence Thomas moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2024 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Jennifer McCarty moved, Ron Fabrizius seconded, to accept the bills for payment. Motion carried unanimously.

Vendor | Department | Description | Amount |
---|---|---|---|
307 Aerial Services LLC | Road Construction | Surveying | $263.64 |
71 Construction | ARPA Program Grant | Contract Service | $58,788.08 |
Ace Hardware-Lander | Segregated | Materials / Supplies | $113.32 |
All Service Lysite, Inc. | 1% Gravel Projects | Contract Services | $8,047.50 |
Alsco, Inc. | County Buildings | Laundry | $415.12 |
Amerigas | County Buildings | Utilities | $1,468.63 |
Arcasearch Corporation | ARPA Program Grant | Project Service | $4,000.00 |
Bailey Enterprises, Inc. | Inventory | Bulk Fuel | $16,991.04 |
Big Brothers Big Sisters of NW WY | TANF Grant | CPI Grant Reimburse | $3,174.93 |
Black Hills Energy | County Buildings | Utility Service | $14,856.78 |
Boedorn Lumber-Lander | County Buildings | Materials Supplies | $160.02 |
BMO Financial Group | Segregated | Credit Card Charges | $58,480.69 |
Bowdel Steven P. | Detention Center | Medical Services | $1,437.50 |
Burden, Dan | County Buildings | Security Service | $398.00 |
Carroll Septic Service | Transportation | Services | $170.00 |
Charter Communications | Segregated | Internet Service | $359.96 |
Circuit Court of the Ninth District | County Attorney | Service Fee | $5.00 |
Clerkin, Sinclair & Mahfouz LLP | Search & Rescue | Claim Reimburse | $2,985.20 |
DOWT FHWA | Road Reconstruction | Horse Creek Road | $676,086.27 |
Dowl LLC | Segregated | Services | $44,610.80 |
Dubois Frontier, The | Support Services | Advertising | $53.40 |
Dubois Telephone Exchange | County Sheriff | Telephone Services | $720.96 |
Enos Trucking LLC | 1% Gravel Projects | Contract Services | $5,256.25 |
Foutz, Traci L | Public Health Emergency Prep | Expense Reimburse | $32.76 |
Fremont County Assoc. of Govt. | Special Tax | Economic Development | $54,245.02 |
Gee, Brian | Detention Center | Contract Supervisor | $5,580.00 |
Grainger | County Buildings Detention | Materials / Supplies | $286.13 |
High Plains Power, Inc. | County Buildings | Utility Services | $1,673.73 |
Jace Water Service, Inc. | 1% Gravel Projects | Contract Services | $2,610.00 |
Jones, Michael | County Commission | Expense Reimburse | $93.60 |
Kisling, Lisa | District Court | Court Services | $1,839.82 |
Kleen Pipe LLC | County Buildings | Services | $1,086.23 |
Lander, City of | County Buildings | Utility Services | $2,453.95 |
Mahlum, Zachary Hamilton | District Court | Court Services | $503.23 |
Norco, Inc. | Segregated | Supplies | $1,530.43 |
Normont Equipment Company | Vehicle Maintenance | Parts & Supplies | $3,716.10 |
Clarence Thomas moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to accept a voucher for Title 25 patients from Fremont Counseling Service for December patients in the amount of $4,200.00. Motion carried unanimously.

The following items in the Signature File were reviewed: 1) 2022-2024 Community Prevention Grant Point of Contact Information Form; 2) Notice of Award and Agreement for Use of Economic Development Tax Funds for five MOVE recipients; 3) thank you letter to Kassie Holdren upon resignation from Fremont County Fair Board; and 4) Record of Proceedings. Mike Jones moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to approve an Agreement between Fremont County Museums and Bohemian Builders for a shop at the Dubois Museum for a cost not to exceed $365,017.00. Motion carried unanimously. Mike Jones moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to approve an Agreement between Fremont County Museums and Bohemian Builders for a vestibule for ADA ingress and egress at the Pioneer Museum in Lander for a cost not to exceed $72,500.00. Motion carried unanimously. Mike Jones moved, Ron Fabrizius seconded, to approve an Agreement between Fremont County Museums and Pavement Maintenance, Inc. for repair, crack seal, overlay and parking lot striping at the Pioneer Museum in Lander at a cost not to exceed $58,300.00. Motion carried unanimously. Mike Jones moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to approve a Public Official Bond and Oath for Deputy Assessor Angela Wilson. Motion carried unanimously. Mike Jones moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to approve a letter to WYDOT District Engineer Pete Hallsten indicating the County’s approval to proceed with the project to replace bridge ELX located on County Road 298 over the Wyoming Canal. Motion carried unanimously. Mike Jones moved, Jennifer McCarthy seconded, to approve Fiscal Year 2024 Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Program Sub Recipient Agreement between the Wyoming Department of Transportation, Local Government Coordination Office and Fremont County in the amount of $116,776 for magnesium chloride application to 16.57 miles of county roads. Motion carried unanimously.
There were no action items in the Priority Mail.

The Public Comment period was held.

Troy Jones stated his objection towards financial support of the proposed Riverton Rescue shelter. They state their intent is that anybody is welcome, they will be offered free food and they won’t have to use their own money. This perpetuates and makes the problem worse. To receive funding from taxpayers is removing God and religion, these people needing the shelter need to appeal to family, church or private organizations such as the Salvation Army. If they need the money for the shelter, it should come from private donations and not the government.

Transportation Department Superintendent Billy Meeks informed the board of a recent vacancy for a Truck Driver/Operator position. Mike Jones moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to authorize refilling the position at a salary not to exceed $46,800. Motion carried unanimously.

Commission Meeting Reports and Concerns were given.

Commissioner Ron Fabrizius visited Eagles Hope Transitions in Riverton, and noted the Director stated the program is currently working with 214 families and there is a waiting list to get into the housing. Commissioner Fabrizius is of the understanding that in order for groups to apply for CDBG funds, two like organizations cannot compete for the same money. The Fremont County Association of Governments (FCAG) administers the Community Development Block Grant funding, with Douglas Spriggs serving as chair of the Independence Alliance of Fremont County who oversees the grant program. He is concerned that if the Riverton Rescue project applies for this funding, it may compete with Eagles Hope Transitions. Vice-Chairman Jones, former Commission liaison to FCAG, stated the CDBG funding is federal funding in place with appropriate criteria and rules and any funding approved today for Riverton Rescue would not be from this fund.

Chairman Larry Allen had visited with local businessman Brett Berg who stated local resident Jim Allen was also interested in donating money towards a shoulder mount of a bighorn sheep recently confiscated by the Game and Fish, along with himself. County Attorney Patrick LeBrun had earlier informed the Board of the animal which had been preserved while the legal case was taking place. This has been done now and the sheep would be ready for a mount if funding was available. The cost for the taxidermy would be $850 and between the three men, the Commissioner Allen stated adequate funding was available. Several Commissioners also expressed an interest in helping with the funding.

Commissioner Clarence Thomas stated he would be unavailable to attend the meeting with the Wind River Intertribal Council scheduled the following day.

Vice-Chairman Mike Jones attended the Solid Waste Disposal District Board meeting and stated they are having difficulty finding a replacement District Superintendent. They currently have several companies on retainer to handle the large items and they have revised the position description as a result. A candidate will be interviewed the following week for the position now advertised with revised duties. He attended the Library Board meeting and the Board took a vote to begin filtering the children’s section computers. They have put in place a procedure for reviewing books which may be inappropriate and three books are currently under review by the Director. He is frustrated with a national organization offering public comment at the Library Board meeting as they are not local stakeholders. He briefly discussed the BLM Rock Springs Resource Management Plan and EIS and his proposed comments that he will review later in the meeting on behalf of Fremont County. He will be participating in the forum sponsored by the Republican Party on January 24th regarding taxes and is putting together a survey regarding local taxes in place.

Chairman Larry Allen met with the three Department Heads he is liaison with and stated their annual evaluations should be completed the following week. He has been asked by the Governor’s Office to participate on a panel regarding emergency management services on January 22nd.

Sheriff Ryan Lee presented a monthly update. Detention: Current inmate population is 143 in house (145 in custody): 16 booked over the weekend, Males – 101, Females – 40, Juveniles – 2 housed in Natrona County; and one at the State Hospital. Bookings for December totaled 177 (22 more than November) from Riverton PD – 90; Fremont County Sheriff’s Office – 72; Lander PD – 24; Wyoming Highway Patrol – 9 and Shoshoni PD – 4. Demographics for sentencing status are 47 (30 males and 17
females). Pre-adjudicated inmates total 98 (District Court 58%; Riverton Circuit Court 31%; Lander Circuit Court 10%; Riverton Municipal Court 1%). There are currently five openings for five Deputy sheriff’s (two in background). With the budget at 50% of the fiscal year the overall budget is at 42%. 

**Emergency Dispatch Center:** Currently down five positions, the overall budget is at 43%. Equipment continues to arrive for the LATC funded County-Wide Communications Upgrades. The Dispatch Center refurbish project is completed, and photos were distributed of the before and after project. Statistics for November 2023 totaled 4,319 incoming calls (about 280 fewer than the month prior) consisting of 1,145 911 calls, 1,635 events dispatched/assigned to field units as follows: 961 Law Enforcement, 520 EMS and 106 Fire. **Patrol/Enforcement:** Down one Deputy Sheriff position in Dubois. Total calls for service in 2023 totaled 6,849. 2022-2023 Capital Revolving Fund purchases consist of two patrol vehicles being completed and the remainder in service. 2023-2024 purchases include seven patrol vehicles and one detective vehicle which have all arrived. Estimated upfitting date of February. The overall budget is under at 43%. **Search and Rescue:** Missions total 24 compared to the same amount this same time last fiscal year. Four of those missions have resulted in fatalities. The Special Equipment line item is at $28,300. Work is continuing on replacing the Search and Rescue facilities. The overall budget is under at 29%. In closing, Commissioner Fabrizius asked Sheriff Lee if he had seen an influx of “New Americans” into the county to which he was informed no.

County Coroner Erin Ivie provided a 2023 Case Summary & Comparison (as of January 8, 2023): Totals: There have been 298 recorded deaths in 2023 (39 less than that of 2022 = 337). **Cases:** The Coroner’s Office was contacted 161 times for investigation/referral, consisting of 139 Coroner Cases (46.6%) which is 10 less than 2022 (149). Of the Coroner Cases, 36% (50) were “non-natural” in manner, one more than 2022 (49). Of those, accidental deaths are 35, one less than 2022 (36) with the leading cause being motor vehicle accidents (12); second is drug and/or alcohol toxicity (9) and third is falls and asphyxia (4 each). Others are drowning (3) and hypothermia (3). Death by suicide is 9, two more than 2022 (7). Death by homicide is 3, the same as that of 2022; and undetermined deaths is 3 (two vehicular; one prehistoric/pre-contact skeletal remains. **Motor/Vehicle/Traffic Deaths:** There have been 14 motor-vehicle/traffic deaths in 2023, three less than 2022 (13 incidents resulting in 14 deaths). Nine of the total involved alcohol and/or drugs (64%), two pedestrian deaths, one ATV deaths. Eleven fatalities involved vehicles equipped with safety restraints with six being in use. Twelve are accidental in manner, two are undetermined in manner. **Drugs and Alcohol:** total related deaths account for 42 of all 139 cases, or 30%, slightly lower than 2022 (33%). Of the non-natural deaths, 28 of 50 were drug/alcohol related (56%), a slight decrease from 2022 (63%). The contributing factor in accidental deaths is drug and/or alcohol totaling 20 of 35 deaths (57%), a decrease from 66% in 2022. The primary substance of abuse remains alcohol at 26 (61%). Methamphetamine is at 13 (down from 16 in 2022). Cannabis is at 4 (down from 5 in 2022); Fentanyl is at 4 (down from 5 in 2022). Benzodiazepines are at 1. Opiates, excluding Fentanyl (oxycodone, hydrocodone, morphine, etc.) are at 3. Some cases involve more than one substance relating to drug and/or alcohol. **Location:** The Coroner’s Office responded to Riverton (54), Lander (47), Fort Washakie (10), Ethete (7), Dubois (6), Hudson and Shoshoni (4 each), Jeffrey City and Pavillion and Kinnear (3 each) and Crowheart (1). Six cases were at Sage West Hospital Lander, Sage West Hospital Riverton – 5, two cases at Casper Wyoming Medical Clinic. Nineteen cases involved Search and Rescue and or Fire Departments, two involved BLM/Tribal Historic Preservation Office/Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. **Autopsy:** 24 autopsies were completed for Fremont County cases; 23 contractual autopsies were completed for surrounding counties. Total revenue billed for 2023 calendar year is $45,275.00. **Budget:** Currently estimated at 3% under average for this time of year (50%). Overtime is at 34.5%. There have been no unclaimed remain burials or unidentified cases in 2023. In closing, Coroner Ivie expressed appreciation for the assistance of JR Oakley, JR Project Management, LLC in continuing to search for a suitable location for a new Coroner’s Office in Riverton.

Treatment Courts and Youth Services Director Cassie Murray presented a monthly report. **Court Assisted Supervised Treatment (CAST):** Program requirements require an adult to be in Drug Court for at least one year with nine hours/week of treatment for the first three months and then three hours/week for about seven months. After that, they have about an hour a week of treatment and see the judge every other week for Drug Court hearings. This is in addition to other classes and requirements they have. This is a difficult program and sometimes takes longer than one year to complete. They also have to have 120 days continuous of clean and sober time in order to graduate. The program had three graduations from Riverton clients last month and another one this week. The program has the capacity for more clients and they are specifically interested in high risk and high need people. The research is clear this demographic is best served by Drug Courts. They are hoping to get more clients from the prosecutor’s office to make this happen. **Juvenile Treatment Court (JTC):** In order for a client to graduate, they have to have 120 days of continuous clean and sober time and complete the level of care they were
assigned to have. This means some kids have to do 16 weeks of groups/treatment and have 120 days of continuous clean and sober time and more intensive need kids also have to have 120 days of clean and sober time, as well as they must complete 6 hours/week of treatment for three months and then weekly treatment for three months. This is in addition to other courses, community service, case management, and counseling appointments they are required to do. They do have some juveniles getting close to graduation. The new Case Manager has begun their duties and they have more capacity for clients, the process is a little different and takes longer, but they have the full support from the County Attorney’s Office to court order clients into the program. Day Reporting Center: Just started a new semester, have three students (two new and one returning) with capacity for 12. They are expecting more students in the next few weeks based on releases from the Boys/Girls School and other placements. Most of the referrals come from School District #25. Youth Services: Hired a new Probation Officer for the Lander Office. Continuing to see many drug and alcohol citations and have seen a few more citations where methamphetamine has been involved. They have seen an increase in the number of DUI’s and a number of juveniles are on ankle monitors/house arrest. Working to get them in compliance so they can come off the monitors. In closing, she expressed support of the Riverton Rescue project and stated her program is currently working with three adult clients in the Eagles Hope Transitional program. The County cannot have too many resources to help with drug and alcohol addiction as there are more people in need than resources available. Commissioner McCarty thanked Murray for the update and expressed appreciation to her and her staff or all they do. Commissioner Fabrizius asked for her thoughts on the proposed Riverton Rescue Mission and she stated her support.

County Planning Supervisor Steve Baumann stated that WYDOT is proposing to Relinquish the ROW for those portions of the road that were re-aligned in 2021 and 2022 on Highway 122 (Blue Sky Highway) between the intersection of Highway 287 and Ethete. The old road location ROW was obtained through a Resolution to Establish the Road by the Fremont County Commissioners so statutorily WYDOT is required to ask if the County would have any interest in the acquisition of the ROW proposed to be relinquished. This section of State highway is entirely within the Diminished Wind River Indian Reservation, and he recommended that the relinquished ROW be turned over to either the landowners of record or the Tribes. Baumann stated there are two landowners who access deeded property along the route and the Board asked him to make sure these individuals have access to their property and once confirmed, notify WYDOT that the County has no interest in the proposed relinquished ROW.

The Board adjourned as the Board of Fremont County Commissioners and convened as the District Boundary Board of Fremont County, which consists of the county assessor, board of county commissioners and county treasurer. Joining the meeting was Assessor Tara Berg who stated that the annual meeting of the Board is pursuant to W.S.§ 21-6-203 and that she is not aware of any school district changes within Fremont County’s eight school districts, noting there is one unified at this time (School District #38). W.S. § 21-6-205 further requires that a chairman and secretary be selected. Jennifer McCarty moved, Mike Jones seconded, to re-appoint both Larry Allen as Chairman and Secretary Tara Berg as Secretary of the District Boundary Board of Fremont County for 2024. Motion carried unanimously. The District Boundary Board of Fremont County adjourned and the Board of Fremont County Commissioners reconvened.

Stacy Stebner was present to provide reasons why a six-month extension was being requested on The Bossert Collective MOVE award of $2,000 for the Pushroot Brewing Company Mural. The one-year final report due date is March 16th and due to issues regarding the building not being ready until summer, the extension was requested. As new reporting requirements have been approved by the Commission from one annual final report to quarterly reporting, Commissioner McCarty recommended they be put in place for this project extension reporting requirement. Mike Jones moved, Ron Fabrizius seconded, to approve a six-month extension until July 9, 2024 and to require the quarterly reporting requirements be required. Motion carried unanimously.

Riverton Rescue Mission representative Kara Hancock returned to the meeting to provide an update on funding received to-date for start-up costs for the homeless shelter. Riverton Mayor Tim Hancock was present in the audience. The $25,000 required will go towards a feasibility study that will measure the community’s ability to support a shelter and gather data such as likely donors, the amount of money that can potentially be raised, as well as gathering feedback from the community. The Riverton Rescue Mission has already raised $7,000 toward the $25,000 goal, including a $5,000 contribution from the Riverton Peace Mission and $2,000 from other donors. The City of Riverton donated $9,000 in un obligated funds with an anticipated match from Fremont County for the remaining $9,000. Commissioner Fabrizius question why a feasibility study was required and whether future funding
requests made from the Rescue Mission would impact funding requests from other social services in place (Center of Hope, Eagles Hope Transitions, etc.). Commissioner McCarty thanked Hancock on behalf of her efforts as well as the importance of coordinating with other entities in Riverton for continuum of care and Hancock affirmed they have already been meeting with the groups and have established good relationships. Vice-Chairman Jones understood the intent of the feasibility study to look at community input and potential donors and asked if an operations budget had been established. He affirmed that the county had funded social services in the past when revenues permitted so was not a new procedure for Fremont County Government. Commissioner Thomas voiced his support of county funding for the project and specifically noted how veterans have been impacted, and further stated freedom and liberty are not there unless somebody volunteers to do what needs done to protect our country. We are all accountable to help those in need and again supported the donation and understands our service to one another. In closing, Tim Hancock stated Wyoming Rescue will be the fiscal agent and would be able to provide a budget. Clarence Thomas moved, Mike Jones seconded, to donate $9,000 from the County General Fund to the Riverton Rescue Mission feasibility study. Motion carried unanimously.

Newly appointed Fremont County Fire Chief Ron Wempen joined the meeting to update the board on his duties as Fire Chief. This meeting was in response to an earlier meeting with former Fremont County Fire Chief Craig Haslam, who also serves as the Fremont County Fire Warden. Vice-Chairman Jones stated that traditionally the Fire Chief and Fire Warden position belonged to the same person, and questioned whether having different individuals in the two positions would be problematic. Wempen stated that it would be critical for Wempen to remain as County Fire Warden while giving him the opportunity to learn from him. The separation of duties is clear in State Statute and Wempen’s job is the operation of the Fire Department while the County Warden works with federal partners on such things as wildland fires, etc.

Chairman Larry Allen stated that Craig Haslam remain as County Fire Warden; however, name Ron Wempen as assistant in order that cross-training could begin, which was agreed to. Commissioner Thomas asked Wempen to make it a priority to ensure Fort Washakie is next in line for a new fire hall. Private land has been donated, but due to access issues, the funding earlier intended for Fort Washakie was used for a new Fire Hall in Crowheart. Thomas suggested that perhaps another location be found so the land would be available when funding was secured. Commissioner Fabrizius asked if the Fire Department worked with Emergency Medical Services which Wempen stated there were mutual aid agreements to assist them in emergencies; however, the Fire Department is made up on volunteers and they would be required to take extensive training to be qualified to become EMS responders, also fire halls are under equipped to function as ambulance stations. The Commissioners welcomed Wempen to his new position as Fremont County Fire Chief and also will look forward to working with him as assistant Fremont County Fire Warden.

Fremont County Library Director Anita Marple presented a Library System Update and read a prepared statement. Board Chair Carrie Johnson was present in the audience. Financial: General Fund expenditures bottom line is on target. They are under budget in Salaries and Benefits as they continue to advertise for two positions at the Riverton Branch. Several inflation-related line items (postage, office supplies) are slightly higher than budgeted. The Special Revenue Fund accounts is strong as the changes made last year to the Fines & Fees and Meeting Room Fees are proven to be effective in creating additional revenue without being burdensome to users. Some new grant awards and unanticipated donations have been received. Library Facility Safety: They address security at all libraries, and spoke specifically to actions taken at the Riverton Branch. Meetings regarding situational awareness and procedures for handling disruptive patrons occur and a regular practice has included walking the grounds in afternoons. A Riverton Branch security audit was conducted in October 2020 with the primary recommendation to update the security camera system. Several months in 2021 had a Library Resource Officer on duty, a Riverton PD officer under contract to provide security presence during the school year from 3-5 pm. This was an excellent endeavor; however, scheduling was problematic and funding limited. The Riverton Branch security system was updated last summer and funded through the Library Technology line item and a grant received allowed for the installation of new security signage at all libraries. The Riverton Branch manager maintains a collaborative relationship with Riverton PD and they have been informed that incidents at the Riverton Branch are minuscule compared to what happens to Riverton as a whole. Interactions with patrons in all the libraries is a central aspect of approaching safety, including homeless and/or who struggle with substance abuse. They strive to treat everyone with respect and maintain a balance between welcoming everyone and enforcing the Patron Code of Conduct. Director Marple has been spending 70% of her time at the Riverton Branch and affirms to her that it is a safe place for families and invited specific concerns or incidents to be brought to her attention so that she can investigate. Internet Filtering: The Library Board voted to pursue internet filtering at the network level only for what state statutes deem illegal activity and to implement stricter filters for pornography.
on children’s public computers. This will require changes to the Internet Use Policy which will have to undergo a 45-day public comment process. Internet filtering is not a perfect solution and it remains to be seen how much difficulty patrons will have with legitimate sites being blocked. **Pornography Accusations:** Untrue accusations have been heard the past five months accusing the Library of promoting pornography to children. This is untrue and impugns the character of the staff with this false accusation. Since 1971, the Library System has had a procedure for challenging an item at the library collection, called the Citizen’s Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials. The form and procedure was revised last year and they are available upon request. She has received a Request for Reconsideration form from three individuals within the past six months with a challenge for three books. One of the books had been missing from the collection for several months and removed from their collection one month prior to receiving the Challenge form. Another has been in their collection for 16 years and the first challenge was the one received the previous month. Marple stated that over the past two years, she has proactively read and reviewed 16 books in the library collection with one being removed for failing to meet their selection criteria for authorship and five relocated to the adult collection. Evaluating challenged material must be thoughtful, unbiased and according to guidance from the law.

JR Oakley, JR Project Management LLC, returned to the meeting to discuss the Lander Circuit Courtroom stairwell bids. This has not been authorized for funding yet as discussion was held earlier on this option or a sprinkler system, and even whether or not the additional project was necessary according to the Fire Marshall. Oakley stated it is better to error on the side of caution when dealing with public safety. Mike Jones moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to authorize $54,000 from LATC funds for the Lander Circuit Courtroom emergency exit project. Motion carried unanimously.

Clarence Thomas moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to accept the bid from Yeates Construction, Inc. in the amount of $49,232.64 for the project. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chairman Mike Jones reviewed the draft Fremont County General Comments on the 2023 Rock Springs Resource Management Plan and EIS. As the comment deadline is prior to the next regular meeting, he asked for approval of the letter for submission. He summarized the comments by stating “Understandably the Federal Government can view this area as a smaller portion of all federal lands but we encourage the BLM to return to better practices and consider our County comments, and our Fremont County Natural Resource Management Plan, updated in 2021, as recently documented views on the land that fully take into account the socioeconomics of all the outlying areas affected, specifically Fremont County”. There are four Alternatives: Alternative A – No Action; Alternative B – Agency Preferred Alternative; Alternative C – Emphasizes resource use; and Alternative D- explores a management approach to use and develop resources while promoting environmental conservation. Following submission of the comments, they will be reviewed at the federal level and a final draft produced, at which time further comments can be submitted. Clarence Thomas moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to approval submittal of the comments on behalf of Fremont County. Motion carried unanimously. The Commissioners thanked Commissioner Jones for his extensive work on the final submission.

Jennifer McCarty moved, Mike Jones seconded, to adjourn into Executive Session for potential property acquisition and personnel. Motion carried unanimously. LATC Committee member Jim Anderson was present for the first portion of the session. Mike Jones moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to return to Regular Session. Motion carried unanimously.

The Commissioners stated they would offer the recent vacancy on the Fremont County Fair Board to the second alternate following their interviews in December. If said alternate declined, the Board asked that the vacancy be re-advertised.

Janelle Hahn had left a written statement for the Board regarding how Fire Departments are paged and that the Lander Fire Chief’s priority will be to recruit for firemen.

There being no further business, Jennifer McCarty moved, Mike Jones seconded, to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 1:00 p.m. and reconvene for a Regular Meeting at 9:00 a.m. on January 23, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

A full detailed report (informational only) and the official minutes are posted on Fremont County’s website (www.fremontcountywy.gov). The meeting can also be accessed via YouTube (Fremont County WY Government).

/s/ Larry Allen, Chairman
Fremont County Commissioners

ATTEST:

/s/ Julie A Freese, Fremont County Clerk and Clerk of the Board