

STATE OF WYOMING)
) ss.
COUNTY OF FREMONT)

LANDER, WYOMING
OFFICE OF THE FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 16, 2021

FULL DETAILED REPORT

The Board of Fremont County Commissioners met in Regular Session at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present: Chairman Travis Becker, Vice-Chairman Larry Allen, Jennifer McCarty, Clarence Thomas and Mike Jones. County Clerk Julie A. Freese was present.

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

Jennifer McCarty moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 9, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Jennifer McCarty moved, Mike Jones seconded, to accept the bills for payment. Chairman Travis Becker abstained from voting on The Print Shop voucher. Motion carried.

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A & I Distributors	Vehicle Maintenance	Oil/Fluids	\$747.57
Ace Hardware-Lander	County Buildings	Materials/Supplies	\$203.86
Airgas USA LLC	Vehicle Maintenance	Supplies	\$153.94
Amerigas	County Buildings	Supplies	\$449.02
Amerigas Propane LP	County Buildings	Tank Rent	\$63.00
Ameritech Equipment Co.	County Buildings Detention	Fogger, Solution	\$7,876.60
Bank of the West	Segregated	Materials, Supplies	\$48,209.91
Barcodes LLC	County Clerk	Supplies	\$403.74
Caselle, Inc	Computer Services	Service	\$200.00
CenturyLink	Computer Services	Telephone Service	\$916.35
Charter Communications	Computer Services	Internet Service	\$339.96
Database Development Services	Youth Services	Database Service	\$630.00
Div. of Criminal Investigation	Youth Services	Background Check	\$78.00
Eagle Uniform & Supply Co	Vehicle Maintenance	Laundry	\$78.52
Freese, Julie	County Clerk	Reimburse Petty Cash	\$5.80
Fremont Broadcasting	Prevention Program	Advertising	\$1,500.00
Grainger	County Buildings Detention	Materials/Supplies	\$577.84
Hall, Jared	Vehicle Maintenance	Reimburse Expenses	\$140.00
High Plains Power, Inc	County Buildings	Utility Services	\$1,555.21
IWORQ Systems Inc	Transportation	Service Agreement	\$5,400.00
Johnson, Jill	Transportation	Reimburse Expenses	\$124.99
Kisling, Lisa	District Court	Court Appointment	\$4,147.50
Lander Valley Auto Parts	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts, Supplies	\$973.33
Mahlum, Zachary Hamilton	District Court	Court Appointment	\$45.00
McKay, Katherine G.	District Court	Court Appointment	\$2,452.50
Native American Fatherhood & Families Assoc.	Prevention Program	Workshop & Books	\$1,215.00
Norco Inc	Segregated	Service, Supplies	\$41.43
Office Shop Inc, The	Agriculture Department	Repair, service	\$52.20
Office Shop Inc, The	Computer Services	Copier Lease	\$1,376.00
Orion Healthcare Tech. Inc	Segregated	Treatment Program	\$2,808.00
Pavillion, Town of	County Buildings	Water Utilities	\$119.49
Peterbilt of Wyoming	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts	\$17.80
Quadient Inc	Planning	Parcel Charges	\$26.12
Quill Corporation	County Attorney	Office Supplies	\$58.15
Rocky Mountain Power	County Buildings	Utilities	\$1,077.48
Stotz Equipment	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts, Equipment, Supplies	\$148.35
Sweetwater Aire LLC	Segregated	Repair, Maintenance	\$17,024.88
Traveling Computers	Computer Services	Computer Supplies, Services	\$1,216.22
Verizon Wireless	Computer Services	Cellphone Service	\$58.64
Wrangler Well Service Inc	PHEP COVID Response	Heater Rental	\$1,400.00
WY State Lands & Investments	Transportation	Temp Use Fee- Lease	\$550.00
Wyoming Dept of Transportation	Segregated	Fuel	\$1,268.10
Wyoming Machinery Co	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts	\$3,941.86
Wyonet Inc.	Computer Services	Telephone Service	\$3,264.48

Jennifer McCarty moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to accept a voucher from Natrona County Legal Department in the amount of \$5,705.00 and from Fremont Counseling Service in the amount of \$9,750.00 for Title 25 patients. Motion carried unanimously.

The following items in the Signature File were reviewed. 1) Record of Proceedings. Clarence Thomas moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to ratify approval of Home Source Realty Real Estate Brokerage documents for the Lander and Riverton county building sale. Motion carried unanimously. Clarence Thomas moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to approve a BlueCross Blue Shield ASO Group Plan Change regarding Teledoc consultations and expiration update regarding COVID-19 benefits. Motion carried unanimously.

Items in the Priority Mail were reviewed. County Clerk Julie Freese reviewed her letter to the Dubois Mayor thanking him for making provisions to reserve the Headwaters Community Arts and Conference Center building for the Primary, General and Special Elections for future elections.

There was nobody present for the Public Comment period.

Commissioner meeting reports were given.

Commissioner Mike Jones stated the Wind River Outdoor Recreation Collaborative meeting will be held this week and indicated Dubois has a similar group that may be joining them in order to work together on viable projects.

Commissioner Jennifer McCarty attended the Museum Board meeting where they continue working on virtual programs and are operating with lower than average revenues.

Chairman Travis Becker stated the COVID conference call did not happen the previous day due to the President's Day Holiday; however, noted there is only one person in the hospital and there have been 235 unique individuals admitted since the pandemic started almost one year ago. He reviewed a National Association of County Offices memo regarding NACo Legislative Analysis for Counties: U.S. House Committee on Oversight & Reform, State and Local Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Funds. The Fiscal Year 2021 Reconciliation Act bill, which includes the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, would provide \$350 billion to help states, counties, cities, municipalities and tribal governments to cover increased expenditure, replenish lost revenue and mitigate economic harm from the COVID-19 pandemic. Estimated distribution to Fremont County is \$7,673,940.

County Clerk Julie Freese reviewed a discussion held the previous week with Commissioner Jones, and recommended that the recipients of the Charitable Relief Fund be contacted to request an update on how they used the funding in Fremont County. She updated the Commissioners on the status of the regular CARES reimbursement to the County by stating only one reimbursement is outstanding and that being for Sheriff's Office wages. She referenced a recent letter from the Wyoming Secretary of State Edward Buchanan regarding the future of physical and cybersecurity for 2022 elections. She quoted "he was pleased to report that no security gaps were identified when reviewing County Clerk Freese's physical security of election-related supplies, materials and equipment. It was noted that Freese and the maintenance staff have put a lot of thought into creating a secure location to store the voting equipment, and there are solid policies and procedures in place that addresses topics such as maintenance, transportation, etc." The letter further denoted that Phase Two of continuing efforts to secure Wyoming's elections will be to work towards addressing cybersecurity issues and to work with all county clerks and with each county's IT manager in this off election year.

A Public Hearing was held at 9:30 a.m., as advertised, regarding Unanticipated Revenues. County Clerk Julie Freese and Financial Specialist Michelle Neuenschwander were present. There was nobody present in the audience. Clarence Thomas moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to approve Resolution No. 2021-07 "FY 2020-2021 Budget Amendment No. 8." Motion carried unanimously.

The Executive Health Insurance Committee had been requested to review a Colonial Life quote for coverage for air and ground ambulance benefits. Committee members Larry Allen and Margy Irvine stated the Committee was not in favor of the plan as quoted. In the meantime, the current air and ground ambulance contract with MASA is being reviewed and a recommendation will be made at the Commission's March meeting on renewing that plan for the benefit of County employees, along with a renewal Contract for Wellness benefits.

Chief Civil Deputy Attorney Jodi Darrough was present (via Zoom) to review a revised Ground Ambulance Service Provider Agreement. Carl Freeman, Dispatch Supervisor, was present and stated the Sheriff's

Office approved of additional wording relating to communication equipment. Darrough had listed several additional questions and they were reviewed. Chairman Becker recommended a Request for Proposal be the method used to solicit interest, and to allow companies to submit several proposals if they wished. A deadline of March 19, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. was set for receipt of RFP's.

County Clerk Julie Freese distributed the Commissioners' budget and Vice-Chairman Allen will prepare it again this fiscal year. He will also prepare the Ambulance budget. Freese stated an Operation Safeguard budget be prepared as well to cover all COVID-19 related expenses, at a suggested amount of \$25,000. She continues to track these expenses, including vaccines, in case additional CARES funding becomes available in the future. Over 90 letters were submitted to County employees, pursuant to IRS Notice 2020-54, who used COVID-19 qualified sick leave wages and or qualified family leave wages per the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act and noting the amount, which is also included on the W-2. She asked for direction on budgets for Social Services, as they were not funded last year. The Commission agreed to not solicit budgets from them again this year. The Finance Team will be meeting after the Commission adjourns this afternoon to review a new bill, SF0060, which relates to ad valorem taxation of mineral production. By law, she is required to present a budget picture to the Commission by May 15th. Commissioner Mike Jones suggested a workshop be held with Elected Officials & Department Heads prior to meeting with individual departments during budget hearings. Reserves have been used, revenues are low and everybody needs to understand the County's situation prior to submitting their budgets. A date of March 9th was selected to schedule a work session.

Wind River Inter-Tribal Council Transportation Director Howard Brown and Planner Winslow Friday and BIA Superintendent Leslie Shakespeare were present via Zoom to continue discussion on the Wind River Inter-Tribal Council's re-affirmation of Resolution No. 2020-11397 accepting the transfer of Trout Creek Road, Ethete Road, South Fork Road and North Fork Road from Fremont County inventory. Present in the audience was Assessor Tara Berg, Transportation Superintendent Billy Meeks, Planner Steve Baumann and County Title owner Kristin Paulsen. Commissioner Thomas stated these discussions have been going on for some time now, as the Commission has worked with two previous Tribal Council members and he expressed appreciation that the Tribes re-affirmed their interest in taking over the four roads into tribal inventory. It's always a good thing when the Tribes take an interest in government responsibility within the boundaries of the Wind River Indian Reservation. He did not feel the County would have the resources to maintain and/or improve these roads and has the ability to vacate the roads and turn them over to another governmental entity who can collect federal funding. This Reservation is unique in the fact there is deeded property within the boundary, and he recommended support of the proposal to transfer these roads to the tribal road inventory. Commissioner Jones agreed that the deeded land within the boundary of the WRIR creates issues which led him to have conversations with local lending institutions and title companies who all state there is no deviation that title insurance is not possible if access is not available from either a public or county road. This creates a major concern for him and the burden is on the Tribes to establish communication with title companies to work through this issue. Brown stated access is not an issue, the roads are public, and will remain so. He felt the conversation was creating more issues and their main priority is to make the roads safe for the traveling public. Paulsen noted her concerns with non-insurable access issues on the WRIR, and stated that if the Tribes would record easement document on tribal roads, they could then be used. Due to this fact, all title companies must look at tribal road access as non-insurable. Assessor Tara Berg noted several issues she has had through the years in getting access to deeded land, at one point needing a tribal escort across a tribal road to deeded property and her concern with market values on these properties with no recordable public access. Easements need to be recorded and documented or it affects the taxpayer. She stated the Tribal Realty Office is great to work with, but she cited one incident where an access issue ended up in the Billings Area Office and took almost two years to get the requested information. Chairman Becker asked if a joint venture with the Tribes would be a possibility and that more issues may be forthcoming than those discussed today. BIA Superintendent Shakespeare offered clarification and stated easements are recorded at the BIA Agency and individuals can make a request for the information by coming into their office. Information can be released if public; however, some property is tribal and allotted with different ownerships and right-of-way and that information may not be able to be released. Again Paulsen noted her agency cannot use that if it is proprietary information, either all information needs to be made available or it is not usable. Brown recommended another meeting be set with the Inter-Tribal Council and BIA to further discuss the concerns expressed today. Brown noted the Tribes list inventory under 25 CFR §§170.442. There was discussion that the Tribes could provide an easement of these roads and there was some confusion as to why the Tribes would have to give easements if the county didn't have to give these same easements. County Clerk Julie Freese noted that State Statute states county and state roads and highways but the Tribes are not included in statute in this way that's why she

believed they were being asked to provide easements of these roads. Chief Civil Deputy Jodi Darrough, also attending via Zoom, noted the tribal road process is different from county and that she would like a designation that tribal roads are public roads. Again, Chairman Becker stated more work is needed on this issue and would like to see continued discussion. Clarence Thomas moved, Mike Jones seconded, to table further discussion until a meeting can be scheduled with the Inter-Tribal Council members, BIA Superintendent and Commissioners to work through concerns. Motion carried unanimously. It was agreed that an agenda would be put together so that all topics would be detailed ahead of time.

Chairman Travis Becker and Commissioner Clarence Thomas were absent from the remainder of the meeting.

A work session was held with Fremont County legislators. Present in person were Representatives Andrea Clifford and Pepper Ottman, and via Zoom Senators Cale Case and Ed Cooper and Representatives Lloyd Larsen and Ember Oakley and County Attorney Patrick LeBrun. County Elected Officials also present in the audience were County Clerk Julie Freese, Assessor Tara Berg, Treasurer Jim Anderson and Coroner Mark Stratmoen. Senator Case stated nine days of the legislative session have been used up and that after a break, the session will resume the first week of March and most committee bills have received a hearing, with the budget remaining the most critical topic. Meeting statutory requirements was discussed on the county level. Various bills of importance to Fremont County were discussed: HB0050 – Local government distributions-revisions; SF0060 – Monthly ad valorem tax revisions (to be discussed later today by the Fremont County Finance Committee); HB0029 – Burials for indigent persons; HB0098 – Public health orders – reforms; HB038 – Community behavioral health – priority populations; HB0075 – Voter fraud – prevention; HB0089 – School finance amendments; HB0099 – Property tax increase limit; HB0014 – Property tax assessment (which also repeals provisions for the election of county assessors and providing for appointment of county assessors by the board of county commissioners); SF0008-Wind River Reservation law enforcement; SF0028 – Motor vehicles – security interest perfection; SF0030 - Pandemic response review task force; SF0031 – Hospitalization of mentally ill persons - amendments; SF0080 – Public health orders – local and legislative oversight; SF0081 – Second Amendment Preservation Act; SF0095 – Election of state health officer In closing, acting Chairman Allen thanked the legislators for meeting with Fremont County Elected Officials. The legislators invited the Elected Officials to contact them at any time with questions or concerns.

Mike Jones moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 3:10 p.m. and reconvene for a Regular Meeting on March 2, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

A full detailed report (for informational purposes only) and the official minutes are posted on Fremont County's website.

A work session was held at 3:30 p.m. with the Fremont County Finance Committee. Present was County Commissioner Larry Allen, Mike Jones and Jennifer McCarty, County Assessor Tara Berg, County Treasurer Jim Anderson and interim Deputy Scott Harnsberger, County Clerk Julie Freese and Deputy Margy Irvine and Financial Specialist Michelle Neuenschwander. The main topic was the impacts of SF0060 – Monthly ad valorem tax revisions. Senator Case had reviewed the bill earlier in the meeting. The bill specifies that the monthly payment of ad valorem taxation begins January 1, 2022; providing for the payment of ad valorem taxes from calendar years 2020 and 2021; repealing an existing ad valorem tax payment transition period; providing for loans to counties; and providing an appropriation. This bill repeals HB0159 – Monthly payment of ad valorem tax on mineral production passed during the 2020 Budget Session and institutes a monthly ad valorem taxation on January 1, 2022. Further, the bill requires an additional eight percent payment beginning December 1, 2023 until the outstanding balance is paid. The legislation requires no additional legislative action, but may, at least initially, have an impact on county finances. Assessor Berg and Treasurer Anderson each submitted spreadsheets noting the impact initially on Fremont County. The monthly tax is for production taxes. Discussion was held regarding the difficulty of getting accurate budget figures as well as the impact to many small special districts and several off-line boards initially. The work session adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

/s/ TRAVIS BECKER, CHAIRMAN
FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

/s/ JULIE A. FREESE, FREMONT COUNTY CLERK AND CLERK OF THE BOARD