

STATE OF WYOMING)
) ss.
COUNTY OF FREMONT)

LANDER, WYOMING
OFFICE OF THE FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
NOVEMBER 17, 2020

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 Michael Jones. Fremont County Clerk Julie A. Freese was present.

Jennifer McCarty moved, Mike Jones seconded, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Jennifer McCarty moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on November 10, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Jennifer McCarty moved, Mike Jones seconded, to accept the bills for payment. Motion carried unanimously.

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
71 Construction	1% Infrastructure Projects	Materials	\$61,619.40
A & I Distributors	Vehicle Maintenance	Oil/Fluids	\$1,262.31
Ace Hardware-Riverton	County Buildings	Materials/Supplies	\$68.27
Amerigas	County Buildings	Utilities	\$236.26
Anda Inc	Public Health	Vaccines	\$7,757.53
Bank of the West	Segregated	Credit Card Purchases	\$38,619.71
Bill Jones Plumbing & Heating	County Buildings	Supplies	\$454.52
Bradford Supply Co	County Buildings	Supplies	\$10.07
Burback's Refrigeration	PHEP Covid Response	Kelvinator Refrigerators	\$5,425.00
Carquest Auto Parts	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts / Supplies	\$4.11
Centurylink	Computer Services	Telephone / Internet	\$1,968.15
Charter Communications	Computer Services	Internet Services	\$224.98
Eagle Uniform & Supply Co	Vehicle Maintenance	Laundry	\$78.52
Edwards Communications	Operation Safeguard	Radio Advertising Early Voting	\$609.00
Floyd's Truck Center WY	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts	\$165.15
Fremont Broadcasting	Segregated	Advertising Radio	\$2,424.00
Fremont Counseling-Lander	Health & Welfare	Title 25	\$7,350.00
Fremont County Solid Waste	County Buildings	Dump Fees	\$306.80
Grainger	County Buildings	Materials/Supplies	\$132.20
High Country Construction Inc	Willow Creek	Willow Creek Road	\$356,266.94
Lander Medical Clinic PC	PHEP Covid Response	October Covid Testing	\$12,450.00
Lander Valley Auto Parts	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts/ Supplies	\$32.74
Morcom Broadcasting JackFM KTUG	Operation Safeguard	Radio Advertising Early Voting	\$238.00
Napa Auto Parts-Riverton	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts & Supplies	\$2,857.19
NMS Laboratories	County Coroner	Toxicology Services	\$140.00
Norco Inc	Segregated	Supplies	\$4,909.05
Novo Benefits	Health Benefit Plan	Insurance Services	\$4,961.51
Oakley, Gerald R.	County Elections	Reimbursement	\$100.00
Office Shop Inc, The	Computer Services	Copier Lease	\$1,376.00
Pavillion, Town of	County Buildings	Water Utilities	\$112.50
Peterbilt of Wyoming	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts	\$672.73
Pioneer Pharmacy LLC	PHEP Covid Response	Covid Tests	\$2,250.00
Quick Set Auto Glass	Vehicle Maintenance	Windshields, Repairs	\$280.00
Quill Corporation	County Attorney	Office Supplies	\$346.96
Rapid Fire Protection, Inc	County Buildings	Fire Sprinklers Inspection	\$1,100.00
Riverton Ranger, Inc	Segregated	Advertising	\$4,698.68
Rocky Mountain Power	County Buildings	Utilities	\$1,467.61
SDI Construction	Transportation	Building Repair	\$1,175.00
Shultz, Kevin	County Elections	Reimbursement	\$86.40
Sweetwater Aire LLC	County Buildings	Repair / Maintenance	\$1,374.11
Teton Pathology PC	County Coroner	Pathology	\$150.00
Traveling Computers	Computer Services	Computer Supplies, Services	\$381.66
Traveling Computers	Operation Safeguard	Conference System	\$23,351.76
T-Y Excavation Inc	Transportation	Road Maintenance	\$6,093.00
Verizon Wireless	Segregated	Wireless Telephone	\$408.53
West Payment Center	District Court	Library Plan	\$73.22
Winsupply of Riverton	County Buildings	Materials/Supplies	\$224.26
WY Dept of Health	Health Nurse	1st Qtr Payroll	\$35,396.94
WY Public Health Laboratory	Public Health	Lab Fees/Supplies	\$304.00

County Commissioner Minutes
November 17, 2020

Wyoming Behavioral Institute	Health & Welfare	Title 25	\$9,802.00
Wyoming Machinery Co	Segregated	Parts & Service	\$12,728.07
Wyoming State Bar	County Attorney	Annual Licenses	\$2,372.50

The following items in the Signature File were reviewed: 1) Sympathy Card; and 2) Record of Proceedings. Jennifer McCarty moved, Mike Jones seconded, to approve Resolution No. 2020-26 "Imposing an Excise Tax upon Retail Sales of Tangible Personal Property, Admissions and Services within Fremont County for Economic Development." Motion carried unanimously. Jennifer McCarty moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to approve Application/Permits to Construct Access Driveway from Nick & Megan Brazil for East Pavillion Road; Brad DeSelmes for Squaw Creek Court and Scott MacNaughton for Squaw Creek Road. Motion carried unanimously.

Invoice No. 1 from Y2 Consultants for work on the updated Fremont County Natural Resource Plan was discussed, for a total of \$1,423.00 of the budget of \$50,000. Clarence Thomas moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to submit the invoice to the Governor's Office for payment under the Federal Natural Resource Policy Account. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Becker stated that following last week's meeting, he polled fellow Commissioners to relay Fremont County Fire Warden Craig Haslam's recommendation to lift the fire restrictions that were put in place earlier in the year. Larry Allen moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to ratify their decision to lift the fire restrictions, effective November 12, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

There was nobody present for the public comment period.

County Clerk Julie Freese updated the Commission on submission of a new application for CARES funding. The total amount is \$328,434 and includes 1) Generator; 2) Connex Container; 3) Library Health and Safety items; 4) Library Collection items; 5) Library Technology; 6) Sheriff X-Ray equipment; 7) Sheriff laptops; 8) Video Networking Systems. Jennifer McCarty moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to approve Resolution No. 2020-25 for the CARES funding application. Motion carried unanimously. Freese stated two applications have already been submitted, one for \$106,000 for PPE's and remodeling and \$3.3 million for Sheriff Deputy Salaries.

County Clerk Julie Freese presented a preliminary budget hearing for Budget Transfers related to the Harris Bridge project. The information will be advertised and the public hearing held the following meeting.

Transportation Superintendent Billy Meeks presented Amendment No. 2 to the Agreement with DOWL, LLC for an additional \$5,000 to complete the Moneta-Lysite Road Shoulder Widening Project. Larry Allen moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to approve Amendment No. 2. Motion carried unanimously. Meeks stated there are two cattle guards that need replaced as they were improperly installed but noted there is adequate money in retainage to complete that project. In another matter, a DOWL, LLC Change Order No. 1 with High Country Construction was submitted regarding the Willow Creek Road Shoulder Repair project. The Change Order represents a \$79,989.45 deduct for project quantity underruns, making the final contract price \$1,191,007.04. Larry Allen moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to approve Change Order No. 1 as presented. Motion carried unanimously. In closing, Meeks stated the project went very smoothly with good working relationships with contractor and engineer.

Larry Allen moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to adjourn into Executive Session with Transportation Superintendent Billy Meeks and Administrative Secretary Jill Johnson regarding personnel. Motion carried unanimously. Larry Allen moved, Mike Jones seconded, to return to Regular Session. Motion carried unanimously.

The 2021 holiday schedule was reviewed, with the dates set as per policy. IT Supervisor Kevin Shultz had earlier informed the Board of the need to do computer upgrades on a work day, where computers would be inaccessible for at least five hours. As business cannot be conducted without the use of computers in the two offices that would be affected by the upgrades (County Clerk and County Treasurer), discussion occurred on trading the Good Friday Holiday (April 2) with Martin Luther King Jr Day (January 18) for 2021, whereby upgrades could be scheduled for the January 18th holiday, which is a work day for the company. It was noted that the banking institutions would all be closed on Martin Luther King Day as well, which works well with a Courthouse closure. Larry Allen moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to approve Resolution No. 2020-23 "Adopting Holiday Closures and Other Closures for 2021. Motion carried

unanimously. 2021 Holidays will be: New Year's Day (January 1); Martin Luther King Day (January 18); President's Day (February 15); Memorial Day (May 31); Independence Day Holiday (July 5); Labor Day (September 6); Veterans Day (November 11); Thanksgiving Day and following Friday (November 25-26); and Christmas Day Eve (December 24)., and set Columbus Day (October 11) as having the Courthouse closed to the public for an in-house training and cleaning day, with other County offices open for business as usual. The Commission meeting schedule for 2021 was reviewed as well. Larry Allen moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to approve the 2021 Commissioner Meeting Schedule. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner meeting reports and concerns were given:

Commissioner Mike Jones attended the Fremont County Solid Waste Disposal District Board monthly meeting where long term planning continues.

Vice-Chairman Larry Allen attended the monthly Fair Board meeting. The planning session has taken place and the carnival will be held two weeks prior to the Fremont County Fair, on the Riverton Rendezvous weekend. Discussion was also held at the meeting regarding the Rodeo Committee and their funding efforts.

Chairman Travis Becker expressed appreciation to County Clerk Julie Freese for all her work on the CARES funding applications. He participated in a Wyoming County Commissioners Association conference call where they were informed the Governor's Office has implemented a new marketing strategy to stay safe and encourage mask wearing. Chairman Becker stated this is the same message that Fremont County has been sending since the beginning of March. The Wyoming Taxpayers Association wants WCCA support on a \$.09 per gallon fuel tax increase, to which WCCA declined.

The Commissioners reviewed Chief Civil Deputy Attorney Jodi Darrough's opinion regarding relinquishing roads to the tribes, and associated procedure to do such if the Commissioners wished. Commissioner Thomas referenced comments received from a gentlemen the proceeding meeting regarding his concerns with maintenance on Urbigkeit Road, which Thomas stated was a gravel road and not relevant to the four County roads being discussed (Trout Creek, Ethete, North and South Fork Roads) which are all paved roads. He again referenced the importance of government to government relations for these roads that are within the boundaries of the Wind River Indian Reservation. He cited lack of County maintenance on Trout Creek Road as well as earlier cited concerns that the Tribes could close the roads to the general public, which he stated would not happen, the only time roads are closed is when there is an accident on it and public has to be detoured. He further supported the Wind River Inter Tribal Council Department of Transportation's request for a letter of support to accompany an application for a Federal Lands access Program planning grant. He concluded by stating that if the County decides to keep the Roads in their inventory, he wants them improved immediately. Vice-Chairman Allen still has concerns, citing 17 Mile Road and the cooperative efforts on that road, with the County relinquishing their ownership but nothing to date that has officially happened. If these roads are relinquished to the tribes, how long will it take to legally change the ownership, and what happens in the meantime? He still feels the Dickinson Park Road closure is a concern and Commissioner Thomas reiterated it is only closed at the end of the pavement once the gravel road starts. Commissioner McCarty was in agreement with Commissioner Allen's comments, and further stated she would be comfortable if a reverted back to the County would be possible in case federal funding for the road improvements is not awarded as anticipated. Commissioner Jones questioned if a MOU would suffice and still have the tribes be eligible for federal funding, to which Commissioner Thomas stated no. Chairman Becker stated the Transportation Superintendent has figures for upgrades on the roads, totaling millions of dollars for each. With the County's budget, it is not possible to completely rebuild these, or any other county roads, for that matter. He further wanted confirmation that the newly elected council members are agreeable with proceeding to take the four roads into tribal inventory. Clarence Thomas moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to have the County Transportation Superintendent meet with the WRITC Transportation Department and confirm the WRITC is still interested in pursuing taking the four roads into tribal inventory. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Thomas discussed the possible need to change policy regarding procedures within the Courthouse in lieu of the spike of COVID-19 cases in the County. This could be possible office closures, temperature checks or mask mandates. He noted the Courts are still under a mandate to keep their doors closed. Other Elected Officials were present in the audience and spoke. Assessor Tara Berg stated that the screens put in place at the counters protect employees much better, and that it would require a person to be located at entry doors to perform the checks. She felt a lot of the general public are already wearing masks and stressed her opposition to closing the doors to the public again. As it is with the Court's being

closed to the public, her Office gets a lot of inquiries from people trying to get to the Courts. Clerk of District Court Kristi Green stated Circuit Court is not open to the public; however, her office has always been open but she meets people at the door who need to conduct business with her office, and that her staff is wearing masks as requested by Judge Conder. If they shut down, it would have an effect on other offices such as District Court. Sheriff Lee stated his patrol deputies are mandated to wear masks due to the nature of their work, the Riverton Circuit Court requires mandatory mask wearing and temperature checks, and he does not feel there has been any pushbacks there or in Lander. In the Detention Center, he currently has four deputies out and one Patrol Deputy. County Clerk Julie Freese has had several employees quarantined, but they were exposed outside of the office in all cases. Their work load is currently two months behind, revenue is at an all-time high (\$60,000 this month) which means a very high work load for staff. The Election early voting in the Courthouse had 400 people on its highest day, and voters were required (in some vote centers) to wear masks and social distance. The curb side service offered at the vote centers put those election judges (mostly county employees) at risk. She spoke against a mandate on masks, she felt most of the customers are being responsible and they are taking precautions to sanitize properly. Coroner Mark Stratmoen's written comments were referenced as stating "people may not have temperatures or symptoms" to temperature checks are not the answer. Vice-Chairman Allen felt there was already proper signage in place and that masks should be recommended but not mandatory. He also felt there were other avenues to do business with many of the offices (phone, mail, etc.). Commissioner McCarty was not in favor of a mandate either, she felt people were doing a good job and there are a lot of proactive things being done in the Courthouse. Commissioner Jones felt it was not a big deal to ask people to wear masks and adhere to social distancing, the earlier rule that only 10 people were allowed in the Courthouse at one time will obviously not work in winter months, and people cannot stand outside in inclement weather waiting their turn to enter. He felt that masks sets leadership for the County, when in the building, especially where social distancing is difficult in smaller offices. Chairman Becker felt it is a personal responsibility and did not favor a mask mandate. The Courts operate under the Supreme Court and are under a complete different set of rules. He further felt the new video equipment will help people attend meetings virtually. Chief Civil Deputy Attorney Jodi Darrough spoke on behalf of County Attorney LeBrun who stated he is comfortable in going along with whatever is decided. In closing, it was determined that the Courthouse will remain status quo with no mask mandate.

A Public Hearing was held at 10:30 a.m., as advertised, ending the 45 day comment period on the draft County Small Wastewater Regulations. Planning Supervisor Steve Baumann and Small Wastewater technician Marcel Lopez reviewed the proposed changes and noted there had been no comments received to date. In addition to the legal advertising process, Lopez sent the revisions to over 100 business owners who may be impacted. Polly Hinds was present in the audience and asked for clarification on grey water usage as well as an easier way to access the Regulations. Larry Allen moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to approve the amended County Small Wastewater Regulations. Motion carried unanimously.

Douglas L. Thompson was present to continue the process needed by Y2 Consultants for updating the Fremont County Land Use Plan. A Steering Committee needs to be formed whose role is to review the current document and assist heavily in the development of objectives and priority statements for the updated document to be called the Natural Resource Management Plan. He stressed that the final authority to approve the Plan lies with the County Commission. Larry Allen moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to appoint the following seven members: Michael Jones; Douglas L. Thompson, Jason Wilson, Reg Phillips, Gary Horton, Arlen Lancaster and Jim Allen. Motion carried unanimously. A historical perspective and experience dealing with a planning process is important and several members have that to bring to the table. The final document will empower the County to protect their tax base and use the natural resources for the benefit of its citizens. It is a useful tool in the Federal Planning Process and Thompson hopes it will be further useful in State planning efforts. A letter of appointment will be sent to the new members and then Y2 will work with them to set up meetings, once per month, which will go through August or September of 2021.

Larry Allen moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to adjourn into Executive Session with Planning Department Supervisor Steve Baumann regarding personnel. Motion carried unanimously. Following the session with Baumann, the Board stayed in Executive Session for another personnel matter. Larry Allen moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to return to Regular Session. Motion carried unanimously.

County Clerk Julie Freese stated she will offer a full report in the near future regarding the vote centers used for the primary and general election. She stated Election staff are still inputting new voter registration cards. She will survey the legislators to see what works for them for the annual meeting with the Commissioners prior to the legislative session next year.

Larry Allen moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 p.m. and reconvene for a Regular Meeting on November 24, 2020. Motion carried unanimously

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

/s/ TRAVIS BECKER, CHAIRMAN
FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

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