

STATE OF WYOMING)
) ss.
COUNTY OF FREMONT)

LANDER, WYOMING
OFFICE OF THE FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 13, 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, Larry Allen, Jennifer McCarty, Clarence Thomas and Mike Jones. County Clerk Julie A. Freese was present.

Larry Allen moved, Clarence Thomas 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 April 6, 2021. 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>
A & I Distributors	Vehicle Maintenance	Oil/Fluids	\$2,191.78
AlSCO Inc	County Buildings	Laundry	\$220.96
Bank of the West	Segregated	Credit Card Purchases	\$42,334.86
Big Horn Water	Youth Services	Water Bottles	\$121.40
Bowdel Steven P.	Detention Center	Medical Services	\$2,750.00
Carquest Auto Parts	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts & Supplies	\$42.12
Charter Communications	Computer Services	Internet Services	\$114.98
Communication Technologies Inc	Support Services	Maintenance Agreement	\$2,961.87
Dubois Telephone Exchange	Segregated	Telephone Services	\$705.72
Edwards Communications	Prevention Program	Radio Advertising	\$1,758.00
ESRI	Segregated	ARC GIS Maintenance	\$10,600.00
Fremont Broadcasting	Prevention Program	Radio Advertising	\$1,980.00
Fremont Chevrolet GMC	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts & Supplies	\$607.62
Fremont Motors - Lander	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts & Supplies	\$578.30
Fremont Movers Inc	Youth Services	Contract Services	\$310.00
John Deere Financial	Transportation	Materials & Supplies	\$19.99
Lander, City of	County Buildings	Water & Sewer	\$2,312.77
Lawson Products, Inc	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts & Supplies	\$197.15
Leonard, Anthony G.	Detention Center	Inmate Medical Services	\$687.50
Napa Auto Parts-Riverton	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts & Supplies	\$2,773.12
Natrona County Attorney	Health & Welfare	Title 25 Services	\$4,425.00
Norco Inc	County Buildings	Supplies	\$5,459.89
Office Shop Inc, The	Agriculture Department	Copy Repair & Service	\$32.24
R T Communications	Segregated	Telephone Services	\$542.06
RELX, Inc.	County Attorney	Research Subscription	\$625.00
Riverton Ranger, Inc	Support Services	Advertising	\$2,420.85
Sylvestri Customization	Prevention Program	Graphic Design & Social Media	\$700.00
Verizon Wireless	Segregated	Telephone Services	\$995.51
W C & P A A	County Attorney	Membership Dues	\$700.00
Western Printing, Inc	County Assessor	Printed Supplies	\$242.29
Wyoming Dept of Transportation	Segregated	Fuel	\$1,681.39
Wyoming Machinery Co	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts & Supplies	\$4,972.57
Wyoming Waste Systems	County Buildings	Trash Removal	\$2,833.36

The following items in the Signature File were reviewed: 1) Abatement Summary cover page; and 2) Record of Proceedings. Larry Allen moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to approve a Fremont County Bank of the West Credit Card Application for Brett Johnson with a credit limit of \$2,500. Motion carried unanimously. Larry Allen moved, Mike Jones seconded, to approve a Right of Way Easement for High Plains Power, Inc. on Lost Wells Butte Drive. Motion carried unanimously. Larry Allen moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to approve a Conflict of Interest Policy for Martha Petersdorf Hospital Trust. Motion carried unanimously. Jennifer McCarty moved, Larry Allen seconded, to approve the 2021 Distribution of \$18,000 in Petersdorf Hospital Trust income as follows: \$9,000 (50%) to the REACH Foundation for further distribution to the Riverton Senior Citizens, Inc., Sepiternal Society, Inc., Fremont County Hospice and other such institutions or organizations providing medical services or benefits and comforts for older people not otherwise available in the Riverton area as determined by the REACH Foundation; \$6,480.00 (36%) to the Lander Senior Citizens Center; \$1,080.00 (6%) to the High Country Senior Citizens Center; and \$1,440.00 (8%) to the Shoshoni Senior Citizens Center. Motion carried unanimously.

Assistant Mayor Rajean Fossen was present to represent the City of Lander as well as the Healthy Rivers Initiative, and to specifically discuss the Lander Greenway Project that traverses through County property along the Popo Agie River. Annual work on beaver dams is needed and, in conjunction with Game and Fish, the recommendation is to protect trees with beaver-proof fencing with Game and Fish volunteers. The Commissioners gave their approval to access County land for the project but asked that adjoining landowners below the project be apprised of the work. In another issue, she gave an update on the 205 Army Corps of Engineers Study which contains the preferred alternative to build a flood wall at City Park. 2018 costs were \$8 million and would require a 40% match. She is waiting on a final ruling on whether another federal agency (FEMA) could help with the match.

Commissioner meeting reports were given:

Commissioner Clarence Thomas has been working with Treatment Court Director Melinda Cox to find other collaborative grants for her programs.

Vice-Chairman Larry Allen met with Fair Director and Board Chairman regarding a potential land swap with an adjoining landowner. He then attended the monthly Fair Board meeting last Thursday where Board members were in agreement with the land swap. Commissioner Jones and himself conducted four interviews for the Emergency Management Coordinator and will discuss further later in the meeting.

Commissioner Jennifer McCarty attended the Fremont County Library Board meeting where they held their budget hearing to transfer \$158,500 to the Library Endowment Fund and are continuing work on their budget. She attended the Weed and Pest Control District monthly meeting and they are taking applications for summer employees, and getting their programs up and running.

Commissioner Mike Jones stated the Building Maintenance Department has been experiencing some maintenance issues with a fan on the Riverton Ambulance Station. The contractor that is installing the computer component for the Detention Facility Upgrade project is two weeks behind but expected to start May 3rd. In a related matter, the Building Maintenance Supervisor J.R. Oakley is budgeting for training on the Brinks doors to become certified. The overall Maintenance Department budget is expected to be \$70,000 over due to the remodeling projects that occurred in Riverton. A detailed report of the expenses will be provided to the Board for their information. Oakley currently serves on the Wyoming Association of Risk Management (WARM) board of directors and his term will be expiring if anyone is interested in seeking a term on that board.

Chairman Travis Becker has been working with Transportation Superintendent Billy Meeks on the budget and developing priorities. He spoke with the Wyoming County Commissioners Association regarding the Wyoming Department of Family Services notice of Emergency Rental Assistance Program Application Assistance Grants. He requested the grants be administered directly by local DFS agencies.

Chief Civil Deputy Attorney Jodi Darrough reviewed the County Health Officer Contract with the State. The Commission asked her to let the State know that at this time there is no interest in the position but want to keep it active in case an applicant expresses interest.

County Clerk Julie Freese stated she has joined the Legislative Committee through the Election Center and noted Wyoming appears to be behind in some election methods. If this bill passes there will be significant changes to Wyoming election laws. Some Wyoming counties will be piloting the new Voter ID to Vote bill recently passed in the Wyoming legislature which will require the voters to present a photo ID prior to voting so the Clerks are working on procedures which will need to be drafted prior to final rules being implemented.

Sheriff Ryan Lee and Detention Lt. Rick Filman were present for a monthly update. Detention: March bookings were 91, current inmate population is 169 in-house and 171 in custody. One adult is out-of-county at the State Hospital. Sentencing demographics total 46 sentenced and 121 pre-adjudicated. The overall Detention budget is staying under budget, he referenced Medical Services in particular that is under and stated they meticulously screen all bills and have denied \$186,000 so far this fiscal year. He feels COVID played a large part in keeping under budget as number of incarcerations were lower during this time period. Revenues in this budget has hit their estimated amount of \$147,000 and unanticipated revenues continue. Chairman Becker wanted to clarify that all revenue from tickets goes directly to the State, and Sheriff Lee stated revenue consists of paper service, VIN inspections, Forest Service contracts, grants, housing prisoners on hold for the US Marshall's Office, etc. There is currently one nurse and one

Deputy Sheriff on conditional offer, with a vacancy for a cook and another deputy. The 24/7 home detention program is non-operational at this time and looking at partnering with another agency for staffing. Communications: Currently down three positions and recruiting is ongoing. No issues with the budget at this time and this is National Public Safety Telecommunications Week and he expressed appreciation to them for their valuable service on a daily basis. Patrol/Enforcement: Conditional offers exits for two Deputies, one each in Lander and Riverton. The budget has no issues. There have been 1,800 calls for service this calendar year. Search and Rescue: 35 missions this fiscal year (compared to 26 last fiscal year). Of these, air resources were used eight times. Four of the missions were fatal incidents. Reimbursements through the Wyoming Search and Rescue Council will be invoiced for \$3,500. Air resources costs were either billed to the patient or submitted by Sublette County who provides the air resources. Commissioner Thomas stated there is funding available for drones and will forward to Sheriff Lee for reference, to which he stated federal agencies have this capability already. In closing, Chairman Becker asked Sheriff Lee to consider presenting ALICE training for county employees again as the last training was several years ago.

County Coroner Mark Stratmoen presented the 2021 First Quarter Summary indicating 75 recorded deaths of which 43% were Coroner cases (32). There was one more case for this time period than in 2020. So far for this quarter, the total number of cases "non-natural" in manner are at 43% (14) versus 32% (10) in the prior year. Of those, the number of accidental deaths is 11 (7 more than 2020); deaths by suicide is 1, four less than 2020; deaths by homicide is 1 (the same for 2020); motor vehicle/traffic deaths have had five (five more than 2020 for the same quarter). There are currently two pending cases. Drugs and Alcohol related deaths in this first quarter account for 38% of the Coroner cases (up significantly from 2020 (19%). Eight of the 14 non-natural deaths involved drugs or alcohol (57%) but noted that six cases are still pending toxicology or autopsy results. This is significantly more than the same period in 2020 (four of 10 non-natural deaths involved drugs or alcohol (40%). Trends: total case numbers at this point are generally the same as they were for the same period in 2020; however, the percentage of non-natural cases is much larger. Accidental deaths have spiked, with almost half being motor vehicle related (compared to no motor vehicle deaths for the same period in 2020). Drug and alcohol related deaths are also trending upwards. The one COVID-19 related case from January remains the only case of that type this year so far. Stratmoen stated Enrolled Act No. 21 "Indigent Burials" has been signed by the Governor to be effective July 1st. This will include a Vital Records fee of \$5.00 to each death certificate copy which will go into a specific fund and the county can annually apply for reimbursement of indigent expenses from the fund for \$1,500 for each case. It was noted that the county's costs have been minimal for the last several years, and the availability of the cemetery at the Wyoming Life Resource Center for indigent burial plots is a cost savings. The current policy will not need changed due to the new legislation but will be another source for reimbursement. He stated a direct burial option is available to families which is cost effective and does not require the services of a funeral home. In closing, he stated last month FEMA began assistance for COVID related deaths and the Coroner's Association is aware of it.

Commissioner Mike Jones updated the Board on the recent CDC and FDA decision to pause the use of the Johnson & Johnson COVID vaccine. The other two vaccines are still available and Commissioner Thomas noted that Indian Health Services is also giving the vaccine to interested individuals.

County Clerk Julie Freese asked if there was any more information on the American Rescue Plan and related rules and regulations to which discussion indicated something should be coming in the very near future. She stated the COVID FMLA paid time off has been extended. Michelle Neuenschwander is interested in taking grant writing classes and Julie has signed her up for a training for \$595.

Transportation Superintendent Billy Meeks and HDR Engineer Kyle Lehto presented several documents regarding the Harris Bridge Road Structure Replacement Project. Lehto stated the only outstanding invoice is from CenturyLink and the advertising for final payment will end April 16th. Larry Allen moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to approve Certificate of Final Completion with CC&G, Inc. Motion carried unanimously. Larry Allen moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to approve the Warranty with CC & G. Motion carried unanimously. Larry Allen moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded to approve Contractor's Application for Final Payment with a retainage of \$5,000 for the outstanding CenturyLink invoice. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Becker and Meeks stated the project looks great and provides additional safety for the area.

Billy Meeks relayed a request from BTI to use Lyons Valley Road until the construction work at the intersection of Highway 287 and Highway 28 in Lander is completed (approximately two weeks).

Discussion was held and concerns expressed; however, the Commission cannot regulate usage on Lyons Valley Road but asked them to reconsider using the Road and remain on the state highway.

Transportation Department Administrative Secretary Jill Johnson joined Billy Meeks to distribute a binder containing every County Maintained Road and its' maintenance records since 2012. She will continue to update and noted that records will be more specialized (example: blading occurred on all area roads will now be detailed per individual road). She also has the information available electronically for those wishing to access that way. The Board thanked her for taking on the project and compiling the information for easy reference.

Discussion was held on the upcoming meeting with the Wind River Intertribal Council and their transportation department, as well as with BIA Superintendent Leslie Shakespeare, to continue discussion on the WRITC Resolution to take Ethete, North Fork, South Fork and Trout Creek Roads into tribal inventory. Present in the audience was Transportation Superintendent Billy Meeks, Administrative Secretary Jill Johnson, Assessor Tara Berg and former WRITC chairman Clinton Wagon. Commissioner Jones had compiled a list of talking points for the meeting: 1) Title insurance concern; 2) Public record accessibility for land ownership; 3) Records of BIA roads and history; 4) concerns expressed by landowners; and 5) possibility of the county improving the roads via federal dollar availability. Commissioner Thomas suggested another topic be added to include discussion on federal dollar availability and agreement between the two tribes on how the funds would be allocated. He suggested a collaborative effort between the WRITC and the County to look into federal dollars to improve the roads. He reviewed the Commission's continued concern that 17 Mile Road still has not been transferred from the BIA to the Tribes and further expressed appreciation that the government to government meeting would happen the next day as planned. Chairman Becker stated he would be unable to attend the meeting the following day due to personal issues; however, stated that he is not in favor of vacating these four County roads, but he is interested in a collaborative effort to work together. He noted that conversation with tribal government needs to continue on a routine basis and apologized this has been lacking in the past, and further noted that the Transportation Department has budgeted \$200,000 for traffic studies on these four roads. Clinton Wagon introduced himself and gave a history of his time on the WRITC most recently as Chair, and stated their concern that began the discussion was that the County is low on maintenance funding and the tribes could access federal funding if the roads were in their inventory. The whole issue is safety and maintenance on the roads. Vice-Chairman Allen suggested that discussion regarding ambulance concerns also be addressed if possible.

Senator Cale Case joined the meeting and reviewed the recent legislative session. He reported the Local Government funding was restored to the Governor's budget, education funding bill (HB 173) did not reach an agreement and Air Ambulance Service (HB 7) was approved to re-establish memberships. Vice-Chairman Allen expressed concern with air ambulance providers and discussion was held on forming a county-wide health care district. Commissioner Jones, County representative on the Fremont County Association of Government, stated similar discussion has occurred with them and the mayors are open to exploring other possibilities to ensure the County has ambulance service. County Clerk Freese reiterated to Senator Case that the entity calling themselves the Riverton Hospital District is not a statutorily formed District at this time. The Board thanked Senator Case for his update and everyone expressed appreciation for the opportunity for open dialog.

County Clerk Julie Freese and Financial Specialist Michelle Neuenschwander reviewed two Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Community Partnership Initiative (CPI) Grant applications that had been received by the advertised deadline of 5:00 pm the previous day. Fremont County has to approve submission of one or both of the applications to the Department of Family Services for their review and funding. Application #1 was from Greater Wyoming Big Brothers Big Sisters for a requested amount of \$24,255 and Application #2 was from Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Wyoming – Riverton Branch for a requested amount of \$11,000. The Commissioners reviewed both application to see if they met the guidelines for submission: Ensure community wide collaboration in planning and implementation efforts; Award TANF funding based on data-driven, community based decision making; Implement and evaluate effective, research based programs and strategies; Provide services that will assist families in moving toward self-sufficiency; and Enhance sustainability of community efforts beyond the funding period. Clarence Thomas moved, Larry Allen seconded, to approve submission of both grants to the State of Wyoming recommending funding of the programs as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

Jennifer McCarty moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to adjourn into Executive Session with Chief Civil Deputy Jodi Darrough for potential property acquisition, personnel and potential litigation. Motion

carried unanimously. Mike Jones moved, Larry Allen seconded, to return to Regular Session. Motion carried unanimously.

Larry Allen moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to promote Vonda Huish as the Fremont County Emergency Management Coordinator, effective this date, at an annual salary of \$60,000. Motion carried unanimously. The Board will recommend she wait on hiring an assistant until discussion at her upcoming budget hearing.

There being no further business, Larry Allen moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 p.m. and reconvene for a Regular Meeting on April 20, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

A full detailed re/port (informational only) and the official minutes are posted on Fremont County's website (www.fremontcountywy.gov). The meeting can also be accessed via You Tube (Fremont County WY Government).

/s/ TRAVIS BECKER, CHAIRMAN
FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

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