

STATE OF WYOMING )  
 ) ss.  
COUNTY OF FREMONT )

LANDER, WYOMING  
OFFICE OF THE FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
JUNE 2, 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. Chief Civil Deputy Attorney Jodi Darrough was present via speaker phone. Fremont County Clerk Julie A. Freese was present.

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

Larry Allen moved, Mike Jones seconded, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held May 19, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Jennifer McCarty moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to accept the bills for payment. Motion carried unanimously.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
7th District Court	Payroll	Child Support	\$360.28
A & I Distributors	Vehicle Maintenance	Oil/Fluids	\$1,126.65
A. D. Martin Lumber CO	Transportation	Materials/Supplies	\$3.49
Ace Hardware-Lander	Segregated	Materials/Supplies	\$744.39
American Family & Life Ins.	Segregated	Insurance	\$7,839.01
Ameritech Equipment Co.	Operation Safeguard	Sanitize Buildings	\$24,089.20
B & B Enterprises LLC	Transportation	Signs & Supplies	\$170.00
Bailey Enterprises, Inc	Transportation	Vehicle Fuel	\$1,351.43
Bank of the West	Operation Safeguard	Credit Card Charges	\$1,003.94
Becker, Josiah	Fremont County WIC	Expense Reimbursement	\$16.40
Black Hills Energy	County Buildings	Utility Service	\$4,092.67
Blue Cross Blue Shield of WY	Co Admin	Health Insurance Claims	\$265,122.60
Charter Communications	Detention Center	Services	\$215.68
Child Support Services/ORS	Payroll	Child Support	\$564.00
Colonial Life & Accident Insurance	Segregated	Insurance	\$165.22
Darktrace Limited	Computer Services	Services	\$5,000.00
Denevan, Danny L.	1% Gravel Projects	Contract Services	\$2,805.00
Dubois Frontier, The	Segregated	Advertising	\$230.20
Dubois Telephone Exchange	Segregated	Service	\$680.60
E Spear Ranch	1% Gravel Projects	Contract Services	\$4,730.00
Floyd's Truck Center WY	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts	\$110.48
Frank, Darby	Operation Safeguard	Incident Command Mileage	\$66.40
Fremont County Solid Waste	Segregated	Dump Fees	\$700.00
Fremont County Treasurer	Co Admin	Health Insurance	\$345,072.00
Fremont County Treasurer	Co Admin	Withholding/FICA	\$197,670.66
Fremont County Treasurer	Co Admin	Section 125 Benefits	\$44,518.43
Gee, Brian	County Health Officer	County Health Officer	\$1,400.00
Grainger	County Buildings	Materials/Supplies	\$33.20
Great West Trust	Segregated	Wyoming Benefits	\$7,210.00
HDR Engineering Inc	Transportation	Engineering Services	\$26,203.29
Healthsmart Benefit Solutions	Segregated	Insurance	\$1,008.00
Jace Water Service Inc	1% Gravel Projects	Contract Services	\$3,135.00
Kisling, Lisa	Public Defender	Rent	\$450.00
Klaproth, William C	Attorney	Witness Expenses	\$276.29
Lazzari, Bailey	Public Defender	Rent	\$450.00
LCI Trucking & Construction LLC	1% Gravel Projects	Contract Services	\$2,915.00
LL Smith Trucking	1% Gravel Projects	Contract Services	\$2,502.50
Lost Walls Stables LLC	1% Gravel Projects	Contract Services	\$2,667.50
Miller, Margaret	District Court	Court Appts/Office Rent	\$1,072.50
Mountain West Towing LLC	Transportation	Vehicle Towing	\$629.00
National Business Systems Inc	County Treasurer	Postcards /Postage	\$2,656.71
New York Life Insurance	Segregated	Insurance	\$133.11
Northern Arapaho Child Support	Payroll	Child Support	\$598.78
Osage Industries, Inc	Vehicle Maintenance	Vehicle Repairs Parts	\$58.70
Premier Biotech, Inc	CAST	UA Test Kits	\$4,024.10
Quadient, Inc	Capital Asset Acquisitions	Postage Machine	\$8,412.00
Quick Set Auto Glass	Vehicle Maintenance	Windshields /Repairs	\$240.00
R C Lock & Key	County Buildings	Materials/Supplies	\$23.25

County Commissioners Meeting  
June 2, 2020

R T Communications	Segregated	Services	\$537.63
Riverton Physician Practices LLC	Transportation	Drug Testing	\$92.00
Riverton, City of	County Buildings	Water/Sewer	\$835.51
Rock Creek Sewer & Drain	County Buildings	Building Maintenance	\$205.00
Six Robbles' Inc	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts	\$74.13
Soule, Sierra	District Court	GAL Office Rent Monthly	\$150.00
Spoonhunter, Leslie	Fremont County WIC	Reimburse Expenses	\$57.50
State Disbursement Unit	Payroll	Child Support	\$1,066.25
State of Wy, Public Defenders Office	Public Defender	Office Rent - Public Defenders	\$1,650.00
Stroupe Pest Control Inc	County Buildings	Pest Control	\$200.00
Sweetwater Aire LLC	County Buildings	Supplies / Parts	\$170.00
Terrance R. Martin PC	Public Defender	Rent	\$450.00
Total Net Salaries	Segregated	Salaries	\$645,554.43
Traveling Computers	Computer Services	Services	\$252.00
Valley Lumber & Supply Co Inc	Segregated	Materials/Supplies	\$120.69
Verizon Wireless	CAST / JTC	Telephone Services	\$165.10
West Payment Center	District Court	Library Plan	\$73.22
Western Printing, Inc	Segregated	Printed Supplies	\$6,065.71
Whiting Law, P.C.	District Court	Professional Services	\$3,165.00
Wind River Oilfield Service Inc	1% Gravel Projects	Contract Services	\$2,640.00
Winsupply of Riverton	County Buildings	Materials/Supplies	\$315.24
WY SDU	Payroll	Child Support	\$984.00
Wyo Child Support Enforcement	Segregated	Child Support	\$806.00
Wyo Dept of Workforce Services	Co Admin	Workers Comp	\$16,538.20
Wyoming 4 x 4 Inc	Vehicle Maintenance	Supplies / Parts	\$147.74
Wyoming Retirement System	Co Admin	Contributions	\$151,232.32
Wyoming.com	Segregated	Internet Services	\$1,074.12

The following items in the Signature File were reviewed: 1) sympathy cards; 2) thank you letters to County appointed board members: Carla Crofts (Fremont County Museum Board), Molly Herber and Terry Hafner (Fremont County Library Board) and Lois Herbst (Fremont County Historic Preservation Commission); and 3) Record of Proceedings. Larry Allen moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to approve Temporary Construction Easements with Louis Austin Meeks Family Trust and Nick and Celeste Pince for the Harris Bridge Replacement Project. Motion carried unanimously. Mike Jones moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to ratify approval of the Wildland Fire Management Annual Operating Plan. Motion carried unanimously. Larry Allen moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to ratify approval of an Agreement for Use of Vehicle to Transport Quarantined Patients to Powwow Grounds. Motion carried unanimously.

The following items in the Priority Mail were reviewed: 1) Hotel industry statistics due to COVID-19; 2) WCCA Statement of Benefits and Membership Invoice (postponed until the budget session later in the day); 3) letters of support for Fremont County Library system; 4) Copy of County Attorney's reply letter to landowner regarding right-of-way issue; 5) County Clerk Julie Freese letter to Secretary of State Buchanan regarding the directive to counties to reduce polling locations to 7 and her request for a variance to have 8 for Fremont County (she informed the Commissioners she had received the variance late yesterday afternoon).

The Public Comment period was held with nobody present.

County Clerk Julie Freese and Assessor Tara Berg joined the meeting to discuss sharing one employee between the two offices. Present in the audience was Clerk Deputy Margy Irvine. Freese announced that she had received a resignation from a Title Clerk, and recommended filling it on a part-time status with another part time employee working in the Assessor's Office, giving that employee full-time status with Fremont County Government. Freese stated she would like to ask for the Title Clerk position to return to full-time in the future when the County is in a better financial situation. Berg stated she would also like the part-time position returned to full-time in the future as well and stated her Office is currently 1 ½ positions less than the previous fiscal year. Freese stated she is having one full time Title Clerk work part time in the Election Department as well and she will still be filling the temporary position in the Election Department with a college student but that position will end in August. Work load is increasing in the Election Department due to the push for absentee voting this year. Commissioner Jones thanked them for looking outside the box to share an employee between the two offices in light of the tight financial times the County is experiencing. Larry Allen moved, Mike Jones seconded, to approve hiring a part-time Title Clerk instead of a full-time employee for the next fiscal year and approval to fill the temporary position in the Election Department. Motion carried unanimously. Freese noted the Financial Assistant position is still open.

Wind River Visitor's Council Riverton representative and president Ryan Preston and Lander Chamber Director and Lander representative Owen Sweeney reviewed the proposed budget and operating plan effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Marketing Director Paula McCormick was present in the audience. As Fremont County is a party to the Joint Powers Agreement, the yearly review and approval of the budget is required. The WRVC is charged with the responsibility of investing lodging tax revenues to facilitate wider promotion and marketing of Fremont County as a tourist and traveler destination. Preston is the manager of the Riverton Hilton Inn and had supplied the Commissioners with the information on the hotel industry related to COVID-19, essentially indicating the industry is down 60%. Review of the budget followed. Revenues: they have been fortunate to have had a healthy lodging tax collections growth over the past decade. In the upcoming fiscal year, they have the unfortunate problem of having to deal with the negative economic impact of COVID-19 virus on the tourism industry. The projected revenue is \$483,455 which is down approximately 30% from the previous three years. Expenditures: the proposed budget reflects their strategy to fund core marketing programs while determining what revenues will be generated during the next six months. For the first time, WRVC has budgeted for an Executive Director staff position and office. The 4% lodging tax was renewed in 2018 and the 5% statewide lodging tax will be in place in 2022 when Fremont County's tax will be up for renewal. The state lodging tax guarantees 2% lodging tax collections to Fremont County. The remaining 2% will be placed on the 2022 ballot for public vote to bring the county's collections back up to its 4% rate. Also reviewed was Visitor Spending Economic Impact, Local and State tax receipts, jobs and wages and Tourism Asset Development Program. Mike Jones moved, Larry Allen seconded, to approve the proposed FY 2020-2021 budget and operating plan. Motion carried unanimously.

Commission meeting reports were given:

Commissioner Clarence Thomas reaffirmed his belief that Wind River Cares may be interested in Title 25 transports. He expressed concern that the COVID-19 numbers coming from the State should only reference current statistics and not totals.

Vice-Chairman Larry Allen has been in daily contact with Emergency Management Coordinator Kathi Metzler who stated they do not expect major flooding issues in the county, any flooding anticipated will be termed "nuisance flooding". With the major rodeos cancelling within the state, the Fremont County Fair Rodeo Committee is meeting to discuss whether or not to hold the pro rodeo during the Fair. At this time, he expects the exhibit portion of the Fair to proceed but all the night shows are unknown. He attended the County Fire Meeting last week and reported that the Fremont County Recreation Commission and Firewise Coordinator Ron Wempen will be meeting with the Commissioners in the near future to discuss a program for the Green Mountain Campground.

Commissioner Jennifer McCarty acknowledged the meeting with the Recreation Commission and the Firewise Program, stating the work would be at no cost to the county. The Planning Commission approved three proposed subdivisions which will be coming before the Commission next week.

Commissioner Mike Jones stated he has received many calls from library patrons regarding the Commissioner's proposed 30% budget cut to the Fremont County Library system for the upcoming fiscal year. Proponents will be attending the 1:30 p.m. session when the Library Board managers and board members are in attendance to review their reduced budget. The Wind River Outdoor Recreation Collaborative has been meeting and have identified four projects to support. He listened in to the Wyoming Business Council webinar regarding grant opportunities for small businesses. In closing, he stated Elected Officials should continue to be aware of the supply chain (food, gas, etc.).

Public Health Nurse Manager Becky Parkins was present with Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Traci Foutz present via speaker phone, to discuss the state budgeted salary increase for the Coordinator position for the upcoming fiscal year. Following discussion, the Board tabled a decision until later in the day where they would discuss it again during the budget work session.

In other business, Becky Parkins stated one of her staff nurses was exposed to a COVID 19 person and is currently being quarantined at home for 14. The Riverton Office will be open but there will be a gate in place and clients will be screened before being allowed to enter. Signage will also be posted in the Lander Office. Chairman Becker stated they should do whatever they need to do to ensure their health as they are on the front line. Traci Foutz stated she continues to work on a pandemic plan.

County Clerk Julie Freese presented a preliminary budget hearing. Sheriff Ryan Lee, Detention Lt. Rick Filman and Administrative Assistant Karla Davis were present, along with Deputy Treasurer Jim Anderson. Discussion was held on the budget transfer from Sheriff's Office to Detention in the amount of \$250,000 to supplement the Medical Services, Contractual Services and Prisoner Board line items. Anderson will research the Motorola Lease that was originally budgeted for the \$250,000, of which the first payment is not due until the next fiscal year, to determine the proper way to record them. The final budget hearing will be advertised and the hearing held the following meeting.

Sheriff Lee gave a brief update by stating there have been two attempted suicides in Detention and again referenced the line items which were going over budget, requiring the budget transfers discussed earlier. Even though inmate numbers are down, the cost of inmate food has spiked due to COVID-19.

Senator Cale Case and Representative Lloyd Larsen were present to review the past special legislative session. HB1001 – Emergency appropriation – COVID 19 funds was reviewed, outlining the \$450 million available for expenditures; an additional \$400 million plus any remaining funds from the earlier authorized amount for expenditures and absent enactment of further legislation, on September 15<sup>th</sup> any remaining funds to be made available. They stressed these funds are not intended for general operating expenses as a result of declining revenue, they can only be used for those expenses that are COVID related. They stated the Wyoming Business Council grant and loan webinars are very informative, some rules are still being written, there may be other special sessions. Senator Case reviewed the recent Revenue Committee meeting held in Lander the previous week where the report from the Consensus Revenue Estimating Group (CREG), which updated the January forecast for the state to incorporate a \$1.5 billion loss due to the combined impacts of COVID and the depressed mineral industries. The Commission thanked the legislators for their comments and information.

Discussion was held regarding re-opening the Courthouse to normal traffic numbers. This will not include the Courts as they are under a Supreme Court directive to remain closed until August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Building Maintenance Supervisor J.R. Oakley stated the Courthouse side of the building have sneeze/security guards in place at all teller locations and some standalone screens are at other desk areas. Six foot marks are on the floor and a gate has been installed stopping traffic to the court areas. Several Elected Officials were present and expressed their comments regarding reopening, including Assessor Tara Berg, Treasurer Tom Majdic, Clerk of District Court Kristi Green and County Clerk Julie Freese. The end and first of the month are high traffic days, but that is normal for business in the Courthouse. Majdic stated telephone calls and mail volume remain high, in addition to foot traffic but they are doing okay. Freese stated the visits since customers have been limited average 25 customers per hour. They all agreed their employees felt safe behind their screens. It was noted that there still seem to be more than one customer doing business, with family members joining them, and Oakley was requested to remove all seating in the office areas. Updated signage will be posted regarding precautions that are still in effect while in the Courthouse. Larry Allen moved, Mike Jones seconded, to increase the number of patrons to 20 at one time, along with new signage. Voting against the motion: Clarence Thomas, Jennifer McCarty and Travis Becker. Motion failed. Jennifer McCarty moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to open the public up for business as normal on the Courthouse side only, with precautions still in effect. Voting against the motion: Larry Allen and Mike Jones. Motion carried. Treasurer Majdic stated his appreciation for the drop boxes both in the lobby area and behind the Courthouse and asked that they still be available.

Building Maintenance Supervisor J.R. Oakley updated the Board on a staffing change he made during the Courthouse COVID closure by moving the night position to a day position. This has worked out very well and he recommends the change be permanent. The main reason for the evening position was to open the doors for people attending evening meetings. He further recommended evening meetings be discontinued for this reason, other than those that have building privileges, and that they be responsible for unlocking and locking up after their meetings. There are also several court ordered meetings that occur and he would make an exception to have staff available in these instances. The Board approved discontinuing the night shift position and holding no evening meetings other than those discussed. In other business, he stated he had only received a few applications for the Detention Center custodial position and he recommended additional advertising take place via County 10. The Board approved up to \$300 for advertising.

Transportation Superintendent Billy Meeks was joined by DOWL Engineer Kasey Jones who reviewed the five bids received for the Willow Creek Road Shoulder Repair project as follows:

County Commissioners Meeting  
June 2, 2020

Longhorn Construction	\$1,648,990.50
High Country Construction	\$1,270,996.50
Patrick Construction	\$1,721,563.10
71 Construction	\$1,827,274.31
Wilson Bros.	\$1,279,017.95

Larry Allen moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to accept their recommendation and approve the Notice of Award to High Country Construction in the amount of \$1,270,996.50. Motion carried unanimously.

In other business, Kasey Jones submitted a Resume Work Order for R.S. Bennett Construction Company, Inc. for the Moneta-Lysite Road Shoulder Widening Project, effective June 8, 2020. Larry Allen moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to approve the Resume Work Order. Motion carried unanimously. Jones stated there are three items they will require prior to the June 8<sup>th</sup> date from the contractor. A Change Order will be forthcoming as well outlining contractor days, following a meeting with all involved.

WH Smith Engineering engineer Dave Fehringer presented several maps depicting the Shoshone Lake Road, specifically from Baldwin Creek Road up to a new proposed development consisting of a 20 lot subdivision. Transportation Superintendent Billy Meeks and County Planner Steve Baumann were present. Earlier discussion was reviewed when the developer had relayed a proposal to resurface the road, with him purchasing the gravel and requesting the County Road Department haul it. There is one section of road that is only 14' in width (approximately 2,000 feet) that was discussed as an issue and would require a variance. Also proposed by the developer along the stretch of road, in addition to the resurfacing, includes installation of several turnouts, ditch work and new culverts. Baumann cited Fremont County Regular Subdivision Regulations regarding required Off-Site Improvements that reads "whenever, in the opinion of the County Commissioners, a proposed subdivision will create a traffic burden on an existing public road that will require major improvements in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public, the County reserves the right to deny approval of such subdivision until the subdivider has entered into a formal agreement with the County to share a proportionate part of the road improvement costs necessitated by the construction of the subdivision." A 2015 traffic count has been done for reference. Chief Civil Deputy Attorney Jodi Darrough further stated the subdivider must understand the County has to accept the road for maintenance, and it must be up to county standards before they can do so. The Commissioners were agreeable to further discussion; however, asked for a formal proposal from the developer, and if a variance is requested for the 14' stretch of road, a reason why it cannot be accomplished. In closing, Baumann stated the developer has discussed establishing a Service and Improvement District to assure funding is available for ongoing road maintenance.

Commissioner Clarence Thomas was absent for a portion of the meeting.

Fremont County Library Board Chairman Don Newton read a prepared opening statement regarding the Library's FY 2020-21 proposed budget and the County Commissioner's request to reduce it by 30%. There were 10 people in the audience (a complete list is available in the County Commissioners Office), including Manager and Acting Director Anita Marple, Shari Haskins and Tom Norwood and former Library Board Chair Molly Herber. Newton cited the benefits of the libraries, being so much more than just books (place for kids to gather while parents at work, computers and internet services, job hunting assistance). The revised budget submitted with the 30% reduction is \$1,246,551, compared to last fiscal year's budget of \$2,028,366. He cited cuts the libraries have taken since 2014 by serious reductions in highly paid staff. Some operations have been shifted to the County (technical, bookkeeping). With the 30% reduction, at least 12 people are projected to lose their jobs, Lander and Riverton libraries will be closed Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, Dubois will be open only three days per week. They will be open less hours each day, periodical subscriptions go to zero, interlibrary loans cost share goes to zero, and staff will spend a large amount of time applying for grant funding instead of helping patrons. The library system has 70,000 sq. ft. of space to manage, and it is impossible to safely oversee the Lander and Riverton libraries with limited staff. This in not even including maintenance issues. Additional closures may be necessary as a result of unanticipated staff illness. The three managers have mainly been working on the budget for the last two months. This is the job of a Director, however, the position is vacant and not budgeted for in the upcoming year, so they have taken on this additional responsibility. A 17% budget reduction was also submitted, totaling \$1,496,900. In closing, Newton asked that the 17% budget reduction be the one approved, as it was thoughtful with significant reductions. Numerous letters of support for the Library System were received and made part of the record. Chairman Becker referenced the updated Consensus Revenue Estimating Group (CREG) report for sales and use tax projections, citing an additional \$1 million shortfall to Fremont County than previously projected, along with updated

assessed valuation shortfalls of another 9%. He stated the Commissioners went into the budget session having to cut \$1.5 million, necessitating the 30% reduction for the Library System. The Commissioners started their first obligation is to fund statutory offices. The second obligation is support services (IT, Road Department, etc.), and the third obligation is offline boards (Library, Museum, Fair and Recreation Commission). All Social Services have been notified they will not be funded any amount the next fiscal year (Senior Centers, Center of Hope, etc.). Chairman Becker further stated his disappointment that the first amended budget the Library resubmitted was not the 30% requested by the Commission, as the Commission are the Elected Officials designated by state statute to develop and oversee taxpayer monies to be expended, they are the final decision makers for each county budget and the Library is not exempt from this oversight. Marple stated that maybe the Commissioners did not thoroughly understand how extensively the libraries serve the community and her concern with their 30% revised budget (reduction of \$540,849) and the associated impacts. She further stated the Library is statutory. Vice-Chairman Allen noted an e-mail received indicated there is COVID money available to help with budget shortfalls, which he stated is a misconception. Mr. Ray Charles, president of the Lander Library Friends, reviewed the letter submitted in support of library system, representing their 200+ members. They believe the libraries are a vital resource to our communities, and that a 30% budget reduction is overly drastic and will have severe impacts on the essential services supplied by libraries.

Commissioner Thomas returned to the meeting.

Chairman Becker asked the Library managers and board to look at how they are doing business and see if a new model can be implemented. Several years ago the Commissioners asked the Museum to generate more income on their own, and they began charging for services. Susan Gose stated the library system is more in line with the public school system and asked why the other off line boards were not subjected to a 30% reduction. County Clerk Julie Freese distributed a spreadsheet listing the last 10 years of budgets, indicating the Library budget is the third largest in the County, following only the Sheriff and Road Department. For reference, she stated the following budget information from one year ago: The following is the percentage that this year's proposed allocations is of last year's budget amount: Fair (77%); Museum (80%); Recreation Commission (59%) and Library (62%). Since beginning the budget process, the Commission has cut \$2.5 million so far, with an additional \$1 million is projected to be done due to recent reports already discussed. Many Elected Officials have reduced their staff to help the budget picture over the last four years resulting in every Elected Officials being down at least 1 employee for the past 3-4 years. In the past several years, there have been other one time monies used which are not available this year. The reality is that things have to be cut, the off line boards should all have Reduction in Force policies, and she stated the Commissioners do not make these decisions lightly. Commissioner Mike Jones, and liaison to the Library Board, stated this is the single most difficult conversation he has had since being on the Commission, he has spent many sleepless nights worrying about the budget and revenue shortfalls. He explained to the group that the Commission will continue working on the budgeting process every Tuesday in June, and although he can't promise anything, it is not finalized yet. He concurred that the updated CREG report received today is a serious blow to the process.

Deputy Treasurer Jim Anderson reviewed the updated CREG report as reviewed by the Executive Director of the Wyoming County Commissioners Association, Jeremiah Rieman. Present in the audience were Assessor Tara Berg, Clerk of District Court Kristi Green and Treasurer Tom Majdic. Reiman noted that the updated report includes a special addition – projections of local government impacts for sales and use tax and ad valorem. This information was used, along with data from the Wyoming Department of Transportation to produce supplemental revenue forecasts for sales and use tax, diesel tax, gasoline tax and county road construction and maintenance fund. He was unable to provide revisions to other forecasts at this time because there are no anticipated impacts as a result of COVID (Payment in Lieu of Taxes, Secure Rural Schools, etc.) and there is no currently available data from which to draw conclusions (Wyoming Lottery, cigarette, tax, etc.). Anderson felt the Diesel Tax and Gasoline Tax forecasts to be fairly accurate. The Sales and Use Tax Revenue; however, shows a FY20 base projection of a \$39 million reduction and the FY21 base projection of a \$105 million reduction. Berg distributed an updated Assessed Valuation spreadsheet indicating a 9% reduction than earlier predicted. Anderson noted these changes will result in a \$1.5 million reduction from what had earlier been projected. This is in addition to the \$2.5 million cuts made at the beginning of the budget process.

County Clerk Julie Freese reviewed several things for the Commissioners to consider before looking at individual budgets again: 1) Health Insurance – increase employee costs, cut benefits, etc.; 2) Retirement by requiring employees to contribute the entire .5% instead of sharing half the increase; 3) Buildings –

County Commissioners Meeting  
June 2, 2020

look at consolidating county offices and selling extra buildings; 4) Review the Transportation Department list of maintenance projects. Discussion had been held earlier regarding furlough days and that is a discussion point as well. The Capital Revolving Fund for large purchases was discussed. Chairman Becker asked for discussion in the future regarding putting rental payments on a holiday for a year and Anderson will compile costs associated with such a plan.

Health Nurse Becky Parkins had asked that her budget be returned to \$300,297 as the commissioners had approved her replacing a nurse and this new number reflected that approval. Discussion continued on the earlier recommendation for an increased salary for the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. Even though it is a State contract that includes the increase, the Commissioners felt it was not appropriate this year in lieu of what the county is facing.

Treasurer Tom Majdic reviewed his updated budget, consisting of the \$25,000 in budget cuts requested by the Commission, totaling \$728,254 (compared to last years \$746,134). Majdic outlined the cuts that were made, and asked the Commission to reconsider due to their significant impact on operations (\$1,500 Postage cut will not allow them to send out delinquent property tax notices, creating a negative impact in two ways; \$5,500 in travel, fuel and training; \$9,700 for a seasonal accountant and \$8,300 for a seasonal clerk). The one deduction he does not dispute is the \$1,000 salary increase set for Elected Officials.

Vice-Chairman Larry Allen reviewed the draft Commissioner budget he had prepared. At this time, the dues for the Wyoming County Commissioners Association (\$23,236) and Fremont County Association of Governments (\$5,000) are included. It was the consensus of the Board to remove the \$5,000 for FCAG dues.

County Clerk Julie Freese stated the proposed Special District budgets are due and will be posted to the website. The Board requested both the Solid Waste Disposal District and the Weed and Pest Control District be invited to an upcoming meeting to review their budget proposals.

Discussion was held on the consultant selection for the Fremont County Natural Resource Plan. The Commissioners will review the proposals earlier received and make a selection at their June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting on the three they wish to interview.

Larry Allen moved, Mike Jones seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 4:00 p.m. and reconvene for a Regular Meeting on June 9, 2020. Motion carried unanimously

A full detailed report and the official minutes are posted on Fremont County's website at [www.fremontcountywy.org](http://www.fremontcountywy.org).

/s/ TRAVIS BECKER, CHAIRMAN  
FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

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