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WASHAKIE COUNTY COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS September 17, 2024

The Washakie County Board of County Commissioners met at the above date beginning at 9:00 a.m. Those present were Chairman Aaron Anderson, Commissioner Terry Wolf and clerk to the board Lily Rakness Parra. Also present was Road and Bridge Superintendent Stuart Bower and Interim Planner Mike Robinson. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mike Robinson.

A motion was made by Commissioner Martinez and seconded by Commissioner Wolf to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2024, meeting. Motion carried.

Road and Bridge Superintendent Stuart Bower gave a road and bridge update to the BOCC. He advised that the power company had completed their project in Ten Sleep and will be moving on. He advised that the crew was finishing up graveling, mowing, and will be continuing with maintenance throughout the County on areas as needed. Bower said that he has signs that he will be putting up on Lane 14 and Airport Road as well.

Interim Planner Mike Robinson advised that he had received an application for the Ten Sleep Rock Ranch Campground and was waiting for confirmation of payment. He anticipates that a wastewater permit will be received soon as well to move towards becoming compliant with the County's requirements. A discussion was held regarding gravel pits and the options for the County moving forward. Robinson said that the CMAQ for FY25 has been submitted and that the County should soon be receiving reimbursement for the FY24 CMAQ. He also spoke to the need for a policy regarding deeds with multiple parcels which he will be collaborating with the Planning Commission and County Attorney for.

Building Maintenance Manager Breck Buer gave an update to the BOCC. He advised that he was looking into getting quotes to get the asphalt at the fairgrounds fixed up a bit. The BOCC requested that per the County's Procurement Policy, if the cost is above \$5,000.00 to receive several quotes. A discussion was held on the possibility of projects for the Wyoming Energy Grant which are funds granted with zero interest credit loan to improve buildings as needed. Buer requested the use of the County credit card for maintenance needs that he has been paying for and getting reimbursed by the County. The BOCC agreed to grant Buer use of the credit card for small purchases within the Building Maintenance Budget. A discussion was held regarding the Ambulance Service being moved out of the Public Health Building and having proper storage for certain items out at the fairground.

Public Health Coordinator Amanda Heinemeyer gave an update to the BOCC. She advised that they will be interviewing for the PHRC Position next week. She also said that they have done some COVID clinics recently and they are working on getting ready for up-and-coming Flu Clinics.

Sheri Gunderson, Kassi Nolting and Lila Jolley gave a WCPC update to the BOCC. A discussion was held regarding the upstairs conference room at the library building and the potential need for a contract and deposit for groups renting out the room. The BOCC advised Gunderson to present a contract and fee schedule to them during the next meeting.

Washakie County Historical Preservation Board members Anna Venable, Mike Bies, Jim Gillman and Laura McDonald updated

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the BOCC on the Historic Commercial Valuation project they had been working on. Bies advised that an evaluation had been done recently and that once the project is completed, the draft will cover properties on Big Horn from the 900 Block down to Railway Ave. He advised that with this project, owners will be able to apply for a reduction in federal taxes and they will also qualify for tax incentives for maintenance activities such as window upgrades interior upgrades, etc. Chairman Anderson spoke to the importance of the project not putting an encumbrance on property owners without their permission. Bies advised that owners would not be a part of the project unless permission is granted. Venable spoke to and gave praise to the individuals in the group who put in work to bring this project to Washakie County.

A motion was made by Commissioner Martinez and seconded by Commissioner Wolf to approve the signing of the Final Grant Report for the Worland Historic Commercial Evaluation. Motion carried.

County Assessor Nancy Quinn spoke to the BOCC regarding the transition from GIS Rich Greenwood, who has since retired and sold his mapping company to Terra GIS. She advised that as of now, the contract would not have any changes for the current fiscal year.

County Attorney Tony Barton spoke to the BOCC regarding the need to up the pay scale for a new Deputy County Attorney. He advised that Amy Smith, the current Deputy County Attorney has given her resignation notice and he will need to hire someone new.

A motion was made by Commissioner Martinez and seconded by Commissioner Wolf to move the Deputy Attorney salary range to start at \$70,000 and cap at \$85,000 a year. Chairman Anderson discussed that the salary was partly reimbursed by the state. Motion carried.

Dru Palmer with Dru Consulting presented the BOCC and members of the community regarding The Wyoming Grants Management Team and the opportunities for government entities to utilize their services for free to help obtain grant funds that are available to communities.

A discussion was held with Sarah Witt with Banner Health, Mary Johnson and Jackie Robertson with Oxbow Center, Lila Jolley with WCPC regarding recent Title 25 bills from Banner Health. Chairman Anderson started the discussion elaborating on the benefits of utilizing our local resources that are available to our community for mental health with a benefit of being able to keep individuals in their own community as opposed to being sent to facilities further away. Sarah Witt with Banner Health spoke to the responsibility of the County for the bills regarding Title 25 Holds per state statute. She advised that the State Hospital in Evanston has a lack in staffing which has increased the time for holds locally. Witt also said that Banner Health had not been consistent in billing the County for Title 25 patients as their process was not consistent which is why the County is seeing more bills now. Chairman Anderson brought up the question or need for a conversation regarding the diversion out of Title 25. He advised that the local Lighthouse has always been a model for utilization in lieu of Title 25 for a patient. The cost per night at the Lighthouse was significantly lower than sending a patient out and the BOCC would like to have our local resources utilized more than they have been recently. Witt spoke of the process that Banner had to follow when evaluating a patient for Title 25 and

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that once a patient was evaluated the decision would be made on where to send them. Mary Johnson spoke about the recent change in hospital evaluations and that Oxbow Center (formerly Cloud Peak Counseling Center) was doing the evaluations. She advised that when Oxbow Center was doing the evaluations, the Lighthouse and our local resources were being used. Witt advised that Banner Health was now using Telehealth for mental evaluations. Commissioner Wolf asked if there was an option for Oxbow to be utilized. Johnson advised that Oxbow does have staff available for the evaluations and that they have staff available on a 24-hour basis. Attorney Barton spoke to the pattern he has observed with the Title 25 patients and advised that recently, patents have been shipped out within the 72-hour time frame in which most of the time the crisis could have been resolved. He has observed that when a patient is sent away, there isn't an ability for them to choose to stay as they have already left. It was discussed that WBI does not have the ability for patients to shift from involuntary to voluntary. Chairman Anderson said that, from the County's perspective, as the entity paying for each Title 25, they would like to be able to utilize the options that are available here in the community. He spoke to the concern of utilizing Telemedicine, the therapist doesn't understand the full scope of the facilities and resources we have here in Washakie County as opposed to sending patients to another facility. He advised that if this trend continues in the direction that it is currently going in, that it is not with the lack of knowledge and knowing that there are opportunities within Worland and that we are not doing a disservice to our citizens by sending them away. Commissioner Martinez spoke to his own experience with telemedicine evaluating mental health and how he didn't feel that it was not sufficient in being able to diagnose a person's mental health.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wolf and seconded by Commissioner Martinez to approve the Title 25 Services Agreement 0384-03-191047 between Washakie County and Banner Health.

The Consent agenda is a as follows:

1. Authorize Chairman to sign contract between Washakie County Commissioners and Big Brother's Big Sisters
2. Approve July 2024 Treasurer's Trial Balance Report
3. Approve August 2024 Treasurer's Trial Balance Report
4. Approve August 2024 County Clerk Receipt Totals
5. Approve August 2024 Clerk of Court Monthly Statement
6. Approve July 2024 E911 in the amount of \$23,452.02
7. Approve August 2024 E911 in the amount of \$18,888.68
8. Approve July 2024 State County Road Fund in the amount of \$159,701.52
9. Approve August State County Road fund in the amount of \$143,686.28

A motion was made by Commissioner Wolf and seconded by Commissioner Martinez to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Commissioner Martinez and seconded by Commissioner Wolf to adjourn the meeting.

(Seal)
Lily Rakness Parra
Clerk to the Board

Aaron Anderson, Chairman
Washakie County Commissioners

October 10, 2024