

Approved Minutes
Board of Commissioners of Converse County
January 19, 2021

The regular meeting was called to order at 8:12 a.m. on January 19, 2021. Present were Chairman Jim Willox; Vice-Chair Rick Grant; Commissioners Robert Short, Tony Lehner, and Mike Colling; and County Clerk, Karen Rimmer.

Mr. Jason Wilkinson, Road and Bridge Supervisor, provided updates on building construction and road projects, as well as current and future equipment needs. Mr. Vic Garber and Ms. Janella Garber Moore discussed a potential approach to their property off Colter Trail; the Commission agreed on a location for an approach for which the property owner will need to apply for and pay appropriate fees; the Commission did not commit to building the approach. The Commission agreed to provide one belly dump of gravel at the Rural Fire Hall on Esterbrook Road.

Mr. Roger White, Short Powerline Service, provided an update on the Douglas Fiber Project, including availability, testing, results, operations, and future use and leases of dark fiber. A map and locates will be provided to the County and City; the County and City will need to enter into an updated Memorandum of Understanding.

Ms. Dru Palmer, Dru Consulting, provided updates on various energy, environmental, and federal projects. Following discussion, Mr. Colling moved to recess into an Executive Session per W.S. 16-4-405(a)(iii) at 10:33 a.m. to discuss potential litigation to which the governing body may be a party; Mr. Lehner seconded; motion carried. The regular meeting reconvened at 11:05 a.m. Discussion followed regarding Thunder Basin Grasslands; FNRPA funding for the Adaptive Management Plan framework over the next two years; Wyoming Pipeline Corridor Initiative; BLM Sage Grouse EIS litigation; BLM Grazing Regulations proposed changes; Section 368 Energy Corridors Review for Regions 4, 5, and 6; Raptor Symposium; and a virtual meeting planned for Feb. 18, 2021.

The minutes of the January 5 and 6, 2021 regular meeting were approved and ordered filed.

Mr. Short moved to ratify the WY DEQ permit for CCJJC Phase 2 construction for sewage systems and public water supplies; Mr. Colling seconded; motion carried.

Mr. Lehner moved to approve the amended Raceway Lease Agreement between the County and Central WY Motorsports for a term from June 1, 2021 to Sept. 30, 2021; Mr. Grant seconded; motion carried.

Mr. Colling moved to approve monthly reports: Public Health \$22,943.59; Sheriff \$1,408.12; Mr. Lehner seconded; motion carried.

The meeting recessed at 12:00 p.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Departmental updates were provided by Ms. Darcey Cowardin, Public Health Nurse Manager, including availability and distribution of COVID-19 vaccination doses; upcoming vaccination drive-through clinics; press releases and public notices; upcoming grant fund availability; and other COVID impacts, concerns, and changes. A new public health nurse has been hired for Glenrock.

Ms. Kim Pexton, Converse County Tourism Board Chair, discussed the potential of a walking path along Irvine Road/CR1. Ownership of the path; surface material; Rails to Trails program; and Tourism Board bylaws and bylaw revisions were discussed.

Mr. Don Gushurst, Maintenance Supervisor, provided updates on County janitorial services and issues, as well as ongoing maintenance projects.

The regular meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

James H. Willox, Chairman

ATTEST:

Karen Rimmer, County Clerk
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