

Commissioner Meeting July 17, 2023

The regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was brought to order by Commission Chairman William J Novotny, III at 9:00 am on Tuesday July 17, 2023. Attending were Commissioners Jeff Shelley & Bob Perry, Commissioner’s Assistant Jody Telkamp, Civil Deputy County Attorney Barry Crago, and County Clerk Jackie Camino.

The attendees recited the pledge of allegiance. Chairman Novotny called for a motion to approve the minutes from the July 5, 2023 meeting. Commissioner Perry moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Shelley seconded, and the motion carried.

Chairman Novotny convened the Budget Hearing to approve the annual budget. Novotny provided several highlights of the budget. He then called for any public comment prior to proceeding. Brian Hannant expressed an interest in the Harold Jarrard Park’s open position in Kaycee. Chairman Novotny directed him to Facilities Manager David Eades. Amy Williams inquired about the availability of the minutes. Clerk Camino directed her to where they were located and further explained they’d be separated out and easier to find.

Johnson County Fair to be funded in the amount of \$358,186.12 representing .704 mills. Shelley moved to approve; Perry seconded; motion carried.

Johnson County Library to be funded in the amount of \$418,223.00 representing .822 mills. Perry moved to approve; Shelley seconded; motion carried.

Jim Gatchell Museum to be funded in the mount of \$233,533.28 representing .459 mills. Shelley moved to approve; Perry seconded; motion carried.

Chairman Novotny presented the following resolutions for approval:

Resolution 704 – To Transfer Funds from FY23/24 budget. Perry moved to approve; Shelley seconded; motion carried.

Resolution 705 – To provide income to finance the budget. Clerk Camino pointed out that the resolution states June 30, 2023, in two locations on the resolution that should read June 30, 2024, and indicated they would be corrected prior to being signed. Perry moved to approve; Shelley seconded; motion carried.

Resolution 706 – Appropriations Resolution to approve the final budget as presented. Clerk Camino pointed out an error in the date indicating it should read the year 2024 and it would be corrected prior to signing. Perry moved to approve; Shelley seconded; motion carried.

Resolution 707 – To approve Special Districts Mills. Shelley moved to approve; Perry seconded; motion carried.

Resolution 708 – To amend the 22/23 Budget to Correct Deficits. Perry moved to approve; Shelley seconded; motion carried.

Novotny called for a motion to approve the following:

The Ordinance for the Town of Kaycee, funding of 8 mills for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Perry moved to approve; Shelley seconded; motion carried.

The Resolution for the City of Buffalo funding of 8 mills for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Perry moved to approve; Shelley seconded; motion carried. The request from the Johnson County School District #1 for 44.5 mills for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Perry moved to approve; Shelley seconded; motion carried. The Johnson County Treasurer’s request to approve the special assessments for special improvement districts as follows: Powder River Irrigation District, Dull Knife Irrigation District, North Fork Irrigation District, and the Crazy Woman Watershed Improvement District. Shelley moved to approve; Perry seconded; motion carried.

Chairman Novotny closed the budget hearing and proceeded back to the regular meeting.

County Planner Jim Waller presented review of the redesign of the new website Assistant Telkamp confirmed that we are still awaiting approval to change from the .us to the .gov domain. She also indicated she needed to get formal approval of the site design before the vendor would proceed. Novotny called for a motion to approve the proposed design of the website. Shelley moved to approve, Perry seconded and the motion carried.

Chairman Novotny presented two applications for consideration for appointments to the JC Library Board. Terry Urruty & Jennfer Bakken have both served one three-year term and both have submitted letters of interest to be reappointment to another term. Perry moved to approve both for another term, Shelley seconded; motion carried.

Commissioner assistant Jody Telkamp presented three T-Hangar leases for approval for Chris Knudson, Patrick Long & Jim Purdy. She stated that the Long & the Purdy lease payments are a past due. Civil Attorney Crago advised that all could be approved with the two overdue leases being contingent on the lease payments being brought up to date. Commissioner Perry moved that all three leases be approved with the two being contingent on lease payments being brought current. Shelley seconded the motion and it was approved.

Facilities Manager David Eades presented a request to the commissioners to waive the hiring freeze to allow him to replace the open position he has at the Harold Jarrard Park in Kaycee. Perry moved to approve, Shelley seconded and the motion carried.

Road & Bridge Supervisor Scott Pehringer presented a resolution to the Board an application for Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds for the 2024 Dust Mitigation Project. Chairman Novotny read Resolution 709 and then called for a motion to allow him to sign the application. Commissioner Perry moved to approve, Shelley seconded and the motion carried. Pehringer provided an update on other Road & Bridge projects and Assistant Ashlea Bassett provided an update on Mikesell Potts.

Tom Knapp from the JoCo First Board and JoCo First Executive Director Claudia Todd provided an update on the Bomber Mountain Civic Center fire alarm. The fire marshal has ruled that they need to replace the fire panel with a cost of \$29,918. He stated that if the New West School moves to BMCC, which will not happen this year, the total cost would be \$69,000 to meet the requirements. He requested on behalf of JoCo First approval to use a portion of the funds previously approved from the 1% sales tax fund for a fire suppression sprinkler system for this expenditure. He further stated that the roof at the Mountain Meadow Wool building needs to be repaired at a cost of \$14,000. These two matters came to light after their budget request was submitted and they only have a total of \$35,000 budgeted for repairs & maintenance. Novotny commented that this being a joint powers entity, the city should be approached to pay half the cost. Tom confirmed he would be happy to make the request from them. Shelley commented that he’d been contacted by the fire marshal and that this project is a pressing matter and needs to be taken care of as soon as possible, prior to school starting if possible. Emergency Management Coordinator Marilyn Connolly indicated her support of this project because in addition to the other benefits provided to the public, the BMCC is used for a tornado shelter. Perry indicated that he’d like to cover half the cost and have the city cover the other half. Chairman Novotny suggested that we approve half of the whole project at this time, not to exceed \$34,540. Perry moved to approve the use of the


1% funds previously set aside for the fire suppression system up to \$34,540. Shelley seconded and the motion carried. Tom further recommended that we find a way to come to an agreement to sell the Mountain Meadow Wool building to them. He indicated that the cost of repairs is prohibitive and he felt that JoCo First should not be in the commercial building business. Chairman Novotny discussed briefly the statutory requirements around that issue and the need to make a joint decision with the City of Buffalo. No action was taken on this item.

Chairman Novotny presented the University of Wyoming Compensation Agreement for the 4-H Extension Agent for FY 23-24. Attorney Barry Crago indicated he had reviewed and there are no issues. Commissioner Shelley moved to approve and sign the contract, Perry seconded and the motion carried.

Public Comment was opened. Amy Williams inquired as to what the fund listed as “Any Other” is. Chairman Novotny explained that the 430, “any other county items” budget is for expenses that fall outside of each individual department. James Clare made an inquiry about the revenue of the Fair Board. Laci Schiffer, who is a member of the Fair Board, provided an explanation and an update around the activities and the Fairgrounds in general, indicating that most events at the Fairgrounds do not have an entrance fee, but the low fees allow everyone in the community to enjoy the Fairgrounds. She stated those events bring in visitors from out of town who purchase hotel rooms, gas, meals, and shop. Amy Williams expressed concerns about the condition of one of the buildings at the Fairgrounds, to which Schiffer responded. Kerry Aggen suggested that a poll be taken to see how much people would be willing to pay for parking to provide revenue to the fairgrounds. She asked additional questions about the hangar leases, the budget and the minutes, as well as made comments and suggestions around those items. County Planner Jim Waller expressed gratitude and provided positive comments on the job the commissioners are doing for the county. Laci Schiffer echoed that by thanking the commissioners for working to make the fairgrounds a vital part of the community.

Hearing no further comments, Chairman Novotny called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Perry moved to adjourn, Commissioner Shelley seconded and the motion was approved.

Meeting adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

  
William J Novotny III, Chairman

Attest:   
Jackie Camino, County Clerk