

**Park County Board of County Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
December 6, 2016**

Chairman French called to order a regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Park County, Wyoming, on Tuesday, December 6, 2016. Present were Chairman French, Vice Chairman Lee Livingston, Commissioners Loren Grosskopf, Bucky Hall, Joe Tilden, and Deputy Clerk Teecee Barrett.

Commissioner Grosskopf led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval-Minutes.**

The minutes from the November 15 meeting were presented to the Board for approval. Commissioner Hall moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Grosskopf and unanimously carried.

**Approval-Payroll.**

Payroll was presented to the Board for approval. Commissioner Livingston moved to approve payroll as presented, seconded by Commissioner Tilden and unanimously carried.

**Approval-Vouchers.**

The following vouchers were presented to the Board for approval: Commissioner Livingston moved to approve the vouchers, seconded by Commissioner Grosskopf and unanimously carried.

**Approve-Payroll.**

Commissioner Grosskopf moved to approve the payroll as presented, seconded by Commissioner Livingston and unanimously carried.

**Approve-4-H Educator's Final Salary Agreement.**

Tara Kuipers, UW Extension NW Area Community Development Educator, introduced new 4-H Educator Tycee Mohler. The Board previously approved the salary agreement; however, the approved agreement did not specify the employee name as the position was vacant. Commissioner Tilden moved to approve the new salary agreement and allow the Chairman to sign, seconded by Commissioner Grosskopf and unanimously carried.

**Approve- Health and Wellness Incentive Increase.**

Teecee Barrett, Deputy Clerk, presented the Park County Health and Wellness Committee's proposal to raise the incentive amount from \$500.00 to \$600.00 for eligible employees and spouses. Claims over the past fiscal year were low; the Committee believes that this is partially because the wellness incentive program promotes preventative care. Commissioner Tilden moved to approve an incentive increase from \$500.00 to \$600.00, seconded by Commissioner Livingston and unanimously carried.

**Approve-Letter of Support for Delisting of the Grizzly Bear.**

Commissioner Grosskopf read the letter to the Board and public for the record. Following the recent signing of the Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy, the letter encourages the cooperating entities to move forward with the delisting process; next steps in the process include Fish and Wildlife Service action and publication in the register. The Board's letter will be sent to

USFWS Director Dan Ashe, UM Grizzly Bear Recovery Program Post-doctoral Researcher Jennifer Fortin-Noreus, Ph.D; and Montana State Ecological Services Office Supervisor Jodi Bush. A copy will also be sent to Governor Mead and the State Senator and Representatives. Commissioner Grosskopf moved to approve and send the letter to the proposed agencies, seconded by Commissioner Livingston and unanimously carried.

#### **Consider-Petition Submitted by Steve Torrey.**

Steve Torrey submitted a petition related to Yellowstone National Park (YNP) residents' vehicle registrations. Commissioner Grosskopf suggested it would be appropriate to send a letter from the Board to Park Superintendent Dan Wenk. The letter and petition both address failure of Park County residents living within YNP to properly register their vehicles in Park County, Wyoming. This is a violation of state statute as well as a lost revenue for Park County. Commissioner Grosskopf moved to send a letter to Superintendent Dan Wenk requesting conformance with Wyoming state statute on vehicle licensure, seconded by Commissioner Livingston and unanimously carried.

#### **Consider-Funding Request.**

Buck Wilkerson previously addressed the Board requesting support for the Veterans Memorial Park Project: Memorial to War Dogs and Handlers. Commissioner Livingston commented that he feels this is a worthy project but would be more appropriately funded privately. Chairman French commented that Park County has supported the veterans' memorials previously, but times are much tighter now. Commissioner Tilden suggested contributing \$2000.00 for the project. Commissioner Tilden moved to donate \$2000.00 to the War Dog Memorial, seconded by Commissioner Livingston. After general discussion, Commissioners Tilden and Hall voted in favor of the donation with Commissioners Livingston and Grosskopf opposed. Chairman French voted in favor and the motion carried.

#### **Discussion-Senate 18 Recount.**

Commissioner Tilden wanted to discuss the possibility of requesting full reimbursement from candidate Cindy Baldwin for the cost of the recent Senate District 18 recount. The request would exclude staff costs but include wages totaling \$1,051.52 for the 10 election judges hired to process ballots for the requested recount. Tilden continued that this is a matter of principle and the recount was a waste of taxpayer money. Commissioner Livingston agreed but noted that request for a recount is a candidate's right. The Board agreed that the allegations of fraud brought by Baldwin were offensive to the County, Elections Office and Staff, as well as to the County Clerk. County Clerk Colleen Renner commented that she appreciated the comments but would rather the letter not be sent as candidates have the right to request a recount. Renner also noted that state statute mandates candidates requesting a recount are responsible for a maximum of \$500.00. Commissioner Tilden moved to send the letter to Cindy Baldwin requesting the full reimbursement, seconded by Commissioner Hall. Commissioners Grosskopf and Livingston voted opposed, with Commissioners Tilden and Hall voting in favor. Chairman French voted against and the motion failed.

#### **Update-Revenue Committee.**

County Assessor Pat Meyer updated the Board on several bills proposed for the upcoming Legislative Session. The bills include topics of the revenue committee, board of equalization, oil and gas reporting methods, agriculture rates for property taxes, and special district budget oversight.

### **Approve-Advertise for Seasonal Positions.**

Events Coordinator Echo Renner requested approval to start advertising for seasonal Events Department positions at the fairgrounds. Commissioner Hall move to approve the advertising of seasonal staff for the Events Department, seconded by Commissioner Grosskopf and unanimously carried.

### **Update-Grizzly Bear Delisting Meetings - Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee (YES).**

A member of the Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee (YES), Commissioner Grosskopf reported on the recent meetings in Cody. Grosskopf said the two days of meetings went well and resulted in the Conservation plan being signed. Commissioner Livingston commented that the YES committee has worked extremely hard on the delisting efforts.

### **Update-Willwood Dam Meeting in Casper.**

Commissioners Livingston and Tilden attended a meeting in Casper hosted by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) related to the Willwood Dam silt issues. Cooperators attending the meeting were the DEQ, Bureau of Reclamation, Game and Fish, State Engineers Office, and the Willwood Irrigation District. Discussions included the option of dredging behind the dam; this was determined not to be a viable option as it is extremely expensive and only a temporary fix. Willwood Irrigation District has filled the pool, as governor did not extend their permit. The District feels that if DEQ would change the turbidity limits on the area they could start working to reduce the silt accumulation. Game and Fish plans to study the fishery to determine trouts' turbidity tolerance level and are also looking at the river now to determine the extent of damage. The Irrigation District noted that the automation of the gates that were installed as part of the project will help in controlling the water and silt that is released. Discussions will continue with all stakeholders concerning the project.

### **Introduction.**

Tasha Sorensen, Trout Unlimited Representative, introduced herself to the Board and said she is in Cody for the Public Lands Pint Night at Cassie's this evening. Sorensen said she mainly works with the oil and gas industry, which is hoping to provide local support for the Public Lands Initiative (PLI).

### **Consider-Funding Request.**

Washakie County is requesting funding assistance for the expansion of Cloud Peak Counseling Service's Lighthouse facility. The cost of the project is estimated at \$100,000.00. Washakie County has requested assistance in from three other counties to help fund the expansion, including Park County. They are also applying for grant funds. County Attorney Bryan Skoric commented that the facility is taking volunteer committals as well so he doesn't see the expansion being helpful to Park County as the facility will be full. If State funding is received, the Lighthouse will also be required to serve all counties in the State. Skoric also expressed concerns about the legality of Park County sending money to fund the expansion. After general discussion, Commissioner Tilden moved to send a letter of support for the application for grant funds with no financial support at this time, seconded by Commissioner Livingston and unanimously carried.

### **Auditor's Report.**

Jason K. Lund, Carver Florek and James CPA, presented the fiscal audit for the 2015-2016 year. The auditors performed field work in August and October. Lund said they appreciated the cooperation that they had from all departments over the long process. Lund said that going forward, they would like to be able to issue the audit report a little earlier. Their opinion on the financial statements are found on pages 1-3 of the report and they were able to submit an unmodified report. They also performed work over major programs that received federal monies (federal funds are listed on page 45 of the report, with the Landfill project being the largest of them at \$1.4 million). They also were able to issue a clean federal audit. All deficiencies from last year were resolved. This audit also included all County Boards such as Weed and Pest, Library, and Fair, with no finding this year. Commissioner Grosskopf noted that the County has to show the Wyoming Retirement System as a liability due to compliance requirements with the GASBY standards. Commissioner Livingston moved to accept the auditor's report as presented, seconded by Commissioner Grosskopf and unanimously carried.

### **Board Interviews.**

The Board held interviews for the Parks and Recreation Board. Commissioner Grosskopf moved to appoint incumbents John Fernandez, Nevin Jacobs and new applicant Rick Manchester to the Parks and Recreation Board, seconded by Commissioner Tilden and unanimously carried.

The Board interviewed for the Weed and Pest Board. Commissioner Hall moved to appoint new applicant Josh Christofferson to the Weed and Pest Board, seconded by Commissioner Tilden and unanimously carried. Also appointed were incumbents Neil Earhart, Jim Cox, Mike Forman and Walt Hartung.

The Board interviewed for the Yellowstone Regional Airport Board. Commissioner Tilden moved to appoint Bucky Hall and Hans Odde to the YRA Board, seconded by Commissioner Livingston and unanimously carried.

Commissioner Livingston moved to reappoint incumbents Larry Todd and Greg Smith to the Historical Preservation and incumbent Sara Skalsky to the Fair Board, seconded by Commissioner Grosskopf and unanimously carried. The Fair Board requested that the Commissioners consider moving the terms from five to three years and the members from five to seven. This will be further discussed at the December 20 meeting.

The Planning and Zoning Board did not receive any applications for the Board opening. Commissioner Livingston moved that they re-advertise the Board position as an At-Large position.

### **Ballot.**

Local Government Liability Pool (LGLP) sent a ballot to the Board for two openings, one is a Commissioner and one for At-large. Commissioner Hall moved that they vote for Tom Ringley for the commissioner seat and Brad Basse for the at-large seat.

### **Executive Session.**

Commissioner Livingston moved to go into executive session pursuant to Wyoming State Statute 16-4-405 (a) (ii), seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously carried. No decisions were made in this session. Commissioner Tilden moved to exit executive session, seconded by Commissioner Livingston and unanimously carried. Commissioner Livingston

moved to approve the action that was discussed in executive session, seconded by Commissioner Tilden and unanimously carried.

Commissioner Tilden moved to go into executive session pursuant to Wyoming State Statue 16-4-405 (a) (ix), seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously carried. No decisions were made in this session. Commissioner Livingston moved to exit executive session, seconded by Commissioner Tilden and unanimously carried.

**Adjourn.**

Commissioner Hall made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Tilden seconded and the motion carried.

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Tim A. French, Chairman

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Lee Livingston, Vice Chairman

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Loren Grosskopf, Commissioner

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Bucky Hall, Commissioner

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Joseph E. Tilden, Commissioner

Attest:

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Teecee Barrett on behalf of  
Colleen Renner, County Clerk