

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF
CARBON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
Monday, August 13, 2012
City Hall, Rawlins, Wyoming**

A special meeting of the Board of Carbon County Commissioners (BOCC) commenced Monday, August 13, 2012 at the City Hall in Rawlins, Wyoming. Attending the meeting were Chairman Terry Weickum; Vice Chairman Jerry Paxton; Commissioner Leo Chapman; Deputy County Attorney Mike Kelly; and County Clerk Gwynn Bartlett. Also in attendance were Bill Nation, Road & Bridge Superintendent, and Sid Fox, County Planning Director. Chairman Weickum called the meeting to order at 1:11 p.m.

WYOMING BUSINESS COUNCIL GRANT SPONSORSHIP

City Manager, Steve Golnar explained the City of Rawlins was slated to sponsor two Wyoming Business Council (WBC) grants however recently discovered they can only sponsor one at each application period. Because of this, the City had contacted the county hoping it would sponsor one of the grants. Since asking the county, Mr. Golnar has also contacted the Town of Sinclair to sponsor the grant and they will follow up in the near future. Mr. Golnar explained the grant is to extend Harshman Street beyond the recreation center towards the new site of the Carbon County Higher Education Center (CCHC) and join the street with the 287 bypass.

Dave Throgmorton, CCHC Director, stated that CCHC does not have the funds to construct the street. He discussed handouts including a map produced by WLC Engineers and an estimate from the city engineers showing the extension would cost approximately \$1.2 million. Mr. Throgmorton discussed the application would argue that the road would address safety and convenience and would benefit the entire county as CCHC serves the entire county.

Mr. Golnar stated the city is selling the land the new facility will be on and part of the match will be \$80,000.00 from proceeds of the sale provided by the city and that offer is still good regardless of who sponsors the grant.

Commissioner Paxton asked what the original access plan was and Mr. Throgmorton explained that it would be from the 287 bypass near Aberdeen Street but the original plans were to extend Harshman Street in the future. Commissioner Paxton asked Pat Robbins of the WBC if there is a downside for the county for sponsoring this grant. She stated that other than only being able to sponsor one grant per application period, she did not see a downside if Rawlins were to oversee the grant and provide the match. Commissioner Paxton asked what would happen to the process if the city were to wait until the next period. Ms. Robbins stated the city has another application to submit in that round also. She noted that the city could submit both and pull the one that ranks lower.

Chairman Weickum asked if this was so important why are there two projects prioritized before it, the one that will be submitted now and the other that will be submitted in March. Mr. Golnar explained that the March grant is due to a lack of CDBG funds as there are none available now. Chairman Weickum asked if the CCHC would not be able to build if the county did not sponsor

the grant and he asked why this road wasn't in the original bond issue. Mr. Throgmorton stated they were trying to reduce infrastructure costs and maximize education space to help get the vote passed.

Judy Dixon discussed the various projects that are before the council and that the order is not a matter of importance but rather the order the projects were brought to the council. Chairman Weickum discussed his concern for the project and that the county should not be constructing city roads. He also thinks the character of the building and effectiveness of the building would not be changed by having this road or not. Ms. Dixon stated the new road would expedite high school students accessing the facility everyday and provide a safer route.

Commissioner Paxton asked why the road needs completed now if the campus would not be finished until 2014. Mr. Throgmorton stated this is not a drop dead deadline and the project is not a crisis or afterthought. He stated the road would help with construction, it would be more convenience for students, and it seems to make sense to finish the project at the same time. Commissioner Paxton stated he is reluctant to sponsor a grant to happen right away when there is two years before the road would be needed. Mr. Throgmorton added this is a community readiness grant so that community can be ready for upcoming events, to lay the ground work for future development so it made sense to use the funds before the building was constructed.

Commissioner Chapman stated that the city is providing part of the match, the legwork and oversight however since there was no compelling reason for the county to sponsor now, he confirmed the city would sponsor later. Chairman Weickum also clarified that the county is currently sponsoring other grants, one for a business in Rawlins. He explained that this grant will put a large sum of money in the Economic Development Corporation. He also discussed a study for a preschool and why the county sponsored that grant.

Commissioner Paxton stated he supports anything for education but he has problems with the timing of the project. Louis Espinoza stated this road may also help with the congestion on other nearby roads. Commissioner Paxton stated he sees some benefits to the entire county from this project however he still has problems with the timing.

Clerk Bartlett discussed the timeline from application to when the road would be completed. While the application is September 2012, the final decision would not be made until January 2013 with construction likely complete November 2013.

Commissioner Paxton asked if there is a downside of waiting until next fall to apply. Ms. Robbins stated there may not be a downside from the WBC perspective. Commissioner Paxton stated he fully supports the project, just not the timing. Commissioner Chapman stated he agrees but feels it might want to be delayed also.

Bill Nation, Road & Bridge Superintendent reported he walked the proposed road area and he suggested that the plans include a utility corridor, walking paths, pedestrian overpass, and any other safety issues when the time is right. Mayor Klouda stated there has been a study on pedestrian overpasses and they have conceptually discussed the idea. Mr. Throgmorton stated the preliminary engineering does include curb, gutter, sidewalks, fire suppression, and other state of the art considerations.

The city again stressed the timeline is 1.5 years from start to finish and Ms. Robbins clarified the only time for sponsoring is September.

ADJOURNMENT

No action was taken and Chairman Weickum adjourned the meeting at 2:11 p.m.

-s- Gwynn G. Bartlett, Carbon County Clerk

Approved this 4th day of September 2012

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CARBON COUNTY, WYOMING

-s- Terry Weickum, Chairman