

Audit

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ly trained accounting personnel, as well as “better software,” because “the software you use should not have allowed an adjustment to a prior period.”

Skelton’s fourth issue was the expenditure control over the federal awards.

“Of the 25 transactions, 17 did not have pre-authorized approval,” Skelton said. “That’s 68%, which is 100% unacceptable.”

Four did not have invoices, to which Skelton responded, “You have to have invoices to pay an expenditure when you’re dealing with government funds. It’s not optional,” and nine could not be traced to the board minutes, which she pointed out is “36% of your transactions not coming through the board minutes. That’s a really big number.”

Skelton urged the board, “When you get that listing of those transactions, tie it to your monthly report,” since she had looked at the last 18 months of reports, and for three of those months, the reports did not tie.

“Why aren’t they tied?” Skelton asked. “They’re not tying for your January numbers, either.”

Skelton further urged the board to thoroughly review its cover sheet details, “because that’s about a million dollars every month that’s going out in payroll,” and even volunteered her own assistance.

Board Chair Sherman Skelton responded by admitting the audit was “disappointing,” even as he expressed enthusiasm for “the feedback that can help us be better,” saying “I love the suggestions.”

According to the board chair, the board and district have already made changes “that people will see to our meeting tonight,” as of Jan. 19.

“There are definitely some things we need to tighten,” Sherman Skelton said. “We look forward to getting better at that.”

When the Thermopolis Independent Record contacted both Jean Skelton and Hot Springs County School Board Chair Sherman Skelton, to see if they had anything further they wished to add, Jean Skelton said she was content to let her Jan. 19 board meeting comments speak for her, while Superintendent Dustin Hunt submitted the following

statement on behalf of the district on Jan. 27, presented unedited:

Hot Springs County School District #1 will address the audit findings presented at the December meeting. The governmental accounting practices of the District will improve, and a plan is in place to do so. The Board of Trustees in cooperation with staff is addressing this issue immediately. It is important to note that the issues in the audit are clerical errors. The audit did not present fraud or missing funds. The District finished the fiscal year well into the black. The conservative approach of the Board of Trustees allowed \$500,000 (July 19, 2022 board meeting minutes) savings in the general fund to be added to the Depreciation Reserve account for use with future District needs.

Staffing shortages, turnover and federal COVID funds have increased the challenges for our financial team. The business office team has faced considerable turnover since 2019. The four positions have had 8 different employees. New business manager Jessica

Benefiel who began in December has assembled a strong team that will receive additional training where clerical errors occurred.

The fiscal year runs from July 1st, through June 30th and audit findings are presented to boards by statute by December 15th. This creates a six month lag where errors can go uncorrected. Specific resolutions will be presented to the trustees in open session of the board meeting. The past audit cannot be fixed, only the practices and clerical errors that led to the findings.

The Board has provided strong oversight of District finances within their capacity. Reviewing the Approval of Finances would not provide insight into the staff using appropriate governmental accounting practices. This is one reason districts perform audits. When we know better, we do better. The board and the staff take the issue very seriously, and will improve the clerical errors found in this audit. The HSCSD #1 Board of Trustees have a strong history of setting goals and accomplishing them. Their goals include improved accounting practices in the year to come.

Snow

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Other concerns:

-- Piling snow at the ends of driveways along highway shoulders and pushing snow across roads can create hazardous conditions;

-- Piling or depositing snow that obstructs vision is a safety issue;

-- Using snow blowers to deposit snow in the state highway is another safety issue;

-- And, keeping sidewalks clear is important to help people walk safely out of the roadway.

Another concern is when

residents and businesses pile snow at the ends of driveways along the highway shoulder, Lamb said. This “banked snow” can reduce visibility for vehicles trying to enter the roadway.

“When the snow banks get higher than your aver-

age car, it makes it very difficult for motorists to see other vehicles,” said Lamb. “Our crews work to keep the shoulders clear for motorists’ safety, and we need residents and business owners to do the same.”

Leaving a trail of snow on

the pavement while plowing across the road can also cause problems. The snow may become packed and create ridges on the road, or as temperatures change, the area may become icy.

“Careless plowing creates an added hazard to un-

suspecting motorists and to road maintenance personnel,” Lamb said. “Winter is a difficult time to get around for those on foot, so please take the extra effort to clear your sidewalks and help everyone stay mobile and safe.”

HSC Republican Party to host banquet

The Hot Springs County Republican Party Committee is hosting a Faith Family Freedom Winter Banquet on Friday, Feb. 10 at the Hot Springs Hotel and Spa.

Guest speaker will be former Thermopolis resident Nathan Winters. Winters is the President of Wyoming Family

Alliance and Wyoming Family Foundation and Chairman of the Board of the Cheyenne Classical Academy.

The night will include silent and live auctions. A Mossberg Patriot rifle in 7 PRC will be one of the items up for auction.

The dinner menu includes

baron of beef, salad, baked potato, vegetable and dessert. Tickets are \$60 per person. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with dinner served at 6 p.m.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Cynthia Garbin at hscrp-chairman@charter.net or at 921-8304.

WHY IS IT?

A man wakes up after sleeping under an ADVERTISED blanket on an ADVERTISED mattress and pulls off ADVERTISED pajamas, bathes in an ADVERTISED shower, shaves with an ADVERTISED razor, brushes his teeth with ADVERTISED toothpaste, washes with ADVERTISED soap, puts on ADVERTISED clothes, drinks a cup of ADVERTISED coffee, drives to work in an ADVERTISED car, and then....

refuses to ADVERTISE, believing it doesn't pay.

Later if business is poor he ADVERTISES the business for sale.

WHY IS IT?

Public notices

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having occurred and all prerequisites to foreclosure having been met, notice is hereby given that the mortgage given by Michael Lee Farmer and Vivian Ann Farmer, husband and wife, mortgagors, in favor of Shoshone First Bank, mortgagee, dated December 13, 2005, recorded December 13, 2005, in Micro Book 115, at Page 983, in the Official Records of the Office of the Clerk of Hot Springs County, Wyoming, given to secure payment of a note in the original amount of Sixty Eight Thousand Dollars and 00/100 (\$68,000.00). Said note and mortgage were assigned to the Wyoming Community Development Authority by Assignment dated December 13, 2005, and recorded December 27, 2005, in Micro Book 116, at page 223, in the Official Records of the Office of the Clerk of Hot Springs County, Wyoming. The past amount due as of January 5, 2023, is Four Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Eight Dollars and 51/100 (\$4,668.51), plus accruing interest, fees and costs, and the amount due as of January 5, 2023, is Forty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Four Dollars and 80/100 (\$47,374.80), plus accruing interest, fees and costs. Said mortgage contains a power of sale which by reason of default the owner of the Note and Mortgage declares to have become operative and no suit or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by the mortgage or any part thereof, nor has any such suit or proceeding been instituted and the same discontinued. Written notice of intent to foreclose the Mortgage by advertisement and sale has been served upon the record owner and the party in possession of the mortgaged premises at least ten days prior to the commencement of this publication. *The property being foreclosed upon may be subject to other liens and encumbrances that will not be extinguished at the sale and any prospective purchaser should research the status of title before submitting the bid.*

Therefore, said mortgage will be foreclosed by sale of the following described real property located in Hot Springs County, Wyoming, described as:

CORNER OF SAID BLOCK 55 (AND LOT 1 THEREOF); THENCE N. 88°49'09" W., ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID BLOCK, A DISTANCE OF 70.01 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF AFOREMENTIONED PORTION OF SAID LOT 3, THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING, THENCE S. 1°13'48" W., A DISTANCE OF 70.00 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF AFOREMENTIONED PORTION OF SAID LOT 3; THENCE S. 88°48'18" E., ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF AFOREMENTIONED PORTION OF SAID LOT 3, A DISTANCE OF 1.60 FEET, MORE OR LESS; THENCE N. 1°28'32" E., ALONG THE EAST FACE OF SAID CONCRETE WALL, A DISTANCE OF 70.00 FEET; THENCE N. 88°49'09" W., A DISTANCE OF 1.90 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING AS PREVIOUSLY RECITED.

which has the address of 525 Ryan Avenue, Thermopolis, Wyoming 82443, to be sold by public auction by the Sheriff to the highest bidder, for cash, at 11:00 a.m. on February 14, 2023, at the front steps of the Hot Springs County Courthouse, 417 Arapahoe Street, Thermopolis, Wyoming 82443. The sale will take place only if a representative of the Wyoming Community Development Authority, or its agent, is present.

Wyoming Community Development Authority
By: Thomas A. Valdez
Chapman Valdez & Lansing
125 West Second Street
P.O. Box 2710
Casper, WY 82602
(307) 237 1983

Pub. Jan. 12, 19, 26 & Feb. 2, 2023
No. 1275

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Kurt & Lisa Shaffer, dba as Shaffer Development, have requested approval of a preliminary subdivision plat dividing a 36-acre parcel into seven lots. The proposal also includes a Land Use Change from Agricultural to Residential for six of the lots, and to Commercial for Lot 7. The applicant proposes to serve the lots with public water, and each would have an onsite septic system. The subject property is located in the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 13, Township 42 North, Range 95 West. It fronts 1,600 ft. on the southeast side of Buffalo Creek Rd., 1,400 ft. southeast of Highway 20 S, and is adjacent to the Dinosaur Center property.

A public hearing on this matter will be held before the Hot Springs County Land Use Planning Commission at 6:00 p.m. on

Wednesday, February 8th, 2023 in the Commissioners’ Meeting Room of the County Annex Building. Anyone requiring additional information should call the County Planning Office at 864-2961. Those unable to attend are invited to comment in writing to: County Planning, 415 Arapahoe St., Thermopolis, WY 82443, or by e-mail at hscplanner@hscounty.com.

Pub. Jan. 26 & Feb. 2, 2023 No. 1273

WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CHEYENNE, WYOMING NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF AND FINAL SETTLEMENT FOR HIGHWAY WORK

Notice is hereby given that the State Transportation Commission of Wyoming has accepted as completed according to plans, specifications and rules governing the same work performed under that certain contract between the State of Wyoming, acting through said Commission, and **Mountain Construction Co.,** The Contractor, on Highway Project Number **PEG2151 Big Horn & Washakie Counties,** consisting of **crushing and stockpiling of crushed surfacing material,** and the Contractor is entitled to final settlement therefore; that the Director of the Department of Transportation will cause said Contractor to be paid the full amount due him under said contract on **March 15, 2023.**

The date of the first publication of this Notice is **February 2, 2023.**

STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION OF WYOMING

Pam Fredrick
Senior Budget Analyst
Budget Program

Pub. Feb. 2, 9 & 16, 2023 No. 1277

Notice of application for 2023-2024 Liquor License Renewals.

Notice is hereby given that on the dates given, the following applications were received for liquor license renewals. RETAIL: OEB LLC, 528 Broadway St., January 17, 2023; 7 Lazy S Café & Bar LLC, 109 S. 6th, January 20, 2023; Compass Realty Group/Thermopolis Liquors, 615 S. 6th, January 20, 2023; Mack’s Market Inc., 600 S. 6th, December 20, 2022; OEB Saloon, LLC, 500 S. 6th, January 17, 2023; Grand Cru Enterprises LLC, 735 S 6th, January 18, 2023; Maverik Inc., 425 S. 6th, December 28,

2022; Big Spring Spa LLC/Safari Club, 115 E. Park, January 20, 2023 and. RESTAURANT: GMRG ACQ 1 LLC/Pizza Hut, 545 Shoshoni, January 3, 2023. BAR & GRILL: OEB LLC/One Eyed Buffalo Brewing Co., 528 Broadway, January 17, 2023; Lopez, Inc., Los Cabos, 942 Shoshoni, January 6, 2023. MICROBREWERY: OEB LLC/One Eyed Buffalo Brewing Co., 528 Broadway, January 17, 2023. LIMITED RETAIL: VFW Post #2281, 302 Broadway, January 19, 2023. Protest, if there be any, against issuance of any of these licenses, will be heard at the hour of 7:00 p.m., February 21, 2023, at the Thermopolis Town Hall, 420 Broadway.

Tracey Van Heule,
Thermopolis Town Clerk

Pub. Feb. 2, 9 & 16, 2023 No. 1277

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

The Thermopolis Town Council met in regular session January 17, 2023, at 7 pm at Town Hall. Present were Mayor Adam Estenson, Council members Bill Malloy, John Dorman Sr., Rachel Hughes, and Dusty Lewis. Also, present were Clerk/Treasurer Tracey Van Heule, Police Chief Pat Cornwell, Town Engineer Anthony Barnette, Public Works Director Ernie Slagle and Town Attorney Marshall Keller.

AGENDA: Following the pledge of allegiance, Malloy made a motion, seconded by Dorman and carried to approve the agenda as written.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Malloy made a motion, seconded by Lewis and carried to approve the financial statement for December 2022.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: Discussion ensued with citizens on mayor and council contact information and the agenda format.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Nothing to report from the police or public works department.

TOWN ENGINEER: ANTHONY BARNETTE: Lewis made a motion, seconded by Dorman and carried to allow the mayor to sign the DEQ certificate of completion for the water and sewer line project.

TOWN ATTORNEY: MARSHALL KELLER: Nothing currently.

MAYOR & COUNCIL: OTHER: Malloy made a motion, seconded by Dorman and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 pm. The next Council meeting is February 7, 2023, at 7pm.

ATTEST:

Tracey Van Heule, Adam R. Estenson,
Clerk/Treasurer Mayor

Pub. Feb. 2, 2023 No. 1278