



# Commissioners

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the document.

In other business, the commissioners voted and passed the approval of the Accounts Payable Warrant Register for \$782,923.37 and for Payroll for \$230,985.70.

Via Zoom, Ardurra's Brian Clarkson and Maddie Ross gave the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) report and said regarding work completed or in progress in the previous period, they ran an automated parcel update for ArcGIS Online data on each Monday this month. They drew and attributed 2024 land use change tracts, uploaded documents to AWS, and appended new permit locations to ArcGIS Online data.

Ross continued and said they held an online training session with the Sheriff's Department for the emergency data collection, online application and Field Maps application, and uploaded emergency data collection tutorials.

Also, they scheduled road maintenance Field Maps training sessions with the Sheriff and Road & Bridge, updated road maintenance tutorials, and added tutorials to the Sheriff's GIS Home Page. They created a HSC-branded thumbnail template for ArcGIS Online layers, maps, and applications and they updated hub sites and department homepage thumbnails.

Ross added, they dropped off an external drive to Deputy Assessor to save 2024 county aeriels and reviewed verified address points, created notes of missing points for the Assessor's review.

Regarding anticipated work for the next period, Ross and Clarkson said they will update the ArcGIS Online parcel layer on each Monday of the month, they will draw and attribute 2024 septic permits and LUC tracts as necessary, and upload documents to AWS and append new information to ArcGIS Online Data.

Ross also said they will travel to Hot Springs County on April 8 and conduct training for the Sheriff's Department and Road & Bridge. They will pick up external hard drives with county aeriels from the Deputy Assessor and process aeriels, upload to ArcGIS Online, and add to department maps and applications.

Additionally, they will purchase one ArcGIS Online Mobile Worker license for the Planning Department, begin work on the Septic Permit Inspection Field Maps App and Online Editor, and complete revisions to the LUS Lookup App.

Ross continued and said they will add newly verified addresses to the NG911 database, review NG911 data content, and coordinate with County Staff to obtain additional

data as needed.

They will also follow up with additional dispatch service providers (E-force) to get information about adding GIS data to their systems and continue providing support for online applications.

Nate Messenger gave the Fixed Base Operator (FBO) report and said they had 140 total recorded operations for March. Of those aircraft, two were air ambulances, seven were overnight aircraft, and one request for a hangar, a Bananza aircraft.

Regarding fuel sales, they sold 766.42 gallons of Avgas and 1,543.97 gallons of jet fuel. Messenger added, "Fuel sales and traffic were similar this month to what we had this month last year."

Shane Rankin gave the Road & Bridge report and said, "With the nicer weather, we were able to start doing some road blading. We've been working on cleaning up some right of ways." Rankin also said they worked on their mowing blades and hauled manure for the fairgrounds.

Rankin informed the commissioners about a guard rail strike on East River Road with damage. They are working on getting a quote for it and they notified the Sheriff's Department who is investigating the matter.

The commissioners and Rankin discussed a request from Bradyn Harvey for his Figure 8 Races event at the fairgrounds. According to Rankin, Harvey wanted to have Road & Bridge put the outdoor arena dirt back together after the event. The commissioners determined they prefer to not take away the opportunity from a local contractor who could be hired to do the work and that Road & Bridge should not do the work.

Rankin also held a discussion with the commissioners about using their gravel pit at Site 8 for potential use for hunting target practice. All commissioners and Rankin agreed that rifles should not be used since there were residents nearby. They discussed other types of weapons and, in the end, they decided to only allow archery to be used for the pit.

In separate motions, the commissioner voted and passed the approval of both Approach Agreement for No. 2025-0002, County Road 9, and No. 2025-0003, County Road 28, a culvert install.

John Dorman gave the Maintenance report and said they completed the elevator doors repair and fixed the overhead garage door. Regarding the Common Ground build, they fixed the back door, however, the front door is pending as they were given mislabeled parts that

don't fit. Also, their IT manager is working on the key cards and the locks for the courthouse and the Law Enforcement Center (LEC). Regarding the museum front doors, Dorman said he has not seen the quote yet.

Dorman also reported the gutters were completed the previous day. He also said that the new intake bathroom is leaking water and that when they redid the drawings for the ADA, they did not put an access panel in there. Now, they plan on taking the shower apart and putting in the access panel to stop the leak. The leak has reached Circuit Court but is only touching concrete bricks.

Additionally, Dorman said they will have quotes coming in for the fire suppression inspection and possible repairs.

Les Culliton gave the County Planner report and said he received a letter of support for the Rails to Trail program. This program converts old, unused railroad tracks into new trails for hiking and outdoor recreation. They are asking for the commissioners' support so that they can seek federal funding. The commissioners voted and passed the approval to sign the letter of support.

Culliton reported he has received calls and emails asking if the Stevens' Tipi Retreat was in business or not. He added that he wasn't sure how to answer the inquiries. According to Commissioner Paul Galovich, the Tipi Retreat has not rented more than a single tipi since the February 4 meeting and they have taken down their advertising for the current season. Culliton said, "So what I'm hearing is my response should be that currently they're not in business. Is that correct?" Commissioner Galovich replied in the affirmative.

Culliton and the commissioners discussed solar fields and Culliton said they have nothing in their current land use plan for solar. According to Culliton state statute said the commissioners have to permit solar, but the county does not have a permit. Culliton asked, "Is this something we want to address, or do we just tell them, no, we don't have an interest?" Chairman Tom Ryan said, "The state should be running this." After further discussion, Culliton will reach out to other counties for information about how they handle solar.

Culliton asked the commissioners about their advertising in the Independent Record regarding construction notices and are they OK with it. Chairman Ryan replied to continue advertising but "not have as much detail".

Culliton reported that the Natural Resources Planning Commission met on March 12 and that Hot Springs State Park Supervisor Chris Delay gave them updates on the park. According to Culliton, Delay gave them a heads up on road work and repair in the park and that there were traffic concerns. Also, the Land Use Planning Commissioner met on March 19 and only held discussion.

Shawn Mohr gave the Public Health/Prevention report and said, "I've got some exciting news. We did hire an adult health position. They're going to be starting May 1. They come from Georgia. Just got about 30 years experience...He's got some really good experience, and I think it'll be a good asset for the county." Mohr will introduce the new hire in the May meeting.

Regarding prevention, Mohr reported that Jen Cheney provided training to the community this month, and that there was "really good turnout" with 10 members for a two-day class.

Mohr added that he arranged with the state to provide training to help prevent overdoses or to treat overdoses. There were about at least 25 people who attended that training. Also, some of the state gambling funds were used to highlight Gambling Awareness Month in the paper. Mohr said, "We have resources for those struggling with gambling here at the Department of Health. We've got some books and some resources for folks that might be struggling with gambling."

The next Prevention Coalition meeting will be on April 9 at noon at the annex building meeting room. Kinship Connections of Wyoming will be there, which is part of the 211 program. The group provides resources for grandparents, relatives and other caregivers who are raising children on their own.

Mohr also said one of their staff has taken a qualified provider training to be able to do presumptive eligibility and assist pregnant mothers with insurance needs. This member has started training with lactation consulting and other areas of the state's program to begin providing services for moms and babies in the community. Mohr added they are still looking for a mother child health nurse.

Additionally, Mohr said they will participate in a public safety emergency exercise on April 14.

The commissioners voted and passed the Approval for Amendment 1 to Grant Agreement with Wyoming Department of Health Public Health Division to Replace Public Health Preparedness and Response Statement of Work with

the New Attachment A-1.

Heather Love and Chip Axtell of Weed & Pest presented their annual request for the Second Mill from the commissioner. The commissioners expressed the importance of the spray of mosquitoes to prevent the spread of the West Nile virus. Axtell added that they are looking into having drones spray for mosquitoes so that they can access more difficult areas. The commissioners voted and passed the approval to grant Weed & Pest the Second Mill.

The commissioners discussed the Acceptance of Hot Springs County Museum Board Member Notification and the recent passing of Cynthia Garbin, who was on the board. Commissioner Paul Gavolich said, "Cynthia, personally, what a remarkable person she was to serve with." The commissioners were asked should they replace Garbin or operate as is? The commissioners decided to advertise the position and took no formal action.

Commissioner Bob Aguiar held a discussion about County Board Appointments, in which he suggested that the public have access to the names of the various board members and to indicate if those positions were county, town, joint, or other appointments. Aguiar also suggested the appointment timelines be posted and that all this information be published on the county's website.

Commissioner Aguiar also prompted a discussion about the February 4 minutes in regard to a question he asked at that time to County Attorney Jill Logan about whether the Stevens had a remedy or not and that this information was not in the minutes. Aguiar wanted this to be in the public record. Chairman Ryan and Logan both offered up information regarding the wording of the minutes and what was on record.

In other business, the commissioners voted and passed the Approval of a Grant Agreement with the Office of State Lands and Investments, Mineral Royalty Grant for the Black Mountain Road Rehab and Reconstruction Project for \$1,900,000 and the Approval of the Contractors and Design Firms Certification; and the Approval of Change Order No. 1 for Black Mountain Road Construction, Increasing the Contract Amount by \$1,934,026 for a New Contract Total of \$7,710,153 and Adding Remaining Bid Package B and Bid Alternative 3 and Value Engineering Cost Proposal 1; and the Approval of Facility Use Agreement, Annex Meeting Room for the FFA Agricultural Issues Presentation.

# Public notices

Continued from Page 8

Other Business: Item No. 4 – A Motion Concerning Engineering

Item No. 5 – February 4, 2025 Meeting Minutes

**Approval of Minutes** – The Commissioners approved the minutes from March 4, 2025 and March 11, 2025 meetings.

**Revenue and Expenditure Report** – The Commissioners approved the February Revenue and Expenditure Report comparing 2024 and 2025.

**Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Update** – Chairman Ryan stated the County has been considering the use of Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF) funds to purchase the properties on Arapahoe for the grant project. The property owners agreed if the County had the properties appraised they will consider negotiating. The CDBG funds can only be used for demolishing the buildings, and CDBG Grantor would like the County to indicate which buildings will be included in the grant agreement. Chairman Ryan spoke to QM Appraisals, and they responded with an amount of \$5,000 for the three properties on Arapahoe. The Commissioners approved QM Appraisals to conduct appraisals on 510, 526, and 530 Arapahoe Street in the amount of \$5,000. Discussion: County Clerk Kersten inquired whether there was a contract, Chairman Ryan stated not yet and suggested adding to the motion allowance of the chairman to sign the contract contingent upon County Attorney Logan's review, the Commissioners agreed. Administrative Assistant Guntly updated the Commissioners about the next steps for the grant, stating an asbestos remediation plan is needed for the 518 Arapahoe building. WWC Engineering can get this plan done through the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Brownsfield Program at no cost to the County. The Commissioners approved to request DEQ to perform the remediation plan on the 518 Arapahoe Building.

**Other Business** – 1) Request for Approval of Facility Use Form, Annex Meeting Room, Better Wyoming Meeting – The Commissioners approved the Facility Use Form, Annex Meeting, for Better Wyoming

meeting on April 12th and 13th. 2) **Consideration of Request for Reimbursement (RFR) No. 4, for Black Mountain Road Project Construction, in the Amount of \$133,467.04 (County Paid \$20,020.56; WYDOT Reimburse \$113,446.98)** – The Commissioners approved RFR No. 4 for Black Mountain Road construction in the amount of \$133,467.04. 3) **Consideration of Request for Reimbursement No. 5, for Black Mountain Road Project Engineering, in the Amount of \$17,469.32 (County Paid \$2,620.40; WYDOT Reimbursed \$14,848.92)** – The Commissioners approved RFR No. 5 for Black Mountain Road engineering in the amount of \$17,469.32. 4) **Engineering Discussion** – Commissioner Aguiar stated in the spirit of a competitive market, and to ensure the best value for our county, he moved to propose that all new engineering projects shall be subject to an open bid process. Chairman Ryan stated normally with projects a consultant selection is done through an open Request for Proposals. A consultant is selected upon criteria not price, usually the federal agency will assist with the process. The County also has policies and procedures for purchasing services. Commissioner Aguiar stated if there is already a process in place he will rescind his motion. 5) **February 4, 2025 Meeting Minutes Discussion** – Commissioner Aguiar wanted to make a note about the February 4th meeting minutes, regarding the Tipi Retreat Public Hearing. Commissioner Aguiar stated during the Public Hearing he addressed County Attorney Logan, asking specifically if the Stevens' were given the opportunity for remedy. And Commissioner Aguiar said County Attorney Logan stated no. It is not on the original minutes from the meeting, and he wants it on record, to make sure it is documented. County Clerk Kersten stated this topic should be brought back when the County Attorney is present to understand the full meaning of the discussion and what the original conversation was. Commissioner Aguiar agreed to move the discussion to the next meeting.

**Correspondence** – 1) **Natural Resources Planning Committee Minutes** – January 2025; 2) **Bureau of Reclamation News Release** – Public Meeting to Discuss Buffalo Bill Reservoir Water Supply and Water Operations; 3) **Wyoming Game**

**and Fish Department Agenda** – March 19th; 4) **Bureau of Land Management Announcement** – Cross-Boundary Cheatgrass Partnership off to a Strong Start; 5) **2025 Bighorn Basin Outdoor Recreation Collaborative Charter** – Request for Review; 6) **Letter from Hot Springs County Emergency Management Coordinator** – Wyoming Gas Line Transmission Pipeline; 7) **Wyoming County Commissioners Association** – Request for Survey; 8) Big Horn Basin Nature and Discovery Center Agenda – March 2025

The Commissioners reviewed the forgoing correspondence. No further action was required.

**Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Hot Springs County Board of Commissioners will be held on April 15, 2025, at 3:00 p.m., at the Hot Springs County Annex building, 117 N. 4th St. Thermopolis. The public is invited to attend in person or stream online. To be placed on the Agenda please email Connie Guntly, Administrative Assistant to the Board of County Commissioners at connie.guntly@hscounty.com. Per Wyoming Statute section 18-3-516 (f), County information can be obtained at the County website <https://hscounty.com/> or by requesting a Public Records form from the County Clerk's office.

ATTEST:

Thomas J. Ryan, Chairman  
Becky Kersten, County Clerk

Pub. April 10, 2025 No. 1824

**ORDINANCE NO. 879**  
AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A NON-EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE TO ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER, A DIVISION OF PACIFIC CORP., FOR INSTALLATION, OPERATION OF ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION, TRANSMISSION, AND SALE OF ELECTRICITY TO CUSTOMERS WITHIN THE TOWN OF THERMOPOLIS; RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE NON-EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER, A DIVISION

OF PACIFIC CORP.

Whereas the Town of Thermopolis and Rocky Mountain Power, a division of Pacific Corp. (Rocky Mountain Power), have entered into a nonexclusive Franchise Agreement, effective upon passing this Ordinance.

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE TOWN OF THERMOPOLIS:**

**Section 1.** The nonexclusive Franchise Agreement between the Town of Thermopolis and Rocky Mountain Power, effective as of the date in Section 4, is hereby ratified and approved. By virtue thereof, the franchise is granted to Rocky Mountain Power to install, maintain, and operate an electrical distribution, transmission, and sale of electricity to customers in the Town of Thermopolis.

**Section 2.** The terms and conditions of said nonexclusive Franchise Agreement are incorporated herein by this reference, and specifically, the term of said franchise shall be for twenty-five (25) years.

**Section 3.** A copy of the nonexclusive Franchise Agreement is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk and shall be available for inspection by anyone requesting it.

**Section 4.** This Ordinance shall take effect on April 11, 2025 after being published in the Thermopolis Independent Record as required by law.

PASSED ON FIRST READING March 4, 2025.  
PASSED ON SECOND READING March 18, 2025.  
PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED ON THIRD AND FINAL READING April 1, 2025.

TOWN OF THERMOPOLIS,  
WYOMING  
A Municipal Corporation

By:  
Adam Estenson, Mayor

ATTEST:  
Tracey Van Heule, Town Clerk

Pub. April 10, 2025 No. 1831