

Commissioners

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Amanda Evans. He explained that Evans is moving out of the county. The commissioners voted and passed the approval to accept the letter of resignation.

Dusty Spomer of Ardurra presented a Request of Approval of Amendment 3 to Work Order 1 for Engineering Services on Black Mountain Road. Spomer explained there was an additional request from the BLM to do an archaeological study of the Black Mountain Road area because there was some culvert work too close to an artifact and that an archaeologist would be required to be present to observe the culvert work at the change of location. The additional cost of this would be around \$81,000 to perform, bringing the total cost to \$231,023.37.

During Spomer’s discussion with the commissioner about this, Commissioner Bob Aguiar said that he had recently visited Black Mountain Road and observed there were still culvert pipes still lying around and according to Aguiar, “no work was being done.”

Spomer, Chairman Paul Ryan, and County Clerk Becky Kersten explained to Commissioner Aguiar the process the contractor was going through and how the finances worked. Chairman Ryan and Spomer also said that the culverts were slip lined in the winter and that the culvert pipes on the ground were

paid for. Clerk Kersten added that no other costs were occurring during the suspension of work because of the spring rain season. The commissioners voted and passed the approval of the amendment to the work order, with Commissioner Aguiar voting against the motion.

County Assessor Daniel Webber presented the Request for approval of the 2025 Hot Springs County Abstract Report via the Board of Equalization. Chairman Ryan recessed the Board of Commissioners and called to order the Board of Equalization. Webber said that the assessed value of Hot Springs County was \$59,464,969 and that it was down from the previous year. He added that this number potentially could change as it is still subject to exemptions that may come into his office at the last minute. The members of the Board of Equalization voted and passed the approval to accept the abstract report. Charmen Ryan closed the Board of Equalization and reconvened the Board of Commissioners.

The commissioners voted and passed the approval to set the Special Meeting Dates for Budget Hearings. The first meeting will be on June 30 at 1 p.m. and the final hearing will be on July 8 at 1 p.m. They also canceled the regular meeting on July 15.

Additionally, the commissioners voted and passed the approval of the One Year Extension for the Town of Thermopolis Landfill Agreement, extending the End Date to June 30, 2026. The Town of Thermopolis Assistant to the Mayor Jim Jeuneomme gave a brief history of the reasoning and process of the landfill closure, working with the DEQ, and the coming transfer station.

County Clerk Kersten asked IT Director Dean Peranteux to present a Request for Courthouse Security Funding. In Peranteux’s discussion, he explained there were 58 doors affected by older lock technology and a mismatch of holes for the lock devices. His solution was to have an upgrade to the locks and a metal wrap around the doors. The county had already budgeted about \$85,000 for this upgrade, but Peranteaux needed an additional \$5,000 to work with the change. The commissioners voted and passed the approval of the security funding.

Chairman Ryan gave an update on the Wyoming County Commissioners Association (WCCA) Spring Meeting. In the testimony, Ryan said he learned that it would cost about \$1 billions to fix all the roads in Wyoming that are ranked at “failing”. He added that the WCCA had recommended to the Transportation Committee a 5-year plan where

\$100 million money could be directed each year that could go to help improve the roads.

Additionally, Chairman Ryan also mentioned that the WCCA will be 150 years old next year, and that there was an AI presentation at the spring meeting. The AI technology could help in writing the minutes of meetings and to help craft policy language, among other uses.

Chairman Ryan also said that the WCCA discussed funding resources for major maintenance to extend the life of buildings.

In other business, the commissioners voted and passed the approval to appoint Tabatha VanDeGrift, owner of the El Rancho Motel, to the Travel & Tourism board. They also approved the Facility Use Form for the Annex Room for the May 28 WYDOT Public Meeting regarding the closure of Broadway Bridge.

The commissioners also looked at the Nominations of the Chamber of Commerce Board Members, but they took no action as they have not taken any action in the past regarding this matter. They also voted and passed the approval to the Updated Disadvantage Enterprises Policy Statement and the approval of Consent for Accessing Private Property, 124 North 5th Street, the Learning Center for engineering work.

School board

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quests. The board voted and passed the approval to adopt using the new financial payroll reports as given by business manager Jessica Benefiel.

During the combined celebrations & district share, FFA Advisor Britton Van Heule discussed some of the FFA Student Awards. He gave a slide show presentation of the students’ accomplishments and their success was measured. The state convention in Cheyenne was on April 8-12 where 42 students from the high school participated along with the Big Springs FFA members. There was a ranking of a gold chapter this year from their community service activities. Tymber Eckley was the first state president from Thermopolis since the founding of FFA. Van Heule also outlined a variety of awards and their definitions ranking from gold,

silver and bronze. He also discussed the seniors’ state FFA degrees, Career Development Events, and leadership developments, among other accomplishments.

Becky Martinez, middle school advisor for the Big Springs FFA reported in animal systems Division 1 for agriscience seven students who are state champions qualify to go to nationals. She discussed accomplishments, animal judging, and their trip to nationals. Martinez also discussed collaboration between the middle school and high school FFA programs and the community’s support.

During the staff celebration, Principal Nichole Ciz introduced 2025 Teacher of the Year first grade teacher Kristin Ryan to the board. Ryan been here since 2011 and said she appreciates the recognition.

Ryan is also the “brain child” of the middle school’s Wax Museum that she started in 2017.

Austin Slagle, in the Student Trustee report, highlighted many items, including the high school graduation, which occurred on May 18 after this meeting. Slagle also discussed the freshman, sophomore, and junior awards ceremony, which was on May 22. Monday, May 19, was the Spring Parents Sports Night. Regarding the student council, new officers were sworn in on May 16. The student council made a donation to Make a Wish for \$2,500. Regarding the track team, the boys have won five meets in a row. The recent meet had 25 teams representing. The boys are looking to participate in regionals and the girls are going to try to place in the top three. Slagle said “it looks like

a showdown between Thermopolis and Big Horn.” Regarding spring golf, coach Deromedi said they had “a productive season” even though they had weather challenges. Regarding speech and debate, the team is fundraising for the national tournament in June in Des Moines, Iowa, with four Bobcats competing. The National Honor Society announced their new officers. The yearbook “is coming along” and has the theme “Watch Us Grow.” The art class had their state symposium in Casper with Bobcats earning 16 blue ribbons. Slagle also read a letter from her to the board outlining her experiences and what she learned in the past year as the student trustee.

Dustin Hunt provided the Superintendent’s Report and said they will be putting out a communication to parents about the four-day

school week. Hunt also discussed the concealed carry, bathroom use, and different genders in sports legislation that passed recently in the state legislature. Hunt said he had a couple of policies for the board to look at for the concealed carry bills for the use of staff and that they will receive legal counsel. Hunt also the board can take no action and let the legislation speak for itself or they can make a local rule and there will be a 45-day period for public comments on that rule.

The board voted and passed the approval to have the board retreat in Cody. Chairman Budd and Trustee Webber voted against. There was discussion prior to the vote about the value of having the retreat local to support businesses and norms to prevent distractions if off site or out of town.

Public notices

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McAlister for the Land Use Planning Commission.3) Request for Approval of Facility Use Form, Old Airport Property, July 12, 2025, Parking for Concert – Discovery Days Board members, Audra Dominguez and Shurie Scheel, presented the Facility Use Form for the old airport. Mrs. Dominguez received the parking layout provided by the engineers and inquired to the Commissioners if it was ok to use the runway area for parking. Mr. Rankin stated he spoke with Luke from Ardurra and requested the parking lay out to include the grassy area of the property as well. A new parking lay out will be provided. The Commissioners approved the Facility Use form for the old airport for parking during the concert. Discussion: Mr. Rankin and Mr. Freund discussed the use of the new access road and requested access to the road be used before and during the concert for emergency responders only and then once the concert ends the public can use the road to exit the concert. Clerk Kersten asked about proof of insurance and reminded everyone the facility use form requires the insurance be provided before the event with the County’s option to cancel the event if not received. Mrs. Dominguez stated the insurance is being worked on. 4) Request for Approval of Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Line of Credit at Pinnacle Bank – Commissioner Aguiar inquired about the line of credit. Clerk Kersten stated it is a requirement by DEQ to have a line of credit because of our pits, basically insurance to reclaim the pit. The Commissioners approved the line of credit for DEQ for \$1,000. 5) Request for Approval of One Year Extension for the Town of Thermopolis, Landfill Agreement, Extending the End Date to June 30, 2026 – The Commissioners reviewed this agreement, and Commissioner Galovich inquired about the amount the County will owe this year. Clerk Kersten stated the cost is provided by the Town Treasurer/Clerk. County Attorney Logan pointed out the agreement stated the cost is to be submitted to the entities by May 15th and suggested the Commissioners table this item until the May 20th meeting. This agreement was tabled until the May 20th meeting.

Correspondence – 1) **Hot Springs County Rural Water Joint Powers Board Minutes** – February thru March 2025; 2) **Bureau of Reclamation News Release** – Reclamation Issues Snowmelt Forecast for Bighorn River; 3) **Hot Springs County Library Board Meeting Pack-**

et – March 2025; 4) **Hot Springs County Land Use Planning Commission Minutes** – March 2025; 5) **Big Horn Basin Nature and Discovery Center Joint Powers Board Minutes** – January thru March 2025; 6) **Email from Roland Luehne** – Star Plunge Closure; 7) **Hot Springs County Chamber of Commerce Newsletter** – May 2025 (Basket)

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

Insurance Review – The Aggregate Report for the County’s Health Insurance Plan regarding the last two years and items to consider in the coming year, including the new IRS rules and insurance options were presented. After discussing the stop loss ratio and cost comparison the Commissioners decided to review insurance options during a budget work session. The Commissioners approved to continue with Summit RE program, and allow Clerk Becky Kersten to sign agreements. The Commissioners approved HUB services for the coming year and the brokerage fees of \$8,000 for the coming year.

Executive Session – The Board of County Commissioners did not enter into Executive Session.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 1:34 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Hot Springs County Board of Commissioners will be held on June 3, 2025 at 9:00 a.m., at the Hot Springs County Annex building, 117 N. 4th St. Thermopolis. The public is invited to attend in person, or view the meeting via Zoom through the link provided on the County website. 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

BILLS – April 2025
SAFEGUARD BUSINESS SYSTEMS 743.34 / UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING 225.00 / WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF

HEALTH 55,109.12 / HOT SPRINGS COUNTY LIBRARY 21,666.67 / VERNON W. MILLER, M.D.,PC 1,350.00 / SMITH OILFIELD SERVICE INC 240.00 / ENTERPRISES TECHNOLOGY SERVICES 44.83 / ALLEGIANCE BENEFIT PLAN MANGT, INC. 47,037.27 / ARDURRA GROUP, INC. 16,584.34 / CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS 139.98 / BALD RIDGE ENTERPRISES LLC 17,550.00 / BARTON STAM 106.40 / BIG HORN WATER 286.03 / LONG BUILDING TECHNOLOGIES, INC. 3,422.46 / BIG HORN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH 56.00 / AMERITAS LIFE INSURANCE CORP, 333.20 / CANON FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC. 170.52 / CARDINAL HEALTH 110, LLC 5,024.43 / CENTRAL RESTAURANT PRODUCTS 3,149.81 / CHARM-TEX, INC. 394.50 / CHENEY LAW OFFICE LLC 710.00 / CITY SERVICE VALCON 16.00 / THERMOPOLIS HARDWARE 1,027.53 / COLONIAL SUPPLEMENTAL INS. 18.70 / VERIZON WIRELESS 37.01 / VERIZON WIRELESS 198.89 / CUSTOM GRAPHIX.... 700.00 / DISCOVER THERMOPOLIS 16.72 / DMV RECORD SERVICES 3.00 / FASTENAL COMPANY 28.39 / PINNACLE BANK OF THERMOPOLIS 50,026.30 / US. FOODS 3,972.89 / FRONTIER TIRE LLC 3,000.11 / GOTTSCHKE THERAPY REHAB WELLNESS 150.00 / HIGH PLAINS POWER 511.55 / HOTS SPRINGS COUNTY SCHOOL DIST. #1 5,831.15 / HOT SPRINGS COUNTY HEALTH INS ACCT 88,694.96 / HOT SPRINGS HEALTH RED ROCK 270.00 / HOT SPRINGS CO. SCHOOL DIST #1 4,457.72 / HUB INTERNATIONAL MT STATES LIMITED 1,149.00 / THERMOPOLIS INDEPENDENT RECORD 2,646.75 / FLOYD’S TRUCK CENTER WY 147.26 / JENNIFER CHENEY 293.70 / KRISTINA D. MCNEFF 404.65 / LESLIE T. CULLITON 520.12 / WYOMING LOCAL GOVERNMENT LIAB. POOL 25,712.00 / MACK’S MARKET, INC. 334.19 / THE MASTER’S TOUCH, LLC 1,147.37 / MCMASTER-CARR 231.99 / HOT SPRINGS HEALTH 124.00 / NATRONA COUNTY LEGAL DEPARTMENT 520.00 / NATRONA COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CLERK 2.00 / O’REILLY AUTO PARTS 158.96 / O’REILLY AUTO PARTS 330.50 / OFFICE SHOP INC. 859.28 / OWL CREEK AVIATION, LLC 11,041.66 / OWL CREEK AVIATION, LLC 442.55 / ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER 5,535.21 / PERFORMANCE AUTO & GLASS 137.61 / PERFORMANCE AUTO & GLASS 39.98 / PINNACLE BANK OF THERMOPOLIS

5,463.36 / PINNACLE BANK OF THERMOPOLIS 4,592.00 / POSTMASTER 876.00 / PROFORCE LAW ENFORCEMENT 1,501.50 / QM APPRAISAL 5,000.00 / QUADIENT LEASING USA, INC. 220.74 / CENTURY LINK 880.94 / RAPID FIRE PROTECTION, INC 2,750.00 / THE RADAR SHOP 546.00 / RICHARD CLOUSE 25.00 / RIVERTON TIRE AND OIL 5,419.68 / RANGE 3,058.39 / SADY MOUNTS 750.60 / SEHNERT SYSTEMS, INC. 3,880.00 / SHAWN MOHR 89.49 / SHYLA J. SNYDER 261.08 / SMITH PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES 400.00 / THE STANDARD INS. CO. 2,347.49 / STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER’S OFFICE 500.00 / STATE OF WYOMING 150.00 / STEPHANIE CONRAD 357.00 / WYOMING GUARDIANS AD LITEM PROGRAM 1,893.65 / STOP STICK, LTD 2,848.00 / TEPEE POOLS 216.00 / T-MOBILE 56.12 / TOWN OF THERMOPOLIS 1,300.25 / TRAVELING COMPUTERS, INC. 14,723.06 / TRI COUNTY TELEPHONE ASSOC, INC 632.69 / NORCO, INC. 540.81 / VERIZON WIRELESS 48.02 / VERIZON WIRELESS 50.71 / HOT SPRINGS PHARMACY 264.00 / PINNACLE BANK (VISA CARD ONE) 201.22 / PINNACLE BANK (VISA-CARD TWO) 549.08 / PINNACLE BANK (VISA CARD THREE) 1,092.79 / PINNACLE BANK (VISA CARD FOUR) 161.45 / PINNACLE BANK (VISA CARD FIVE) 1,061.43 / PINNACLE BANK (VISA CARD SIX) 1,230.35 / PINNACLE BANK (VISA CARD SEVEN) 44.49 / PINNACLE BANK (VISA CARD EIGHT) 4,708.28 / PINNACLE BANK (VISA CARD NINE) 3,513.45 / PINNACLE BANK (VISA CARD 1-SHERIFF) 124.33 / PINNACLE BANK (VISA CARD 2-SHERIFF) 1,233.27 / PINNACLE BANK (VISA CARD 3-SHERIFF) 1,555.11 / PINNACLE BANK (VISA CARD 4-SHERIFF) 513.03 / WEDGWOOD & COMPANY LLC 195.00 / WEX BANK 55.37 / WYOMING DEPT. OF WORKFORCE SERVICES 4,982.74 / GREAT-WEST TRUST COMPANY, LLC 4,575.00 / WYOMING GAS 2,704.00 / WYOMING HEALTH FAIRS 130.00 / WYONET INC. 509.95 / WYO RETIREMENT SYSTEM 42,452.85 / 036-NCPERS GROUP LIFE INS. 352.00 / WYOMING RETIREMENT SYSTEM 262.50 / R&A SAFETY LLC 90.50 / WYOMING WASTE SERVICES - RIVERTON 85.39 / YOUTH ALTERNATIVES 200.00

Pub. May 29, 2025

No. 1859

Read the
PUBLIC NOTICES
for your protection.