

Commissioners

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evator in the court house is currently non-operational and that they are still determining the cause of the problem.

Barb Rice provided her monthly report for the Youth Alternatives group. Rice stated that the cooking skills class is on-going, and she has been busy working with other individuals and organizations to make plans for any upcoming drop in available SNAP funding.

Commissioner Galovich thanked Rice for all her hard work and appreciated that she was so on top of the needs of the community.

County planner Les Culliton reported on an issue regarding some language in new forms from DEQ which are used to apply for septic permits. An issue had been raised recently by a local resident. Culliton stated that he had been advised that DEQ will

not agree to delete the concerning language from the form and he was seeking direction from the board on how to proceed. After discussing the issue, the board determined that the issue is not one which can be resolved at the county level. The issue would have to be addressed at the state level.

Shawn Mohr provided a monthly report for public health advising that they have been doing a lot of flu shots. His office has hired an additional nurse who will be heading up the mother and child health program, which will help to increase the capacity of services which the department can provide. The office now has a rapid strep test available which can provide results in about thirty minutes.

The commissioners will meet next on Tuesday, November 18 at 3 p.m. at the county annex.



photo by Nadja Cavi

Sorting series

Jay Ritchey works to separate cattle during the Thermopolis Sorting Series at the Hot Springs County Fairgrounds last Saturday.

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fill an unexpired term and he sought to be re-appointed to the board. He will now serve a full 3 year term.

The council appointed Brad Basse to the represent Thermopolis on the Local Government Limited Liability Board.

Mayor Estenson read a proc-

lamation to honor the service of former Thermopolis resident, Captain Hilan Ernest Jones, who passed away in 2021. In his honor, November 12, 2025, will be proclaimed as Captain Hilan Ernest Jones Day in Thermopolis.

The council determined that

the town will recognize Friday, December 26 as an additional Christmas holiday for town employees.

In the work session, the council discussed the statutory requirements of giving notice of agenda items, how the agendas are made public, how the

formal minutes of their meetings are generated, approved by the Council and then posted to the public.

The council also discussed several alternative means to provide timely notice to the public of actions taken by the council. It was agreed that the town

needs a formal communications policy and such a policy should be developed and adopted as part of the town's overall policy review, which is in process.

The town council will meet again on Tuesday, November 18 at 7 p.m. at the Thermopolis Town Hall.

Public notices

NOTICE OF SALE

There is a 1979 Marlette mobile home, white, with VIN#K14270FD80608 that will be sold at Sheriff's public auction on the front steps of the Hot Springs County Courthouse on November 25, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. This sale is to satisfy abandoned costs against Bruce Smith on the above listed mobile home by Bengé Brown in the amount of \$1,000.00.

Pub. Nov. 6 and 13, 2025 No. 1969

STATE OF) OFFICE OF THE
WYOMING) BOARD OF
) COUNTY
COUNTY OF) COMMISSION
HOT SPRINGS) October 21, 2025

The Hot Springs Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room at the Government Annex. Present were Commissioners Tom Ryan, Bob Aguiar, and Paul Galovich. Also present were County Clerk Becky Kersten, and Administrative Assistant to the Commissioners Connie Guntly. Chairman Ryan led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda – The Commissioners approved the Agenda with the following changes:

Add: **Item 5a Connie Guntly**

5a. Request for Approval of Support Letter for the

Avenue of Flags, State 250 Anniversary Funds

Item 6a Commissioner Aguiar

6a. Email from Lee Campbell

Commissioner Aguiar requested to move Lee Campbell's email from Item 6 to Correspondence. Commissioner Galovich agreed and amended his motion to move Lee Campbell's email to Correspondence.

Approval of Minutes – The Commissioners approved the minutes from October 7, 2025.

Approval of Revenue and Expenditure Reports – The Commissioners approved the Revenue and Expenditure reports. Discussion: Clerk Kersten clarified there are three reports, July, August and September 2025. The July report was previously approved; the report presented today is corrected to show an increase in revenue by \$2,184.67 and no changes to expenditures.

Youth Alternatives Monthly Update – There is one female in the Youth Alternatives program and 18 clients utilizing the Learning Center. Prevention education is continuing through parent and student education classes. Youth Alternatives participated in Suicide Prevention Walk in September. Mrs. Rice also participated in an ACT Work Keys Boot Camp training in September.

Request for Approval of Temporary Easements for Black Mountain Road – The State Land and Investment

Office (SLIB) contacted Clerk Kersten regarding a Temporary Easement for Black Mountain Road filed in 2023 that was not yet approved. Upon research with Ardurra Engineering, it was determined the County should submit a corrected Temporary Easement as the construction areas moved from the initial plan. The only landowner affected on the corrected easement is Reed Lyman. Mr. Lyman signed the new easement application and Clerk Kersten asked for Commissioner approval on both the applica-

tion and payment to the State Land and Investment Office for application fees of \$700. The Commissioners approved the Temporary Use Permit for 2025, Black Mountain Road construction.

Address/Fire Number for Red Dirt Master Gardeners – A request to the Commissioners for an address/fire number for the Red Dirt Master Gardeners, Community Garden, was presented. The location is in the State Park, and outside of the town limits for Thermopolis and East Thermopolis. If the County gave it a fire number, it would not correlate with the other addresses in the area. Mr. Culliton suggested the Town provide the fire number, and the County provide a letter asking for the Town's assistance. The Commissioners approved Mr. Culliton the opportunity to present the Town with a letter to provide an address for the Red Dirt Master Gardeners parcel. Discussion: Chairman Ryan stated his stamp could be used for the letter.

Discussion of Red Lane Domestic Water Tank Replacement on the Old Airport Property – A request to the Commissioners to update the water tank at the old airport for Red Lane was presented. The plans are to lay a concrete foundation, place a new tank and run water lines. Chairman Ryan appreciated Mr. Bain coming to the Commissioners with this, and updated Mr. Bain in regards to the development project at the old airport, and the engineering being conducted. The Commissioners requested Mr. Bain wait on the water tank project until the engineers have time to look into the project as a whole.

Update from the 250 Year Anniversary Committee – Members of the Hot Springs County 250 Committee were present to go over the activities planned for America's 250 Year Anniversary Celebration, Ray Shaffer, Phillip Scheel, Terri Geissinger, and Barb Rice; Meri Ann Dorman is also a member however was not present. Mrs. Guntly went over the itinerary for the weekend which includes, a concert on Friday June 12, 2026, a parade of mule teams for a 16 Mule Team Johnson re-enactment, a trek to the Johnson family homestead, and milk can dinner put on by the Museum on Saturday. The Learning Center is providing tours of Legend Rock and the State Park on Sunday. Mr. Shaffer described some lasting legacy projects the Committee is considering and the members described their part of the weekend being planned.

a. **Request for Approval of Support Letter for the Avenue of Flags, State 250 Anniversary Funds**

The Commissioners approved the Commissioners signatures on the support letter for the Memorial Avenue of Flags 501(c)(3) to receive funds from the State for the Avenue of Flags.

Request for County to Pay Attorney Fees for Governor's Investigation – The Governor came to Thermopolis to investigate claims made by 6 individuals to remove Commissioners Galovich and Aguiar from office. Commissioner Aguiar stated he had an attorney write a statement letter. Commissioner Aguiar moved to approve payment of his attorney fees; Commissioner Aguiar does not know the amount. Chairman Ryan stated before we get to the motion Attorney Logan sent a message stating there is state statute that describes these situations and asking for a motion now may be premature. Clerk Kersten passed out State Statute 18-3-903(c), Chairman Ryan stated we should

understand this statute before making a motion. Commissioner Aguiar stated he can wait until the Governor's investigation is done. Chairman Ryan suggested waiting until Attorney Logan has a chance to clarify the statute. Lee Campbell, requested to comment, stating he looked into the same statute Clerk Kersten referred to and suggests the County get a State Attorney General Opinion. Chairman Ryan stated Attorney Logan can look into that suggestion. Commissioner Aguiar withdrew his motion.

Follow up Discussion of TANF Funding – The TANF funding requirements were reviewed, the County is responsible for all reporting, monitoring, and managing of the funds, which was one of the County's concerns. The State Department of Family Services application for funding states, the Commissioners shall accept applications from any entity; in the past the County only had High Country Behavioral submit an application. So after doing some research into what other counties do with this application and the process of a sub-grantee agreement, Admin Assistant Guntly suggested waiting until next year to apply for funding. The Commissioners agreed. Shyla Buckner, High Country Behavioral, inquired as to what that would look like. Admin Assistant Guntly stated the County will start a new process allowing other entities to apply for the funds, the Commissioners will approve applications and send approved applications to the State for review. Upon State approval, a sub-grantee agreement will be created and signed. When the State Department of Family Services releases the notice in the spring of 2026, this process will begin and agreements will start in October 2026.

Other Business – 1) **Request for Approval of Facility Use Form, Annex Meeting Room, Estate Planning Seminar** – The Commissioners approved the Facility Use Form, Annex Meeting Room, October 23, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for Estate Planning Seminar. Discussion: Admin Assistant Guntly, clarified the request for the projector and screen. 2) **Request for Approval of Opioid Abatement Funds for High Country Behavioral Health in the Amount of \$20,000** – Admin Assistant Guntly stated the services provided by High Country fall under the abatement strategies in the Exhibit A, section A, items 1, 3, and 4, of the Memorandum of Understanding. The Commissioners approved the Opioid Abatement funds for High Country Behavioral Health for a total of \$20,000. 3) **Request for Final Plat Approval for Mead Subdivision** – Planner Les Culliton explained the final plat met all conditions required by the County and State, and the easement will be filed after the plat is filed. The Commissioners approved the final plat for Mead Subdivision. 4) **Request for Approval of SLIB Grant Draft Request No. 2, Black Mountain Road Construction** – The Commissioners approved the SLIB grant draft request No. 2, Black Mountain Road for a total of \$946,395.52 (SLIB reimburses \$246,062.84; remaining \$700,332.68 from WYDOT & County). 5) **Request for Approval of WYDOT Reimbursement (RFR) No. 14, Black Mountain Road Construction** – The Commissioners approved WYDOT RFR No. 14, Black Mountain Road for a total of \$700,332.68 (WYDOT Reimburses \$595,282.78; County Pays \$105,049.90). 6) **Request for Approval of WYDOT Reimbursement No. 15, Black Mountain Road Engineering** – The

Commissioners approved WYDOT RFR No. 15, Black Mountain Road engineering for a total of \$36,257.53 (WYDOT Reimburses \$30,818.90, County Pays \$5,438.63). 7) **Request for Approval of Reimbursement No. 4, Construct County Hangar Design and Associated Work** – The Commissioners approved RFR No. 4, County Hangar project, for a total of \$4,933.75 (WYDOT reimburses \$296.03; FAA reimburses \$4,440.37; and County pays \$197.35). (note the FAA and County amounts are off by one cent compared to the published agenda).

Executive Session W.S. 16-4-405 (Personnel) – The Commissioners entered into Executive Session at 4:03 p.m. Present for the Executive Session were Commissioners Tom Ryan, Paul Galovich, and Bob Aguiar. Also present were County Clerk Becky Kersten, Sheriff Jeremie Kraushaar, Deputy Sheriff Worley and Admin Assistant Connie Guntly. The Commissioners exited Executive Session at 4:35 pm with no action taken.

Correspondence – 1) **Big Horn Basin Nature and Discovery Center Board Agenda** – October 2025; 2) **Department of Environmental Quality Letter** – Request for Clarification on Access Statements Used in DEQ Small Wastewater System Permit Application; 3) **Wyoming Aeronautics Commission Meeting Agenda** – October 2025; 4) **Email from Lee Campbell** – County to Pay Attorney Fees for Governor's Investigation

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

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Hot Springs County Board of Commissioners will be held on November 18, 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:

/s/Thomas J Ryan, /s/Becky Kersten,
Chairman County Clerk

Pub. Nov. 13, 2025 No. 1974

PUBLIC NOTICE HOT SPRINGS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1 Destruction of Special Education Records

Special Education records for graduated and/or inactive students born in the year 1999 or earlier will be destroyed after **December 3, 2025**. Identification will be required to obtain files. If student is under the supervision of parent/guardian after the age of 21, proof of guardianship must be provided before files will be released. Anyone requiring copies of files must contact the Special Services Office at (307) 864-6528 to make an appointment to obtain records.

Pub. Nov. 13, 2025 No. 1975