The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Sublette County Courthouse, in Pinedale, Wyoming, on this date at 9:00 a.m. with Andy Nelson, Joel Bousman, Jim Latta, Stephen Crane of the Pinedale Roundup, and Mary Lankford, County Clerk present.

Chairman Nelson led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the preceding regular meeting of November 17, 2015, was approved and ordered filed on motion by Commissioner Latta and seconded by Commissioner Bousman. The motion carried.

The official bonds for Amy Commerer, Superintendent/Clerk for the Big Piney Cemetery District, in the amount of $2,000; and Marilyn Jensen, Treasurer for the Boulder Mosquito Abatement District, in the amount of $1,000 were approved and ordered filed with the County Treasurer.

The Board discussed the LaBarge Creek road. Commissioner Latta reported on meeting with Bob Harower and possible options if an easement cannot be secured from the Eccles property. Moving the road centerline to exclude the Eccles property or suggesting purchase of the easement by the BLM or Forest Service and donating the easement to the County was discussed. Commissioner Latta, Bob Harower, and Butch Penton agreed to meet at the road on December 2nd.

The Board discussed the proposed property purchase and gravel pit in Bondurant. Commissioner Latta reported on meeting with Tracy Tolbert, adjacent property owner. Chairman Nelson announced that the Board would have a workshop on December 8th at 2 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room to review the proposal. Deputy County Attorney Matt Gaffney was directed to extend the purchase agreement. Chairman Nelson announced that the Board would have a workshop on December 8th at 2 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room to review the proposal. Deputy County Attorney Matt Gaffney was directed to extend the purchase agreement. County Assessor Jeness Saxton commented on property value. John Walker, Bondurant resident, commented on understanding the need for gravel, but cautioned the Board to carefully plan for the future.

Mark Eatinger, representing Rio Verde Engineering, reported on the progress of the floor project at the Events Center.

Butch Penton, Road and Bridge Superintendent, expressed his concern about school children in the Beaver Ridge and winter access.

Ron Gordon, representing Waste Management, reviewed the billing on the lysimeter project, and was authorized to sign the certificate of substantial completion. Billing Nelson Engineering for Change Order #1 was discussed and will be sent by the County Clerk.

It was moved by Commissioner Bousman and seconded by Commissioner Latta to recess the meeting for an Executive Session, with Sheriff Stephen Haskell, Col. Mark Farrell, Capt. Wes Johnston, Capt. Gabe Torres, Sgt. Kam Peterson, Lance Gehlhausen, Andy O’Neal, Mike Christie, and Deputy County Attorney Matt Gaffney, in accordance with W.S. 16-405(a)(i) to discuss matters of public threat. The motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Bousman and seconded by Commissioner Latta to reconvene the meeting.

Deputy County Attorney Gaffney advised that any changes to the Title 25 program will need to be reviewed by the County Attorney, the County insurance carrier, and the Commissioners before implementation.

Sheriff Haskell presented a resolution requesting the appointment of a special attorney, James Trent Whiting of Whiting Law PC, to assist in his representation on the Petition for Writ of Mandamus. The Board referred the proposed resolution to their attorney, Pat Crank.

County Assessor Jeness Saxton and Deputy County Attorney Gaffney discussed the property taxes on Aspen Grove, and a possible application for exemption. The Board decided to take no action.
Old Business. Commissioner Latta reported on the proposed gravel pit in Bondurant. Commissioner Bousman reported on ERG’s work on the Wyoming Range EIS, the stock growers Pinedale RMP lawsuit and his upcoming JIO PAPO Board meeting. Chairman Nelson reported on attending a recent Ag. Center meeting and substance abuse forum. He presented a letter from Senator Mike Enzi concerning mail service in Sublette County.

The following abatement petitions and affidavits of abatement of taxes were presented on petition from the County Assessor and the State of Wyoming Board of Equalization: Yates Petroleum Corporation, $58,18 and Crown Energy Partners, LLC, $8,097.09.

Shad Cooper, County Fire Warden, and John Ball, Deputy County Fire Warden, reported on the Dull Knife fire and the need for a water supply in the Green River Ranches area. Cooper reported on three grant applications that will be presented to the Board for approval, being: HMEP grant through Homeland Security for Haz Mat equipment and training; SHSP grant through Homeland Security for WyoLink radios and equipment for Unified Fire; and FEMA AFG grant for WyoLink radios and equipment.

Cooper presented bids for 2 Type VI Fire Apparatus. Three bids were received. It was moved by Commissioner Bousman and seconded by Commissioner Latta to award the bid for two Type VI Fire Apparatus to Fire Horse in the amount of $187,852.00 each. The motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Latta and seconded by Commissioner Bousman to recess the meeting for an Executive Session with County Attorney Clay Kainer and Deputy County Attorney Matt Gaffney, in accordance with W.S. 16-405(a)(iii) to discuss potential litigation. The motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Latta and seconded by Commissioner Bousman to reconvene the meeting. The motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Latta and seconded by Commissioner Bousman to deny a Wyoming Governmental Claim from Wyoming Newspaper, Inc. in the amount of $3,391.88. The motion carried.

Chairman Nelson delineated the following misrepresentations in the claim:

1. There was no contract with Wyoming Newspaper, Inc. for the County’s legal advertisement.
2. Two bids were received from two local newspapers that are owned by the same corporation.
3. Transparency was not the issue which influenced the Board’s decision, it was the price increase.
4. The Sublette Trader has been in operation for over 52 weeks.

Commissioner Bousman commented that the Roundup’s criticism of the County’s lack of transparency had nothing to do with the decision to change to the Sublette Trader, and that more information is being disseminated now than before. In addition, Bousman commented that the County was being taken advantage of by a monopoly.

Todd Hurd, representing Forsgren and Associates, and Maintenance Superintendent Andy O’Neal reviewed the following projects:

1. County Attorney Building. Cabinets are complete minus tops. Floor tile is complete. Plumbing is complete minus break area sink. Carpet scheduled within two weeks. HVAC complete. Doors are complete. Touch up paint this week.
2. Extension Office. Cold weather possible shut down, will complete in March or April with building ready to move in June. All 7 day breaks on footings and walls are acceptable. Working on floor plans.

Accounts Payable audited and approved for payment:

AMERICAN FAMILY LIFE ASSURANCE 4,481.74 / SUBLETTE COUNTY PAYROLL ACCT. 403.25 JEFFERSON PILOT FINANCIAL INSURANCE 7,911.91 MICHIGAN STATE DISBURSEMENT UNIT 165.50 / 056-NCPERS WYOMING 144.00 ORCHARD TRUST COMPANY 9,425.00 / CIRCUIT COURT OF SUBLETTE CO. 729.48 SUBLETTE COUNTY PAYROLL ACCT 356,842.05 / SUBLETTE CO PAYROLL ACCT 50,157.00 VALIC 658.82 / WYOMING CHILD SUPPORT 1,352.00 WASHINGTON STATE SUPPORT REGISTRY 550.00 / WYOMING RETIREMENT SYSTEM 1,065.00 WYOMING RETIREMENT SYSTEM 82,405.75 / WYOMING
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned to 2:10 p.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SUBLETTE COUNTY, WYOMING

/s/ Andrew G. Nelson, Chairman

Attest:

/s/ Mary L. Lankford, County Clerk