

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF
CARBON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET HEARING
Tuesday, July 18, 2005
County Courthouse
Rawlins, Wyoming**

A budget hearing was held Tuesday, July 18, 2005 at the County Courthouse in Rawlins, Wyoming by the Board of Carbon County Commissioners. Attending the meeting were Chairman Artlin Zeiger; Commissioners Lee Meacham and Terry Weickum; County Clerk, Linda Ann Smith; Cindy Baldwin, County Treasurer; Chief Deputy Clerk, Diana Obe; and Deputy Clerk, Gwynn Rothenberger.

Chairman Artlin Zeiger called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. and opened the public hearing at 8:01 p.m. regarding the 2005-2006 fiscal year budget.

Clerk Smith stated that notices of public hearing were advertised in the Rawlins Daily Times on July 6, 12, and 19, 2005 and in the Saratoga Sun on July 13, 2005.

Weed & Pest

Larry Justesen presented the Final Budget Summary for the Carbon County Weed and Pest Control District. The budget is in the total amount of \$957,366.00.

Mr. Justesen reported he has hired a full-time assistant to help with the different Weed & Pest programs in the county.

Baggs Cemetery District

Chairman Zeiger stated the board has received the Final Budget Summary for the Baggs Cemetery District and called for any public comments. There were no comments.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Chairman Zeiger reviewed the Budget Summary 2005-2006 Carbon County, Wyoming. Mr. Zeiger explained the assessed valuation stating the county must levy 12 mills totaling \$8,015,454.00. There were no public comments on the presented Budget Summary.

MEDICINE BOW LIBRARY

Vicki Hitchcock appeared to discuss the Medicine Bow Library move. The current building in which the Medicine Bow Library is housed will no longer be available due to a 30-day notification from the Town of Medicine Bow. The Board previously instructed Ms. Hitchcock to view the old senior center building in Medicine Bow to determine if there is sufficient room for a library.

Ms. Hitchcock stated the structure of the old senior center seems sufficient to sustain the weight of the books and shelving. She stated that due to the layout of the building, wall removal and support installation would be necessary.

Ms. Hitchcock presented a quote in the amount of \$22,719.00 from Custom Builders of Saratoga. The quote includes removing partitions, removing the plumbing in the kitchen area, relocation of electrical outlets, carpet and installation in some areas, painting and patching various areas of wall, and installing a handicapped access doorway to one of the restrooms. Ms. Hitchcock stated the Board might also want to consider installing insulation under the flooring while the other work is being done.

Clerk Smith stated that \$10,000.00 is provided in the 2005-2006 budget for the project and could allocate an additional \$12,000.00 from Special Projects.

The Board stated it would consider the options and take action at a later date stating if the project approved, it would be opened for bids.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Harry Lovato, Economic Development Corporation President, advised that the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) met today and stated the proposed \$50,000.00 allotment to the EDC would only be enough to meet its needs at a minimum level. Mr. Lovato requested the Board reconsider its original request of \$140,000.00.

Commissioner Weickum asked what the EDC would plan on paying a director. Mr. Lovato replied the director will be paid approximately \$65,000.00 and would be required to have a minimum of five years experience and a bachelors' degree in marketing. A support person, or secretary, was proposed at \$28,000.00 totaling \$93,000.00 for only personnel.

Mr. Lovato stated the EDC currently has \$30,000.00 to \$40,000 cash. Commissioner Weickum summarized the EDC's original request stating the county allotted \$50,000.00, the City of Rawlins allocated \$30,000.00, and stated that these allotments, with the EDC's current cash is more than adequate to cover personnel salaries and benefits.

Mr. Weickum also pointed out that possible contributions from other municipalities and private support are likely. Mr. Lovato again requested the Board reconsider the request and allot additional funding.

Henry Hewitt, EDC member, stated the \$50,000.00 allotted is the lowest in twenty-five years and further stated that EDC moved at its meeting today that if the Commissioners refuse to allot additional funding, the EDC would decline the County's and City's funding and dissolve.

Mr. Weickum stated the previous direction from the Board was for the EDC to contact businesses around the county to determine its needs and wants. Mr. Weickum questioned how many businesses were contacted. There was no reply by any EDC member.


Chairman Zeiger questioned if the Board was willing to offer more than the \$50,000.00. The consensus of the Board is that \$50,000.00 is more than adequate to cover the EDC's needs.

Mr. Hewitt requested on behalf of the EDC that the board remove the \$50,000.00 from its budget as the EDC will decline to accept it.

The Board stated it would consider the funding at its regular meeting July 19, 2005.

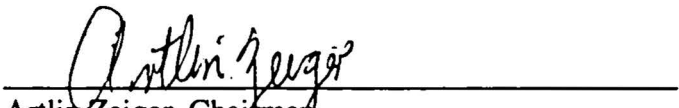
ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Zeiger closed the public hearing and adjourned the meeting at 9:03 p.m.


Linda Ann Smith, Carbon County Clerk

Approved this 2nd day of August, 2005.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CARBON COUNTY, WYOMING


Artlin Zeiger, Chairman