

SWEETWATER COUNTY EVENTS COMPLEX

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

May 26, 2020

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approvals of April 28, 2020 Meeting Board Minutes
5. Financial Report
6. Approval of Checks:
 - 1st Bank Checks: 57184 – 57206
 - 1st Bank Direct Deposits: 5950 – 5986
 - Commerce Bank Checks: 1372 – 1373
 - Commerce Bank Direct Deposits: 24484 – 24526
7. Public Comment
8. Presentations
9. Listing of June 2020 Events
10. Correspondence
11. Old Business
 - Water Metering Station & MOU with City of Rock Springs
 - FY 2021 Budget
 - Live Horse Racing
 - Fair 2020
12. New Business
 - Sweetwater County MOU – Parks & Recreation
13. Closing Comments
 - Staff: Executive Director
 - Board: Open Forum for Board Comments
 - Commissioner Comments
14. Executive Session, if needed.
15. Adjournment

Next Board Meeting is June 23, 2020

**Sweetwater County Events Complex
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
May 26, 2020**

Call to Order:

Chairperson Spicer called the meeting to order.

Roll Call:

Present: Faith Harris, Paul Zancanella, Janet Hartford, Roger Torgersen, Bob Spicer Kaye Goicolea, and Rob Zotti.

Absent: Donald Palleson

Also present: Larry Lloyd, Kandi Pendleton and Erika Koshar

Approval of Agenda:

Trustee Zotti moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Trustee Harris. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Zotti moved to approve the April 28, 2020, board minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Trustee Goicolea and passed unanimously.

Financial Report:

Cash Balance, May 1, 2020	\$266,042
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Add Receipts	\$166,825
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Less Expenditures	\$1,287,721
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Cash Balance, May 26, 2020	<u>\$1,386,298</u>
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Trustee Harris moved to approve the financial report. The motion was seconded by Trustee Hartford and passed unanimously.

Approval of Checks:

Motion to approve-

1st Bank Checks: 57184 - 57206

1st Bank Direct Deposits: 5950 – 5986

Commerce Bank Checks: 1372 - 1373

Commerce Bank Direct Deposits: 24484 – 24526

Trustee Goicolea moved to approve all checks as presented. Motion seconded by Trustee Harris. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

None.

Presentations:

None.

Listing of Events:

Erika Koshar reviewed the June 2020 events.

Correspondence:

Received a nice thank you card from the Wall family regarding the funeral in January.

Sweetwater Speedway – A great email thanking SEC staff for all the great work to prepare for the stock car season. The track and facilities look great.

Western Engineers – A nice letter continuing their sponsorship for 2020 Sweetwater County Fair year, commending the SEC dedication to the 4-H and FFA projects.

Old Business:

Water Metering Station & MOU with City of Rock Springs – The copy attached to the Board Packet needs to be approved by the Board. It has been reviewed by the board members, SEC staff and City of Rock Springs. It is a straight forward agreement regarding the metering station.

Moved to approve the city of Rock Springs metering station MOU. Janet moved and Faith seconded. Zotti abstained.

FY 2021 Budget – Sweetwater County Commission has cut \$727k out of our request. If that takes place, we will be forced to lay off staff and reduce services going forward. Spicer asked about the reasoning.... Larry noted that we didn't see a reason because SEC cannot maintain the budget level from the prior year (FY2020).

Commissioner Lloyd noted that the County sits to be at an 11M deficit for the next year. They are in discussion to utilize the cash carry over to cover some of the budget; however, they'd still be about 4-5M short. There are some numbers that may be able to loosen up the budget, but he's unsure if it will be enough. Capital projects are the first items to be cut.

Spicer noted that we need the funding in order to move forward for next year, SEC does not want to shut the doors.

Commissioner Lloyd noted that Director Lloyd will make a presentation regarding WHAT would be cut for SEC if they do not receive the funding. He further noted some bigger picture items in the budget for the County.

Faith Harris noted that during the COVID lockdown, we were not able to host events and it absolutely cut into our funding mechanism. Director Lloyd agreed and added that the \$700k request makes up the loss in revenue. We cannot cut back and still provide the same services either for locals or drawing people from out of town. These are dramatic losses for the Events Complex.

The Events Complex brings people into this community. We host live horse racing, so that the municipalities receive funds from the state. We bring money into the community, but it becomes difficult to maintain our status (paying for the operation and the economic impacts). We identified where we will have to cut, but these are people's lives and we don't want to lose.

Right now we have lent three employees to the County for the Parks & Recreation and many of our office staff are working across the facility.

Kandi Pendleton noted that while we decreased our budget 20% due to our expected loss of 1.2M, the only option to balance the budget is to receive the extra mil levy money from the County.

Director Lloyd noted that he had hoped to receive some of the CARES funding while being unavailable to rent during the downturn. Zotti asked about how much exactly we've lost being unable to host events for the last couple of months. Pendleton noted that she doesn't have it broken down by building.

Spicer inquired as to what the Board members can do to help. Lloyd noted that at this point, we aren't sure and fighting the budget on our side.

Trustee Harris noted that with all the events that have been canceled, it trickles down to the local business in the county.

Conversation ensued regarding the local economy.

Live Horse Racing – Director Lloyd noted that we signed another agreement with Eugene Joyce, Sweetwater Downs, to return live horse racing to Sweetwater County. Joyce came to SEC noting that his dates were no longer available in Gillette, WY. The off-track betting parlors began all due to Joyce's live racing at the Events Complex. We have a new arrangement with Joyce. There will be no spectators in the stands, so that the jockeys can use the wash rooms. For 2020 only, they will run 12 dates instead of the normal 16.

Trustee Goicolea asked what we will receive from the deal. Pendleton noted that we will just receive the rental rates.

Zotti reminded the Board that we need to discuss the funds with our local legislatures.

Spicer noted that we are in a good position to go back to the county and cities to note that we cannot host any longer and need a percentage of the money to continue. Zancanella argued that Eugene will return to the State noting that he cannot run live racing any longer and they will approve it.

Races will run Sunday, Monday & Tuesday.

Fair 2020 – Larry Lloyd indicated that he has been stopped a number of times as the community is not happy to lose Wyoming's Big Show for 2020. The current set up will be determined by the Governor later this summer.

Pendleton noted that we have a plan with 4-H, going forward live with shows for 5 days. If not able, we are ready to virtual by a push of a button. The 4-H group is run by the University of Wyoming.

Tagging will complete this week, so we will know our final numbers by June. While this is paired down, it is still funded by the Events Complex. Pendleton projects a budget of \$25,000 for judges, awards and etc. So far SEC raised \$11k in sponsorships, and the remainder will come out of our shortened operating budget.

Pendleton also noted that virtual auctions are doing really well across the county.

New Business:

Sweetwater County MOU – Parks & Recreation – Kandi Pendleton noted that we entered into an MOU with Sweetwater County parks & recreation. We've sent three people to that department. They will cover the salary and taxes while we maintain the benefits. The agreement is for six months.

Closing Comments

Executive Director: We sympathize with other states in the US and we should all be thankful that we are in Wyoming during this time.

The flowers are going to be delivered next week, so if anyone wants to volunteer, we have planting to do!

All secondary entertainment have rolled to 2021 along with 3 primary entertainers thus far.

Board Members: None.

Commissioner Lloyd: None.

Adjournment:

Trustee Zotti moved to adjourn the public meeting and into an executive session and Trustee Zancanella seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

*Executive Session Discussion

Trustee Zotti moved to adjourn the meeting and Trustee Zancanella seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Bob Spicer, Chairman

Faith Harris, Secretary