

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
BOARD OF PLATTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, WYOMING

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, PLATTE COUNTY, WYOMING, met on the 21st day of October 2025 in the county seat of Wheatland. Those present for the meeting were Steve Shockley, Commission Chairman; Ian Jolovich, Commissioner; John “Jeb” Baker, Commissioner; and Malcolm Ervin, County Clerk.

Chairman Shockley called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Commissioner Jolovich motioned, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried. Commissioner Baker motioned, seconded by Commissioner Jolovich, to approve the October 7th and October 17th meeting minutes. The motion carried. Commissioner Baker motioned, seconded by Commissioner Jolovich, to approve the vouchers as presented. The motion carried.

Vouchers Approved for Payment: AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, Detention Medical Care, 61.52 AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, Sheriff Supplies, 96.30 AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, Inmate Trust Fund, 479.69 AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, Detention Supplies, 31.99 AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, PH Supplies, (29.99)AT & T, 911 Phones, 96.57 BOB BARKER COMPANY INC, Detention Supplies, 55.10 BOB BARKER COMPANY INC, Detention Supplies, 155.07 BOURELLE PRODUCTIONS BOOKING AGENCY, Fair Expenses, 2,600.00 BROWN CO, Sheriff Vehicle Repair, 441.82 CANDY WRIGHT, Miscellaneous, 3,112.50 CAPITAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS INC CHEYENNE, Printing, 101.67 CENTURY LINK - SEATTLE, 911 Phones, 120.27 CHARM-TEX, Detention Supplies, 1,085.10 CHUGWATER TELEPHONE, Library Utilities, 223.60 CNH INDUSTRIAL ACCOUNTS, Facilities Building Maintenance, 563.72 DOUBLE AM&H/CINEMA WEST, Prevention Grant, 125.00 DOUBLE AM&H/CINEMA WEST, Problem Gambling Prevention, 125.00 EAKES OFFICE SOLUTIONS, Detention Supplies, 108.70 ERGON ASPHALT & EMULSIONS INC, R & B Materials, 3,781.20 FARMER BROTHERS CO, Detention Board of Prisoners, 1,328.82 FIVE COUNTY JOINT POWERS BOARD, IT Software, 200,000.00 FRENCHMAN VALLEY COOP, Facilities Fuel, 175.66 FRENCHMAN VALLEY COOP, R & B Fuel, 1,618.17 FUSION CLOUD SERVICES LLC, Library Supplies, 505.88 GO TO COMMUNICATIONS, Phones, 2,662.44 HANNAH CESAR, Ag. Ext. Travel Expenses, 100.80 IDEAL LINEN & UNIFORM, Facilities Building Maintenance, 209.33 IDEAL/BLUFFS FACILITY SOLUTIONS, Facilities Supplies, 549.85 IDEAL/BLUFFS FACILITY SOLUTIONS, Detention Supplies, 246.00 JOHANNA SARAD BSN RN, Workforce Development, 680.00 KAUFMAN GLASS, Jail Maintenance, 940.00 KEYSTONE GROUP LLC, Sheriff Vehicle Repair, 133.75 MCKESSON MEDICAL SURGICAL, Detention Medical Care, 487.04 MEDICO-MART INC, PH Vaccinations, 15,056.86 NORFOLK IRON & METAL, R & B Materials, 8,614.74 NORFOLK IRON & METAL, R & B Vehicle Repair, 220.00 OMEGA INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY INC, Facilities Building Maintenance, 768.00 ONE STOP SAFETY SOLUTIONS, Dispatch Training, 35.00 OVERDRIVE INC, Library Supplies, 2,400.00 PEASLEY & ARMSTRONG LLP, Clerk of Court Court Costs, 228.00 PLATTE COUNTY, Emergency Preparedness Grant, 1,977.25 PLATTE COUNTY, Maternal & Child Health (SGF), 350.00 REX E JOHNSON, Commissioner Litigation, 12,991.00 SAS LEGAL GROUP LLC, Clerk of Court Court Costs, 204.00 SHERARD, SHERARD, ARTERY & JOHNSON, Clerk of Court Court Costs, 200.00 STEINER, FOURNIER, ZOOK & CASE LLC, Clerk of Court Court Costs, 396.00 STERICYCLE INC, Facilities Building Maintenance, 417.08 STOP STICK LTD, Sheriff Vehicle Repair, 192.00 T-MOBILE, R & B Supplies, 128.04 THE WANDERER ON GILCHRIST, Library Supplies, 279.00 THRIFTY FOODS INC, Intertie Grant, 199.82 VERIZON WIRELESS, Phones, 149.15 VISA, Sheriff Extradition, 361.17 VISA, Sheriff K9 Operations, 128.75 VISA, Sheriff Supplies, 262.09 VISA-, Library Child Programs, 66.82 VISA-, Library Postage, 263.76 VISA-, Library Printing, 26.97 VISA-, Library Software, 38.00 VISA-, Library Supplies, 773.63 WESTERN STATES FIRE PROTECTION CO, Facilities Building Maintenance, 1,645.00 WEX, Assessor Travel Expenses, 52.64 WEX, Attorney Travel Expenses, 40.18 WEX, Clerk Travel Expenses, 97.28 WEX, Election Travel Expenses, 78.33 WEX, Emergency Mgt. Travel Expenses, 174.84 WEX, Facilities Fuel, 232.71 WEX, Maternal & Child Health (SGF), 27.09 WEX, PH Travel Expenses, 73.02 WEX, Problem Gambling Prevention, 37.90 WEX, R & B Fuel, 854.18 WEX, TANF Grant, 27.69 WEX, Workforce Development, 92.45 WHEATLAND RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, R & B Utilities, 253.98 WOODHOUSE RODEN AMES & BRENNAN LLC, Clerk of Court Court Costs, 111.00 WYOLOGIC INC, IT New Equipment, 2,850.00 WYOLOGIC INC, IT Technical Support, 3,000.00 WYOMING OFFICE OF GUARDIAN AD LITEM, Clerk of Court GAL, 1,641.63. Total: \$280,989.62.

Collections Before the Board: The Board reviewed the daily receipts of Treasurer Kristi Rietz from October 1 through October 15, 2025, which totaled \$1,748,555.61.

Agreement for Consideration: The Board reviewed an agreement with the University of Wyoming. That agreement requires that the County pay \$34,501.50 to the University of Wyoming, who in turn hires and manages the Ag. Extension Coordinator. The term of the agreement is from September 30, 2025 through June 30, 2026. The Board routinely enters into this annual compensation agreement with the University for the coordinator position. Commissioner Baker motioned, seconded by Commissioner Jolovich, to approve the annual compensation agreement with the University of Wyoming. The motion carried.

Sick Leave Donation: Commissioner Jolovich motioned, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to approve the donation of 144 hours of sick leave from four employees to another. The motion carried.

Executive Session: At 9:21 AM, Commissioner Jolovich motioned, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to call for an executive session for personnel pursuant to Wyoming Statute 16-4-405(a)(ii). The motion carried. At 9:50 AM, Commissioner Baker motioned, seconded by Commissioner Jolovich, to adjourn executive session where no decisions were made. The motion carried.

Maintenance Department: Jim DeWitt, Maintenance Supervisor, provided updates to the Board. Mr. DeWitt also presented estimates for a series of projects and asked for the Board’s consideration on them. The first was to stripe County parking lots from Hoff Home Improvement, which totaled \$2,959.52. The second was to install cabinetry in the District Court jury room, which the maintenance department would do themselves. Mr. DeWitt estimated the cabinetry project would cost \$1,970. The Board told Mr. DeWitt they would wait until spring and evaluate the maintenance budget to decide on those two projects. Mr. DeWitt did present an estimate to replace carpet in the Public Health building, which has been stretched twice in his tenure. That estimate totaled \$5,660 and was approved by the Board. Finally, Mr. DeWitt presented an estimate to renovate the proposed “Maker Space” in the Wheatland Library. Clerk Ervin said the project had received a \$13,000 grant to furnish the space and he believed the Library Foundation would pay for the updates. As such, Clerk Ervin believed the only County expenditure would be maintenance department time. The Board agreed to proceed with that project provided the Library Foundation pays for the renovation costs that were estimated to be approximately \$3,600.

October 21, 2025

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Chugwater Energy Project: The Board heard comments from Kathryn Stevens, Terry Baker and Lucinda Houtchens regarding the Chugwater Energy Project proposed by NextEra Energy. Ms. Stevens asked that the Board review a report made by Jerry Punch and Richard James titled, “Wind Turbine Noise and Human Health”. Ms. Stevens encouraged the Board to review the document but specifically encouraged they review pages 6-9, 15, 22 and 44-48 of that document. Ms. Stevens also informed the Board that NextEra Energy constructed a project near Calhan, Colorado and that a report was generated by Rand Acoustics of Boulder, CO titled, “Independent Infrasonic Investigations”. She encouraged the Board to review the report but specifically asked that they review pages 3, 5 and 12. Ms. Stevens restated her concerns that she believed a wind farm could have adverse health effects, which she said was substantiated by the Rand report.

Ms. Baker informed the Board she was not in favor of the Chugwater Energy Project and further encouraged that the Board needed to consider updates to wind and solar regulations and the implementation of regulations regarding Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS). Furthermore, Ms. Baker encouraged the Board to adopt a moratorium on any wind, solar or BESS projects. Finally, Ms. Baker spoke about “absentee landowners” who leased property to NextEra Energy and encouraged that the Board give more weight to the landowners who reside on their property within the project area. Commissioner Jolovich expressed concerns that Ms. Baker is not a Platte County resident, though she does own land within the County, and as such was also an absentee landowner. Commissioner Jolovich asked whether she should forfeit property rights on the property she owns in Platte County because she resides elsewhere. Chairman Shockley also asked whether Ms. Baker had previously signed any wind leases, which she said yes to. Chairman Shockley asked whether she made the decision to enter a lease, and subsequently leave it, or whether it was forced on her by other landowners or the government. Ms. Baker said she made those decisions herself.

Ms. Houtchens read a letter to the editor that she wrote. The letter was published in the Platte County Record-Times on October 8, 2025. The letter informed readers that a petition was being circulated. The petition was a statement that those signing it were opposed to the Chugwater Energy Project. Ms. Houtchens also read a resolution from the Platte County Republican Party that was approved by the party on August 12, 2025. Commissioner Baker expressed that the oath sworn by Commissioners was not to any particular political party, but rather the laws and Constitution of Wyoming and the Constitution of the United States. Commissioner Baker also read a statement regarding how the Board makes their decisions, specifically their requirement to make decisions that impact the entire County, not just specific areas or people. In short, the Board’s responsibility is to represent all interests and individuals within the County.

County Sheriff: Anthony Krotz, County Sheriff, discussed with the Board his former positions as Emergency Management Coordinator and Fire Warden. The Board asked for Sheriff Krotz’s opinion on the positions, which Sheriff Krotz said worked well as a combined position and encouraged them to stay a combined, full-time, position. Chairman Shockley asked for feedback from fire districts who were present at the meeting. Curtis Walter, District 1F, agreed that the position functioned well but said it may be difficult to find someone who held the qualifications necessary for both roles. David Weber, Antelope Gap Fire, discussed his opinion that the Fire Warden should not be managing fires, but the local districts are. Mr. Weber said he supported having a Fire Warden who was more office-focused that could perform as a resource and complete reports. Will de Ryk, Palmer Canyon Fire, said he appreciated having a Fire Warden as a point of contact rather than having a separate meeting with multiple entities.

Dispatch Agreement: The Board considered an agreement with the Town of Wheatland regarding Dispatch Services. The Board said the matters of discussion should be with legal counsel and as such should be conducted in executive session. At 11:56, Commissioner Jolovich motioned, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to call for an executive session for matters concerning litigation pursuant to Wyoming Statute 16-4-405(a)(iii). The motion carried. At 12:28 PM, Commissioner Jolovich motioned, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to adjourn executive session where no decisions were made. The motion carried. The Board asked Deputy County Attorney Marel Bunker Roth to work with the Town’s retained counsel, Brian Artery, and provide him with the agreement modifications suggested by Ms. Bunker Roth. The Board also asked County Attorney Weaver to continue working on a settlement agreement with Help Tapp LLC. County Attorney Weaver will have leeway to settle the agreement for an amount that he believes would be below the cost to fight the matter in a New York court.

Executive Session: At 12:34 PM, Commissioner Baker motioned, seconded by Commissioner Jolovich, to call for an executive session for matters of security pursuant to Wyoming Statute 16-4-405(a)(iii). The motion carried. At 1:37 PM, Commissioner Jolovich motioned, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to adjourn executive session where no decisions were made. The motion carried.

There being no further business for board consideration, the meeting adjourned at approximately 1:38 PM. This proceeding was recorded by Clerk Ervin pursuant to Wyoming statute §18-3-402(a)(i)(C).

APPROVED:



STEVE SHOCKLEY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



MALCOLM ERVIN, COUNTY CLERK
& CLERK OF THE BOARD



October 21, 2025