

**MEETEETSE MUSEUM DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD
April 8, 2025**

President Michael Oliver called the regular meeting of the Meeteetse Museum Board to order at 5:06 p.m.

Roll call: Board members present were Lynn Sessions, Michael Oliver, Joe Winkler, Ashton Shepperson, Maria Kluesner, and Mary Jane Luther. Executive Director Alex Deselms and Public Outreach and Engagement Director Elizabeth Foss were present. Nickki Blake, accountant, was also present.

Consent Agenda: Lynn Sessions moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Ashton Shepperson seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Citizens Open Forum: Roberta Oliver

Additions to the Agenda:

New: Meeteetse Venders Mall

Ongoing: Quilt fundraising

Lynn Sessions moved to approve additions to the agenda. Joe Winkler seconded the motion. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

New Business:

MVON Smithsonian (Many Voices One Nation): Alex Deselms previously signed the Museum to work with the Smithsonian to host an exhibit in celebration of the 250-year anniversary of our country. This year involved research and planning. The funds for the NEH (National Endowment for Humanities) were pulled. These funds would have gone to the Wyoming Humanities, who funded a grant for the Meeteetse Museums. The future of this exhibit is unknown.

Building and yard maintenance: Alex Deselms is seeking estimates to scrape and paint the trim at the bank building. Elizabeth Foss has been in contact with the Park County Weed and Pest to address grounds improvement.

Meeteetse Venders Mall: Roberta Oliver reported about a meeting of the Meeteetse Strategic Planning Committee. A Venders Mall will be set up in the Soda Fountain side of the Mercantile building from June to December.

Quilt: Roberta Oliver reported the local quilt Guild is making a quilt to be auctioned off this year to raise funds for the museum. Tickets will be available in town, possibly at the Venders Mall or at the Visitors Center. Roberta will also set up ticket sales on Better World website. A suggestion was made to advertise in the WREN magazine.

NEH Grant: The grant and 80% of the staff has been terminated. The museum staff has contacted federal and state representatives and senators. We have already received \$16,000 but the additional \$9000 was cut off. These were legally award funds, verified by Alex Deselms research in the Code of Federal Regulation. A lawsuit is pending from the IMLS (Institute of Museums and Library Services). Board members should also contact our legislative representatives.

Roof and Solar: The warranty inspection passed. We are still waiting for word from the roofing contractor to include the bank roof in the maintenance contract. Solar installation is moving ahead. Staff are reaching out to donors.

Front Window: Window is installed. Alex Deselms is requesting a quote on the windows facing the Wea Market and two small windows on either side of the door.

Dark room: The reconstruction is nearing completion. George Weiser is painting and staining and has updated the lighting in the room.

Auditor: Treasurer Lynn Sessions and Accountant Nikki Blake investigated auditors and proposed Joe Assay with Black Summit Group to be our auditor. Estimates for services are \$3300 to \$3600. Lynn Sessions made a motion to approve Joe Assay as our auditor. Joe Winkler seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Strategic Plan: Board members turned in questionnaires. Elizabeth compiled the 53 questionnaires turned in by community members. We will schedule a training session with Marion in May to work on the Strategic Plan. May 19th to 22nd is an option.

Fundraising: The Museum has been approved to participate in WyoGives.

For the Good of the Board:

Our employees are our Greatest Asset!!!! And George Weiser is our champion restoration volunteer!!!!

Adjournment: 6:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Jane Luther, Secretary
Board of Directors