

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AT THE COURTHOUSE IN
SUNDANCE, CROOK COUNTY, WYOMING**

Monday, November 21, 2016

9:00 o'clock a.m. Present for the special meeting were Chairman Kelly B. Dennis, Vice-Chairwoman Jeanne A. Whalen, Member Steve J. Stahla (per conference call) and County Clerk Linda Fritz.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited to the flag.

Present for the hearing for a Business Ready Communities—Business Committed Grant for improvements to County Road No. 68 known as the D Road were Dave Spencer, Northeast Regional Director, Wyoming Business Council, Joe Baron, County Attorney, Melanie Wilmer, Homeland Security County Coordinator, Morgan Ellsbury, Road and Bridge Superintendent and Ralph Knode, CEO, Strata Energy (per conference call). There were no other people present to provide comment.

Dave Spencer gave a synopsis of the grant that is being applied for. Ralph Knode discussed Strata's part of the grant. Joe Baron discussed the resolution. Morgan Ellsbury discussed comments that he has received regarding the quality of the D Road and how it affects businesses along the road.

Jeanne moved to approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-24

**AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION TO THE BUSINESS READY
COMMUNITIES-BUSINESS COMMITTED GRANT FOR IMPROVED ACCESS TO
STRATA ENERGY, INC.**

WHEREAS the Board of Crook County Commissioners would like to submit an application to the Wyoming Business Council for a Business Ready Communities–Business Committed grant to assist in funding the reconstruction of the County Road No. 68 known as the D-Road in order to provide better access to STRATA's industrial facilities to be located within Crook County for the purpose of encouraging continued industrial development within Crook County; and,

WHEREAS the Board of Crook County Commissioners held a public hearing on November 21, 2016 at 9:00 A.M. in the Commissioner's Room at the Courthouse in Sundance, WY, after advertising the hearing in all three local newspapers of general circulation in the county on November 10, 2016 more than seven (7) days before the hearing so all interested parties may present written or oral comments on the application; and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners recognizes this project will accommodate both existing facilities and the construction of an increase in capacity of a uranium processing facility near Oshoto, WY that Strata Energy, Inc. is intending to undertake; and

WHEREAS, STRATA is in the business of mining and processing uranium and desires to construct and operate an increase in capacity of its processing plant in Crook County if necessary infrastructure is in place; and,

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners participation in partnership with Strata Energy, Inc. recognize the need to improve County Road No. 68 to provide better access to Strata Energy Inc. so that it may expand its uranium processing facility ; and

WHEREAS the purpose of the Business Ready Community Program, is to promote economic development at the county level and to promote economic health and a stronger state economy; and,

WHEREAS, the County is an eligible Applicant for grant funds under the BRC; and,

WHEREAS, the infrastructure necessary for STRATA's operations includes the construction of roads, (hereinafter "Infrastructure"); and,

WHEREAS, the Business Ready Communities Business Committed Grant requires that certain criteria be met, as described in the Wyoming Business Council's Rules governing the program, and to the best of our knowledge this application meets those criteria; and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners has been working in partnership with Wyoming Business Council and through their planning grant has provided preliminary cost estimates, designs, and information for County Road No. 68 improvements from the County Road Fund \$ 1.2 million to match the Industrial Road Fund \$1.2 million and Business Ready Communities Business Committed Grant of \$1 million total estimated cost is \$3.4 million; and

WHEREAS, Business Ready Community grant funds awarded to the County will be used to assist in funding the Infrastructure, subject to the terms and conditions of this Contingency and Development Agreement and subject to the terms and conditions of Loan and Grant documents to be executed between the County and the Wyoming Business Council; and,

WHEREAS, STRATA currently employs 41 full-time employees in its first year of operation and will contribute economically to the community with the potential addition of 31 full time positions in the first 36 months of operation of the processing facility; and,

WHEREAS, STRATA's current payroll is approximately \$3.75 million and the company anticipates that upon completion of expansion it will generate additional wages of approximately \$1.25 million into the local economy. The local economy will also benefit from the anticipated movement of production jobs for the processing of uranium and sold across the nation and around the world; and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners engaged the private sector with the market area and gave full consideration to all comments received; and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners recognize that the public benefit of this project will help insure that persons employed at Strata Energy, Inc. will have improved access and will benefit all other existing and future industrial, agricultural and residential users of County Road No. 68 to continue to employ these persons and expand these businesses to employ others and expand their businesses and attract other businesses that need improved access to them in both Crook and Campbell County; and

WHEREAS, no one appeared or submitted written comments in opposition to the application for the grant.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IN
AND FOR CROOK COUNTY, WYOMING,** that a grant application for \$1 million be submitted to the Wyoming Business Council for a Business Ready Communities–Business Committed Grant to assist in funding the

reconstruction of the County Road No. 68 in order to provide better access to STRATA's industrial facilities to be located within Crook County and for the purpose of encouraging continued industrial development within Crook County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Morgan Ellsbury or Melanie Wilmer is designated as the authorized representative of Board of County Commissioners to act on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners on all matters relating to this grant application and the Chairman of the Board is authorized to execute any document necessary for this grant application.

Motion made, seconded and carried in an open meeting on November 21, 2016.

Board of County Commissioners in and for Crook County, Wyoming by Kelly B. Dennis, Chairman, Jeanne A. Whalen, Vice-Chairwoman and Steve J. Stahla, Member.

State of Wyoming }

County of Crook }

Signed or attested before me on November 21, 2016 by Kelly B. Dennis, Chairman, Jeanne A. Whalen, Vice-Chairwoman and Steve J. Stahla, Member, Board of Crook County Commissioners in and for Crook County, Wyoming.

Linda Fritz, Crook County Clerk

Steve seconded, all ayes, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 o'clock a.m. to meet in regular session on December 6 and 7, 2016 at 8:00 o'clock a.m., in the Commissioner's Room at the Courthouse in Sundance, Wyoming.

Kelly B. Dennis, Chairman

Steve J. Stahla, Member

Jeanne A. Whalen, Vice-Chairwoman

Attested: _____

Linda Fritz, County Clerk