

OFFICIAL SUMMARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, TETON COUNTY, WYOMING

The Teton County Board of Commissioners met in Special session on September 21, 2018 in the Commissioners Chambers located at 200 S. Willow in Jackson. The meeting was called to order at 9:32 am.

The Special meeting was called to consider the following: Consideration of Implementation of Fire Restrictions.

Commission present: Mark Newcomb Chair, Natalia D. Macker Vice-Chair, Paul Vogelheim and Greg Epstein. Smokey Rhea was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Consideration of Implementation of Fire Restrictions

Keith Gingery, Senior Deputy County Attorney, explained the resolution to the Board, according to Wyoming Statute 35-9-301 the County Fire Warden can recommend the Board of County Commissioner to do either a full fire closure or partial fire closure, our Fire Chief has the title of Fire Warden as well, once the resolution is signed it will be given to the Sheriff for implementation, if the resolution is violated it can result in \$100 fine, 30 days in jail or both. The restrictions will start at 11:00am today, there will be another meeting to withdrawal the restrictions once the danger of fire has passed.

Discussion between the Board and Staff included discussion with our Federal Partners specifically the Forest Service and National Parks.

Brady Hansen, Fire Chief, presented to the Board a request to implement an open burn fire restriction. This ban would be requested to be implemented immediately. Multiple days of red flag warnings have left fuels extremely dry. Many of the available firefighting resources have been sent to the Roosevelt Fire, leaving our area with diminished abilities to respond. Jackson Hole Fire/EMS has been consulting with the Bridger Teton National Forest, Sublette County and Lincoln County to determine when and if burn restrictions were warranted. Collectively these agencies are now ready to recommend these burn restrictions are implemented.

Discussion between the Board and Staff included an announcement from Bridger Teton Nation Forest and the National Parks, full closure as opposed to partial closure, the south of Teton County has showed volatile fire behavior, north of Teton County has not been as volatile so the partial fire restriction will be appropriate. Impact on the community specifically contractors and hunters. Careful consideration goes into implementing these restrictions.

RESOLUTION # 18-033

PARTIAL FIRE CLOSURE FOR UNINCORPORATED AREA OF TETON COUNTY PROHIBITING OPEN FIRES

WHEREAS, Wyoming Statute §35-9-301 allows upon the recommendation of the County Fire Warden for the Board of County Commissioners to prohibit open fire in the unincorporated areas of Teton County for such period of time as the board of county commissioners may deem necessary and proper; and

WHEREAS, the County Fire Warden has advised that the fire danger in the unincorporated area of Teton County is extreme due to the excessive amount of inflammable material and dry conditions; and

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the governing body of the County of Teton, open fires are prohibited in the unincorporated areas of Teton County until further notice; and

IT IS FURTHER OREDERED, that the following exceptions shall apply:

1. Trash or refuse fires are permitted between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m., inside containers with maximum ¼ inch screen spark arresters and located within a cleared area ten feet in radius
2. Camp fires contained within an established fire ring at an established campground are permitted.
3. Charcoal fires within enclosed grills are permitted.
4. Use of acetylene cutting torches or electric arc welders in cleared areas ten feet in radius are permitted.
5. Propane or open fire branding activities in cleared areas ten feet in radius are permitted.
6. Use of home fire pits and bowls are permitted, so long as used with maximum ¼ inch screen spark arresters.
7. Current Teton County Board of County Commissioners Resolution 13-027, banning fireworks pursuant to W.S. §35-10-202 remains in effect.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that violation of this resolution constitutes a misdemeanor under Wyoming Statute §35-9-304 which provides for a \$100 fine or imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed 30 days or both the fine and imprisonment; and

DATED THIS 21ST DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2018.

Mark Newcomb, Chairman
Teton County Board of County Commissioners

Attest:

Sherry L. Daigle, Teton County Clerk

A motion was made by Commissioner Vogelheim and seconded by Commissioner Epstein to adopt fire restrictions as presented, effective Friday, September 21, 2018 and remain in place until fire conditions change and the burn

restriction can be lifted. Chair Newcomb called for a vote. The vote showed all in favor and the motion carried.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Commissioner Vogelheim and seconded by Commissioner Epstein to adjourn the meeting. Chair Newcomb called for a vote. The vote showed all in favor and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:42am.

Respectfully submitted: kah

TETON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mark Newcomb, Chair

Natalia Macker, Vice-Chair

Greg Epstein

Paul Vogelheim

Kathleen "Smokey" Rhea

ATTEST:

Sherry L. Daigle, County Clerk