

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**RESOLUTION: CREATING COUNTY EVENTS DEPARTMENT, A NEW FAIR
ADVISORY BOARD AND PROVIDING FOR THE TRANSITION OF EXISTING
FAIR STAFF TO LARAMIE COUNTY EMPLOYEE POSITIONS**

WHEREAS, the Laramie County Fair is the oldest Wyoming County Fair in the State of Wyoming and has made immeasurable contributions to the citizens of Laramie County and the State of Wyoming;

WHEREAS, Laramie County Volunteer Fair Board members, over the years, who have taken time out of their lives in order to promote and carry forward the fine traditions of the Laramie County fair have rendered a significant service to the citizens of Laramie County in the State of Wyoming;

WHEREAS, the County will continue to need and request the service of volunteers, advising as Fair Board members, to help conduct and carry out the continuation of the annual Laramie County fair

WHEREAS, the voters of Laramie County have authorized the expenditure of 9 million dollars to build a multipurpose facility on the Laramie County fairgrounds near Laramie County's archer complex;

WHEREAS, this facility will be used to house multiple events from fair related activities to musical events and concerts to multiple other activities on a year-round basis;

WHEREAS, the need to staff, administrate and operate the multi-use facility will require personnel and expertise, and year-round staffing to a degree much greater than that which is currently available through the existing Laramie County Fair;

WHEREAS, the operation of a year-round multipurpose events center, due to its potential for complexities and exposures to the County and thereby taxpayer funds, requires a level of expertise and consolidation of administration currently unavailable to Laramie County;

WHEREAS, effective operation of a year-round multiple use events facility, represents a complicated legal, technical and administrative challenge which is currently beyond the capabilities of the Laramie County Fair staff which is of limited numbers;

WHEREAS, over the past number of years, the Laramie County Fair has significantly expanded its facilities at the Archer grounds, including such amenities such as a new arena and associated stands and service building, meeting halls, RV hookups and parking;

WHEREAS, all land and facilities used by the Fair have been, and remain the property of Laramie County who is thereby, ultimately responsible for them;

WHEREAS, Laramie County continues to own and operate, as part of Laramie County Fair, significant facilities and land located at the Cheyenne Frontier Days grounds;

WHEREAS, Laramie County has recently added significant structures and equipment to the existing Clear Creek Park grounds, as a result this use and operation will require greater administration;

WHEREAS, the Archer complex currently houses a motocross facility which is leased for operation to another entity and requires a level of County attention for its continued safe and effective operation;

WHEREAS, the Archer complex also currently houses an equine "eventing" facility and grounds also currently under lease and also currently requiring a level of County attention for its continued safe and effective operation;

WHEREAS, Laramie County should anticipate an increase in the number of events and activities which will be sponsored, engaged or participated in, by Laramie County in the coming years;

WHEREAS, existing Laramie County Fair Staff number only four individuals, a number which is supplemented during Fair with a significant number of volunteers;

WHEREAS, the Laramie County Commissioners, in order to protect the taxpayer's investment and to fully exploit the opportunities provided by, the multiple use facility being constructed on the fairgrounds need to create a specific county agency to manage this multiple use facility;

WHEREAS, given the increase, and anticipated continued increase, in the facilities, located at the Laramie County fairgrounds, the motocross track, the equine eventing facility, Clear Creek Park, fair facilities, located at the Cheyenne Frontier Days grounds, and myriad other recreational and educational opportunities and events, the need for a County Department devoted solely to the operation of these facilities and activities is imperative.

THE BOARD OF LARAMIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEREBY FINDS:
That the current volunteer Fair Board and the existing minimal staff of the Laramie County Fair cannot be expected to effectively perform considering the significantly expanded needs of the Fairgrounds, including the operation and administration of the multi-use facility.

That Laramie County and the citizens thereof, would benefit financially from a consolidation in the operation of all the aforementioned recreational and event related activities and operations. Such consolidation would reduce costs, provide greater accountability, and streamline the administration of such activities.

That Laramie County and the citizens thereof will benefit from consolidation both of the personnel and administration but also of the funding for the aforementioned recreational and event related activities and operations

That given the expanded operations and facilities at the Fair area and Archer, as well as the County's other needs, effective administration will require specialized personnel with the expertise needed to protect the taxpayer's investment and produce a safe and lawful series of opportunities with the facilities currently available as well as to serve the future needs will arise in this area.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF LARAMIE COUNTY, WYOMING,

I. A County entity, to be called the Laramie County Events Department, shall be, and is created under the direct supervision of the Laramie County Commissioners and/or their designee.

II. There shall be created and filled a position described as the "Director of the Laramie County Events Department." This position shall be responsible for the administration and operation of the events Department, which will include not only the operations and carrying forward of the Laramie County Fair, but the operation and activities of the multiuse facility located on the Laramie County fairgrounds. This Department and this position shall also be responsible for the operation and administration of existing Laramie County recreational activities and grounds and facilities, including but not limited to, the Laramie County motocross track, Laramie County Equine Eventing facility and such other activities and duties as shall be assigned by the Laramie County Commissioners

III. The Commissioners, pursuant to their authority under law, order that the entity or body corporate known as the Laramie County Fair, created pursuant to W.S. 18-9-101 et seq. as amended and its statutory predecessors, be and is hereby dissolved.

IV. Current finances, directed by the County to the Fair, pursuant to W.S. 18-9-101 et seq. or under any other authority, whether by use of a mil or other methods, is hereby ceased.

V. Pursuant to its authority provided by law, including but not limited to W.S. 18-2-101 et seq., as amended and W.S. 18-3-504 as amended, a new entity, to be called the "Laramie County Fair Advisory Board" is hereby created.

VI. The Laramie County Fair Advisory Board shall function in an advisory capacity to the Director of Laramie County Events Department to assist in the carrying out of the annual Laramie County Fair. The Board shall be subject to bylaws, which shall be prepared by the Laramie County Attorney's office and shall be thereby considered to be fully Incorporated herein. The County Commissioners shall make all appointments to the New Advisory Board.

VII. Currently existing Fair Board members may, should they so request and in the discretion of the County Commissioners, transition to positions on the Laramie County Fair Advisory Board.

VIII. Laramie County Human Resources Department and the Laramie County Finance Department are hereby directed to begin both the acquisition of appropriate staff with expertise to operate such a Department and to take such actions as are needed to transition finances from the current Fair operations to operations of the Laramie County Events Department.

XI. Laramie County Commissioners, recognizing that the dissolution of the Laramie County Fair, a body corporate and independent entity imposes no obligations on Laramie County for any contractual arrangement the Fair Board may have incurred, but acknowledging the need to continue Fair operations: Do hereby declare that the Laramie County Events Department may, as necessary for continued Fair Operations, be substituted for and take over any existing, non-professional services, that is, contractual obligations dealing with the physical and functional day to day operations of the entity formally known as the Laramie County Fair. This process of taking on such obligations shall occur, at the discretion of the Board of County Commissioners, in such manner as may be best suited to the continuation of Laramie County Fair operations and in the best interest of the County. Specifically, the County intends to amend the existing agreement with Preifert Designs to reflect Laramie County as the party to the agreement rather than the Laramie County Fair.

Recognizing that the Fair may have engaged in transactions or other activities that are not either properly immortalized, appropriate or necessary for the continued operation of the County Fair, the Commissioners will consider requests for either payment or substitution of the County as a party, deciding whether to substitute the County or pay any requested amount, in its sole discretion, from any entity or individual claiming to be an obligee of the Fair or party to some arrangement with the Fair. Such request must be in writing and explain the basis for said request and be submitted to the offices of the Laramie County

Commissioners within 90 days of the date of this resolution. Good cause for delay may be considered in the discretion of the Commissioners for late submissions.

X. Current staff members of the Laramie County Fair, may transition to become Laramie County employees subject to all benefits, obligations and requirements of Laramie County employees. All Fair staff leave accruals will be transferred as well. Human Resources is directed to carry forward that transition upon the request of any existing Laramie County Fair staff member, including expediting the process of hiring existing County fair staff members as Laramie County employees.

XI. During the transition to the new Department, the County Commissioners hereby direct that an audit be conducted of the Fair finances and that an accurate list of any and all existing Fair operations and obligations, where be created as part of that audit. The County intends a complete review of all financial, personnel and administrative operations as part of the transfer to the new County Department.

XII. The Laramie County Information and Technology department shall assist in the transfer of all necessary computer infrastructure.

PRESENTED, READ AND ADOPTED this ____ day of November, 2018.

BOARD OF LARAMIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

K. N. 'Buck' Holmes, Chairman

ATTEST:

Debra Lee, Laramie County Clerk

Reviewed and approved as to form:

Mark Voss
Laramie County Attorney