

NIOBRARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING
APRIL 6, 2023

The County Commissioners' meeting was called to order on April 6, 2023, at 10:08 a.m. by Chairman Patrick H. Wade. Vice-Chairman John Midkiff, Commissioner Elaine Griffith, and County Clerk Becky L. Freeman were present. Members of the audience included Judy Lucas with *The Lusk Herald*, Sheriff Randy Starkey, and Undersheriff Kelly Dean.

Elected Officials & Dept. Heads- Sheriff Randy Starkey said he had to borrow the city's side by side to rescue people on county roads during the latest storm. He said he listed the track truck on a surplus auction site which will take place on April 18th.

He noted the jail was busy as well, and there is still the issue of the leaking roof.

Treasurer Keri Thompson stated it was business as usual in her office.

University Extension & 4-H Youth Development Educator Kellie Chichester extended her thanks for letting people stay home during the bad weather.

She said they have a leaking roof in the kitchen. It was suggested to have Jerry Miller address the issue when he begins working on the roof.

Clerk of Court Chrisanna Lund said her receipts were large for her office this month. She noted there was an increase in passport applications.

County Clerk Becky Freeman said it is business as usual in her office as well, and noted her receipts came in high this month also.

Commissioner Griffith said they are still waiting to hear on the grant application for the public health nurse building remodel.

Vice-Chairman Midkiff discussed a meeting he and others attended regarding the BLM resource management plan update.

Chairman Wade attended the meeting as well, and explained that the BLM is trying to expand the scope of what they have control over. He said it was a battle when it happened in the 1990's and that was why the Niobrara Natural Resource group was originally formed.

National Institute for Jail Operations - Policy & Procedure Development- Sheriff Starkey explained that this company reviews county jail policies and researches case laws regarding any lawsuits brought against jail entities. Sheriff Starkey said that Converse, Platte, Crook, and Weston Counties all use this company. The Commissioners suggested requesting funding for this program at budget time.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Law Enforcement Extraterritorial Assistance- Sheriff Starkey explained that these MOU's allow for assistance between counties.

Commissioner Griffith moved to sign the MOU between Niobrara County and Converse County for law enforcement extraterritorial assistance between counties. Vice-Chairman Midkiff seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chairman Midkiff moved to sign the MOU between Niobrara County and Platte County for extraterritorial law enforcement assistance between counties. Commissioner Griffith seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Assessor Teri Stephens stopped in and said everything is going well in her office. She mailed out Notice of Valuations and has had a few calls regarding them. Her office is getting ready to conduct summer reviews and is currently working on land reviews.

Road & Bridge- Foreman Fred Thomas stopped in and said the roads are soft due to the recent storm. He would like to shut down the blades for a while until the roads can dry. He said due to drifting, it was difficult to find the roads in some spots. Chairman Wade suggested having the operators start earlier in the morning, and hit the bad spots.

County Attorney- Anne Wasserburger met with the Commissioners and discussed county business.

The group discussed the latest opioid settlement into which the county could enter. Attorney Wasserburger said she doesn't see a drawback in signing the agreement.

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National Opioid Settlement- Commissioner Griffith moved to participate in the National Opioid settlement involving Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart. Vice-Chairman Midkiff seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Griffith moved to authorize Anne Wasserburger to sign on behalf of the county to participate in the new opioid settlement involving Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart. Vice-Chairman Midkiff seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

She discussed legislation regarding the formation of an EMS district.

Commissioner Griffith moved to sign the OneWyo II Opioid Settlement Memorandum of Agreement. Vice-Chairman Midkiff seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Community Juvenile Services Board- Commissioner Griffith moved to appoint Anna Skeen to the Juvenile Justice Advisory Board. Vice-Chairman Midkiff seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Proclamation Declaring April as Child Abuse Awareness & Prevention Month- Vice-Chairman Midkiff moved to sign the proclamation declaring April as the Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention month. Commissioner Griffith seconded, and the motion carried.

Consent Agenda-Vice-Chairman Midkiff moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Griffith seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Items on the consent agenda were the minutes of the March 21, 2023, meeting, and receipts for the month of March from the County Clerk for \$5,217.25, from the Clerk of Court for \$1,237.00 and from the Public Health Nurse for \$301.24.

Payroll and the following vouchers were approved for payment: Bills are listed in the following format: Vendor- Department- Description- Amount- March Payroll- \$119127.97, Aflac- Various-Supplemental insurance- \$6545.41, Allbright's True Value- Various- Parts, supplies- \$265.75, Alscoroad & Bridge- Shop towels & coveralls- \$395.19, Anne Wasserburger, Co. Attorney- Supplies - \$122.72, Barco Municipal Products, Inc.- Road & Bridge- Parts- \$323.65, Barnes Law, LLC.- Clerk of Court- Court appointed attorney- \$100.00, Becky Blackburn- County Attorney- Supplies- \$53.24, BenchMark of Torrington- Commissioners- Planning & Zoning manual updates- \$1928.75, Benzel Pest Control- Detention- Insect control- \$97.92, Black Hills Chemical & Janitorial- Facilities- Cleaning & maintenance supplies- \$838.43, Black Hills Energy- Various- Utilities- \$2264.25, Boldon Welding & Repair- Road & Bridge- Repairs- \$1582.18, Canon Financial Services- Various- Copier service agreements- \$165.00, Cathcart Fire & Safety, LLC.- Road & Bridge- New equipment/maintenance- \$1137.50, CenturyLink- Various- Telephones- \$2138.97, CenturyLink Business- Various- Telephones- \$75.67, Colby K. Sturgeon- Clerk of Court- Court appointed attorney- \$20.00, Connecting Point Computer Centers- Sheriff- Copier service agreement- \$17.64, Cory Wilcox- Coroner- Deputy coroner stipend - \$150.00, Coulson Law, LLC.- Clerk of Court- Court appointed attorney- \$80.00, CSG Forte Payments, Inc.- Treasurer- New equipment- \$934.74, Dash Medical Gloves- Detention- Supplies- \$266.16, Decker's Market- Various- Supplies - \$72.35, Delta Dental of WY- Various- Dental insurance- \$1080.95, Dennis C. Meier- Circuit Court Magistrate- Office rent- \$1000.00, Double A Properties, LLC.- Co. Attorney- Office rent- \$1000.00, Erin Applegarth- Dispatch- Computer expense- \$15.99, Federal Safety Compliance Center, Inc.- Road & Bridge- Parts- \$298.50, Floyd's Truck Center, Inc.- Road & Bridge- Parts- \$199.73, Frank Parts Co.- Various- Parts- \$590.65, Frontier Garage Doors- Various- Equipment repairs- \$1420.50, Geographic Innovations- Various- Professional mapping, supplies - \$1900.00, GreatAmerica Financial Svcs.- Sheriff- Copier service \$129.00, Great-West Trust Co., LLC.- Various- Deferred compensation contribution- \$19085.00, Herren Brothers True Value- Road & Bridge- Parts- \$97.84, Hiway Brake & Alignment- Sheriff- Vehicle repairs- \$303.44, Honey Badger Towing & Recovery, LLC.- Sheriff- Abandoned vehicles- \$115.00, Honnen Equipment Company- Road & Bridge- Parts- \$13.31, Jameson Cleaning & Maintenance- Facilities- Fairgrounds cleaning contract - \$7500.00, John Midkiff- Commissioners- Mileage- \$197.50, Jub Jub, Inc.- General County- IT expense- \$155.00, Katie Krein- Prevention Grant- Phone, IT expense, operational supports-

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\$113.14, Ken Brown- Clerk of Court- Court appointed attorney- \$170.00, Lawson Products, Inc.- Road & Bridge- Parts- \$1094.21, Long Building Technologies, Inc.- Facilities- Bldg./equipment repairs- \$487.50, Laramie County Treasurer- Commissioners- Congressional tour dues- \$365.00, Lawson Products, Inc.- Road & Bridge- Parts- \$193.18, Lusk Herald- General County- Publications- \$2492.10, Lusk State Bank- Various- Payroll taxes -\$34451.75, MasterCard- Various- Supplies, travel, postage, inmate telephone, travel expense, IT expense, subscriptions, computer expense, new equipment, parts- \$5319.58, Michael Harberts- General County- IT expense (Feb & Mar)- \$1615.00, NCIC Inmate Communications- Detention- Inmate phone cards- \$193.52, Niobrara County Assessor- Various- Supplies, new equipment- \$273.83, Niobrara County Hospital District- 1% Option Tax, inmate medical - \$20558.75, Niobrara County Library- General Co. - Deferred compensation- \$1725.00 – Niobrara County Public Health – Prevention grant- Indirect costs- \$145.90, Niobrara County Sheriff's Office- Sheriff- License plate transfer fee- \$6.00, Niobrara Electric Association- Various- Radio tower electricity- \$50.89, Office of State Lands & Investments- Various- Radio tower lease- \$1041.68, Office of the State Public Defender- Clerk of Court- County share of Public Defender expenses- \$9787.66, Palen Law Offices, LLP.- Clerk of Court- Court appointed attorney- \$110.00, Peter W. Pier- Coroner- Schools- \$700.00, Pier Funeral Home- Coroner- Postage- \$10.90, Porter, Muirhead, Cornia, & Howard- General County- FY22 Audit fees, \$60940.00, Stinker Stores, Inc.- Various- Fuel- \$5530.66, Sunshine Towing- Road & Bridge- Equipment repairs- \$1750.00, Swanson Services Corp.- Detention Center- Inmate Commissary- \$174.74, Thomas Y Pickett- Assessor- Professional appraisal- \$4000.00, Thomson Reuters-West- County Attorney- Law library- \$168.83, Torrington Office Supply- Various- Supplies- \$142.08, Town of Lusk- Various- Utilities- \$3222.17, Traci Bruegger- Facilities- Cleaning contract- \$4300.00, Tyler Technologies- Treasurer- Computer expense- \$82.69, UW Extension- Extension- Co.'s Qtrly share 4-H educator salary- \$6532.50, Verizon Wireless- Various- Cell phones, computer expense & base fee- \$370.90, Vision Service Plan- Various- Vision Insurance \$372.91, Visionary Broadband- Various- I T expense- \$782.03, Westco- Road & Bridge- Fuel- \$8274.37, WEBT- Co Admin- Health & life insurance- \$20167.79, William Luker- Dispatch- Schools- \$51.75, WY Enterprise Technology Services- Various- Computer expense- \$10.00, Wyoming Child & Family Development- General County- Annual support- \$1000.00, Wyoming Dept. of Workforce Services- Qtrly workers' comp.- \$9499.65, Wyoming Machinery Company- Road & Bridge- Parts- \$3071.26, Wyoming Network, Inc.- General County- IT expense- \$200.00, Wyoming Office of Guardian Ad Litem- County share GAL- \$3748.02, Wyoming Women's Center- Detention- Inmate meals- \$2175.44, Xerox Corp.- Co admin- Copier service agreement- \$110.46, Payroll Deductions & Accounts payable total- \$236228.31

Grand total for March \$ 353807.40

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

NIOBRARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Patrick Wade, Chairman



Attest:



Becky L. Freeman, County Clerk