

NIOBARARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
NIOBARARA COUNTY, WYOMING
AUGUST 1, 2023

The County Commissioners' meeting was called to order on August 1, 2023, at 9:00 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 Undersheriff Kelly Dean and Heather Goddard with the *Lusk Herald*.

Road & Bridge- Foreman Fred Thomas met with the Commissioners and updated them on roads. He said they are still working on washouts, and they are having problems with weeds.

He said we are still two to three months away from receiving the new blade.

Timberline is still crushing at the Ruffing Pit, and they should be done soon.

Old Business-The Commissioners discussed the old jail and the need to put out requests for bids for hazardous material removal.

Fiscal Training for Public Officers- Commissioner Griffith said she has contacted the Wyoming County Commissioners' Association regarding training on this matter.

Public Hearing on FY23 Budget Amendments- A public hearing was held at 9:30 a.m., as advertised, regarding amendments for the FY23 budget. There was no one in attendance to speak in favor of or in opposition to the amendments. Clerk Freeman noted that August 1st was the soonest a public hearing could be scheduled for this matter. There being no other comments for or against the amendments, Chairman Wade closed the meeting at 9:31 a.m.

Resolution 23-08 Budget Amendments- Vice-Chairman Midkiff moved to adopt Resolution 23-08 amending the FY 2023 budget. Commissioner Griffith seconded, and the motion carried. A complete copy of the resolution is located on the county's website at <https://www.niobraracounty.org/departments/commissioners/Resolutions.asp>.

The Commissioners discussed the upcoming congressional tour and finalized plans for Friday evening.

Elected Officials and Department Heads- Regional Public Health Nurse Supervisor Darcey Cowardin joined the meeting by telephone and advised the Commissioners that Public Health Response Coordinator Matt Gordon submitted his resignation and his last working day will be July 31, 2023. She said there is someone interested in filling the position, and that office rent and utilities will be partially funded through the Public Health Response Coordinator grant since this individual will be sharing office space with the Public Health Nurse.

She said the State reached out to see if Public Health Nurse Michelle Kremers would be interested in additional hours (maximum of 30), which would be paid for by the State through Maternal Child Health funding. Mrs. Kremers is taking a childbirth class in October, so she will be a certified childbirth instructor.

Undersheriff Kelly Dean said that Dispatch is fully staffed.

Emergency Management Coordinator James Santistevan said he will be attending a meeting for a hazard mitigation project to determine the next steps in the process.

Treasurer Keri Thompson asked about the fiscal training classes for public officers. She said she would like to have her employees attend but she was not sure how that would work while trying to wait on customers. Commissioner Griffith said that she had reserved a spot for those that want to attend in the commissioners' room but did not know if that would help her or not.

Assessor Teri Stephens said they still have some areas in town to review and she is running the tax roll today and submitting reports to the State.

Chairman Wade said he has been busy working on BLM matters. He said a public scoping meeting is being held Monday, August 7, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. at the fairgrounds. He said there will be impacts to the resource plan and the proposed changes could have profound changes to the county. He also discussed the justice center roof project.