

NIOBRARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING
JANUARY 17, 2023

The County Commissioners' meeting was called to order on January 17, 2023, at 9:04 a.m. with Chairman Patrick H. Wade, Vice-Chairman John Midkiff, Commissioner Elaine Griffith, and County Clerk Becky L. Freeman present. Members of the audience included Judy Lucas with *The Lusk Herald*, and Sheriff Randy Starkey.

Road and Bridge- Foreman Fred Thomas met with the Commissioners and they discussed the fuel contract from Westco.

Vice-Chairman Midkiff moved to sign the Westco fuel contract. Commissioner Griffith seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Foreman Thomas said he talked to the contractor for the road project and almost all the paperwork is signed. It will be a few weeks before the project can start.

Josh Harkins with BenchMark of Torrington, met with the Commissioners and Foreman Thomas to discuss the 2023 Road Rehabilitation Project.

He presented an agreement to sign between Pine Bluffs Gravel and Excavation and Niobrara County.

Vice-Chairman Midkiff moved to sign the 2023 Road Rehabilitation Road Project contract between Niobrara County and Pine Bluffs Gravel and Excavation for \$249,688.92. Commissioner Griffith seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Newcastle BLM Field Director Chad Krause met with the Commissioners to introduce himself and update them on BLM items of interest. Conservation District Manager Lisa Shaw was also in attendance. He's been with the BLM for over 20 years and has worked in Montana and Cody, Wyoming. He encouraged the Commissioners to reach out to him if something arises or they have questions or concerns.

Legislative Discussion- Treasurer Keri Thompson, Assessor Teri Stephens, Sheriff Randy Starkey, and County Clerk Becky L. Freeman discussed legislative items of interest or concern with the Commissioners.

County Attorney- Deputy County Attorney Doyle J. Davies met with the Commissioners and discussed county business. Also in attendance was Fair board member Tandi Dockery and UW Extension Educator Kellie Chichester.

Attorney Davies discussed the proposal to purchase fairgrounds property. There was no position taken on the matter at this time.

Fair Board Appointments- The Commissioners reviewed applications from Taten Gaukel, Jessie Reed, Chris Jensen, and Drew Hester for two fair board member positions.

Commissioner Griffith moved to appoint Jessie Reed and Drew Hester to fill the positions which will be vacated by Taylor Barnette and Corky Foshier at the first fair board meeting in February because they no longer reside in Niobrara County. Ms. Reed's and Mr. Hester's terms will begin on February 7, 2023, and end December 31, 2023, and December 31, 2025, respectively. Vice-Chairman Midkiff seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

The Commissioners attended a phone conference regarding the Congressional Tour. This tour showcases counties to congressional aides from around the nation. Each year a group of counties plan the tour for their areas and this year Niobrara County is being showcased along with Laramie, Platte, Converse Albany and Goshen Counties. The tour is tentatively set for August 6 – August 10.

Old Business- There was no news on the status of the easements across state land.

Community Juvenile Services Board Grant Program- Commissioner Griffith updated the commissioners and said that the board interviewed two applicants and they offered the position to one person. She said the Board still needs to elect a chairman and set up by laws. Chrisanna Lund will be the board member from Niobrara County for the WYO HELP Board.

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Public Health Building Remodel- Commissioner Griffith said that Neil Holmes had conducted a walk through with four contractors and one electrician. She noted that bids are to be returned by February 7, 2023.

The Commissioners acknowledged receipt of certification of assessors with Teri Stephens being permanently certified and Lori Himes being temporarily certified.

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 January 3, 2023 meeting and receipts for January from the Sheriff for \$188.25, and from the Clerk of Court for \$407.92.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.


NIOBRARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Patrick Wade, Chairman



Attest:



Becky L. Freeman, County Clerk