

NIOBRARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING
JULY 18, 2023

The County Commissioners' meeting was called to order on July 18, 2023, at 9:05 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 Sheriff Randy Starkey.

Road & Bridge- Foreman Fred Thomas met with the Commissioners and informed them that major washouts have been addressed.

He said that loggers had cut one round on Petz Road and now they are shut down for the season.

All the county's gravel pit stockpiles have been measured except for the Ruffing Pit. While the crusher is in the pit actively crushing, anyone without MSHA (Mine Safety and Health Administration) training cannot be on the location. Mr. Thomas said once the crusher is out of the pit, the engineers can measure the county's stockpile.

Josh Harkins with BenchMark of Torrington joined the meeting and said the 2023 Road Rehabilitation Road Project is complete and presented a release for the Commissioners to sign. He also updated them on county stockpiles.

Chairman Wade updated the group regarding a conversation he had with the attorneys performing the legal review of the draft planning and zoning manual update. They would like to set up a work session with Planning and Zoning Board members, the Commissioners and BenchMark to discuss their findings.

House District #2 Representative Allen Slagle joined the meeting.

County Attorney- Attorney Anne Wasserburger discussed the proposed fee increase for court appointed attorneys representing juveniles. Clerk of Court Chrisanna Lund was also present. Mrs. Wasserburger said that Platte and Converse Counties have approved the proposed increase from \$100.00 per hour to \$120.00 per hour.

Court Appointed Attorney Fee Increase- Commissioner Griffith moved to increase the Court Appointed Attorney Rate to \$120.00 per hour. Vice-Chairman Midkiff seconded, and the motion carried.

Chantry Filener and Mike Mayville, representing the Town of Lusk and the Lusk Ambulance Service, met with the Commissioners to discuss the County possibly purchasing a vehicle from Converse County to use for EMS services. The vehicle would be stored at Lance Creek.

WYDOT Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Presentation- Mark Ayen District 2 Engineer, gave the annual STIP presentation. Others in attendance included Mark Williams, WYDOT Construction, Jeff Goetz, WYDOT Communications, Brooke Allan, WYDOT Traffic Engineer, Representative Allen Slagle, and Town of Manville Vice-Mayor Darlene Adams.

Mr. Ayen discussed various projects occurring throughout the State. He mentioned that they would be replacing the railroad crossing in Manville on August 1st.

Sheriff Starkey inquired about installing rumble strips on Highway 85 coming into Lusk from the North to keep people from running into the WYDOT building. Mr. Ayen said they are loud and WYDOT has received complaints from people who live close to highways currently using them. Mr. Ayen said they could try temporary strips to see if they prove beneficial. They like to try and install them at least ½ mile from town. Vice-Chairman Midkiff asked if the temporary rumble strips would help alleviate the speeding on Highway 270 through Manville. Vice-Mayor Adams said she would visit with Mayor Ladwig about the matter.

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Supreme Court Justice John G. Fenn, and representatives from Homeland Security and the Supreme Court met with the Commissioners and elected officials to conduct a courthouse and courtroom security and safety review. Overall, they said Niobrara County is doing well, and they said that grants were available should the county need any assistance in upgrading security measures.

Kellie Chichester, 4-H Extension Educator, met with the Commissioners to review the annual UW salary compensation agreement. She also addressed whether comp time is necessary this year during the county and state fairs. She said that comp time is not needed because, in addition to herself, she has a UW intern and a part-time employee that can manage the extra duties. The Commissioners agreed with this request so there will be no comp time allowed.

The Commissioners revisited the earlier conversation regarding purchasing a used sheriff's vehicle from Converse County and decided to not pursue the matter.

Communications Services Operations Agreement- Commissioner Griffith moved to sign the Communications/E911/Dispatch Services Operation Agreement between the Town of Lusk and Niobrara County. Vice-Chairman Midkiff seconded, and the motion carried.

ESRI Small Government- Commissioner Griffith moved to sign the ESRI small government enterprise agreement for GIS Software Licensing. Vice-Chairman Midkiff seconded, and the motion carried.

Compensation Agreement with University of WY- Vice-Chairman Midkiff moved to sign the annual compensation agreement between the University of Wyoming and Niobrara County. Commissioner Griffith seconded, and the motion carried.

Resolution 23-06 Budget Appropriation Resolution- Vice-Chairman Midkiff moved to adopt Resolution 23-06. Commissioner Griffith seconded, and the motion carried. A complete copy of this resolution is available on the county's website: niobraracounty.org/departments/commissioners/Resolutions.asp.

Resolution 23-07 Income Necessary to Finance the Budget- Vice-Chairman Midkiff moved to adopt Resolution 23-07. Commissioner Griffith seconded, and the motion carried. A complete copy of the resolution is available on the county's website: niobraracounty.org/departments/commissioners/Resolutions.asp.

Commissioner Griffith moved to accept Miller Construction's quote for renovations to the book-in area at the Niobrara County Justice Facility for \$19,000.00. Vice-Chairman Midkiff seconded, and the motion carried.

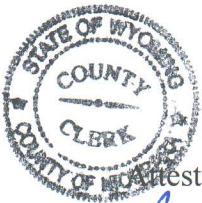
Consent Agenda- Vice-Chairman Midkiff moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Griffith seconded, and the motion carried. Items on the consent agenda were the minutes of the July 5, 2023, meeting, and receipts for the month of June from the Sheriff for \$1,537.25 and from the Public Health Nurse for \$163.01

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

NIOBARARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Patrick Wade

Patrick Wade, Chairman



Becky L. Freeman
Becky L. Freeman, County Clerk