

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF
NIOBRARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 9:00 a.m.
Commissioners' Office- Niobrara County Courthouse
424 S. Elm Street, Lusk, WY

The regular meeting of the Niobrara County Commissioners commenced on April 16, 2024, at 9:03 a.m. Present were Chairman Patrick H. Wade, Vice-Chairman John Midkiff, and Commissioner Elaine Griffith. Also present were County Clerk Becky L. Freeman and Sheriff Randy L. Starkey. Members of the audience included Sara Travnicek. Chairman Wade led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Road & Bridge- Foreman Fred Thomas met with the Commissioners and updated them on roads, gravel pits, and the upcoming 2024 Road Rehabilitation Project Pre-Bid meeting.

He discussed the road conditions because of the last storm, and said they got most of the roads open, but some were slightly damaged when they plowed them, because they were so wet.

He said the engineers are still working on the headwall project for Indian Creek Road.

Marilyn Nelson joined the meeting.

County Attorney- Anne Wasserburger met with the Commissioners to discuss county business. They discussed the jail nursing contract. Sheriff Starkey said it would be an independent contractor agreement, not an employment contract. The individual would conduct wellness checks and ensure medications are correct.

She said she sent the change requests for the School Resource Officer contract to the Town of Lusk for implementation and she thought they had been incorporated.

Commissioner Griffith moved to enter Executive Session at 9:41 a.m. with Attorney Wasserburger to discuss potential litigation. Vice-Chairman Midkiff seconded, and the motion carried.

Commissioner Griffith moved to leave the Executive Session at 10:05 a.m. Vice-Chairman Midkiff seconded, and the motion carried. No action was taken on the matter and Chairman Wade reconvened the regular session.

Commissioner Griffith moved to enter Executive Session with Attorney Wasserburger and Sheriff Starkey at 10:07 a.m. to discuss potential litigation/personnel matters. Vice-Chairman Midkiff seconded, and the motion carried. Commissioner Griffith moved to leave the Executive Session at 10:14 a.m. Vice-Chairman Midkiff seconded, and the motion carried. No action was taken on the matter and Chairman Wade reconvened the regular session.

Sheriff Starkey discussed the dispatch center and said that most equipment is past its end of life. He said that the State of Wyoming will be implementing the NG-911 system within two years and compliance is mandatory. The County's current system is incompatible with the NG-911 system, which means the dispatch center equipment will require replacement within the next two years. He did mention that there are grants available to help defray the costs. He also mentioned that the WYOLink system is being updated as well, but the radios in dispatch do not have the capacity to upgrade. This cost should be covered by grants as well.

Old Business- Commissioner Griffith said there was nothing new to report on the old jail. She said the Community Juvenile Services Board met and approved having WYOHELP manage the grant for Niobrara County and submit a work plan with it. They also reviewed and approved the grant budget proposed by WYOHELP.

She had nothing new to report on the Prevention Grant, and the NE Fire & Safety bid was tabled. There was nothing to report on the fairground property.

Public Health Nurse Building Parking Lot- Commissioner Griffith said she visited with Neil Holmes about drainage of the parking lot, and he suggested that another load of rock or gravel might be helpful, but mud could continue to be an issue. Paving the lot would be cost prohibitive. Chairman Wade suggested that Foreman Fred Thomas should be able to bring some rock to help with the mud. Vice-Chairman Midkiff will visit with Foreman Thomas to address the parking lot and to haul gravel or rock to place around the sheriff's storage garage.

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Appoint Planning and Zoning Board Member- The Commissioners reviewed the applications received and Commissioner Griffith moved to appoint Heather Irvine-Goddard to fill the vacancy and complete the term which ends on June 30, 2025. Vice-Chairman Midkiff seconded, and the motion carried. Commissioner Griffith noted that all the candidates were extremely qualified.

Wildland Fire Operating Plan- Commissioner Griffith moved to sign the operating plan. Vice-Chairman Midkiff seconded, and the motion carried.

Chairman Wade noted that the county is a cooperating agency in the BLM Resource Management Plan update, and he will be attending the meetings. These are federal meetings and are not open to the public.

Sara Travnicek and the Commissioners discussed a resolution passed by the Republican Central Committee regarding the establishment of an EMS Service and Improvement District.

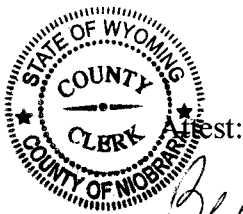
Consent Agenda- Vice-Chairman Midkiff moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Griffith seconded, and the motion carried. Items on the consent agenda were the minutes of the April 2, 2024, meeting, and receipts for March from the Sheriff for \$268.00, and from the Public Health Nurse for \$1,633.00.

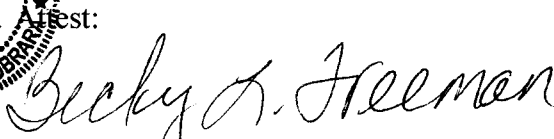
There being no further business, Vice-Chairman Midkiff moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:39 a.m. Commissioner Griffith seconded, and the motion carried.

NIOBRARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Patrick Wade, Chairman



Attest:

Becky L. Freeman, County Clerk