OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF NIOBRARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, April 7, 2026
Commissioners' Office - Niobrara County Courthouse
424 S. Elm Street, Lusk, WY

The Niobrara Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. with Chairman Patrick Wade, Vice-Chair Elaine Griffith, Commissioner Jeb Hanson, and County Clerk Becky L. Freeman present.

Brandie Bartlett of *The Lusk Herald,* Sheila Boldon, and John Midkiff were also in attendance.

Chairman Wade led the Pledge of Allegiance.

County Attorney- Attorney Wasserburger met with the Commissioners and discussed potential renewals of public health contracts following a conversation with Public Health Nurse Supervisor Melanie Pearce.

She stated the Community Juvenile Services Board Coordinator has begun working with youth, and the Board expressed enthusiasm for his efforts.

Road & Bridge- Foreman Fred Thomas reported that there are 45,000 tons of gravel in the county's stockpile. He anticipated finishing the main part of 20 Mile Road today with additional spot gravelling on Divide, V-5, and McMaster Roads.

He said blading is occurring in limited areas due to dry conditions. They are avoiding blading abrasive areas of roads to prevent sparks and the possibility of fires.

He said a waterline leak at the fairgrounds from last year will have to be dug up and repaired.

Mr. Thomas requested approval to purchase a concrete breaker to reduce wear and tear on existing equipment that is not designed for that purpose.

Old Business-
The voluntary remediation project for the old jail is ongoing, and it could be late May before a contractor becomes available.

New Business-
Elected Officials and Department Heads- Sheriff Randy Starkey reported that four radio repeaters have been received.

Public Health Response Coordinator Monica Wilcox reported that there will be a tabletop exercise next Tuesday relating to planning for emergencies and how to procure resources and additional staff.

Public Health Nurse Supervisor Melanie Pearce reported that the upcoming Wyoming Health Fair blood draw will be held at the Senior Center.

She stated a freezer failed and was repaired with no vaccine lost.

Community Vitality & Health Extension Educator Kellie Chichester said it was busy last week. The needs assessment was completed and interviews for the 4-H Educator position were held last Thursday.
Emergency Management Coordinator James Santistevan reported he was working with NEA and Tri State Coop to implement fire plans for this year. He said if the County is red flagged, NEA and Tri State will start shutting down parts of their systems during the day to help alleviate fire concerns.

He inquired if something was being implemented to replace Code Red and if the County had any firework ordinances.

Treasurer Keri Thompson said the property tax program application period opens on April 14th.

Assessor Teri Stephens said the Notices of Valuation will be sent out tomorrow. She noted that last year every qualified individual received the homeowners' exemptions and this year 100 people have signed up. She noted that 66% of personal property was exempted this time; approximately 88% of ag affidavits have been returned, and field work preparations are underway.

County Clerk Becky L. Freeman provided an update on the upcoming elections and filing period.

Chairman Wade inquired about the Extension needs assessments, and Ms. Chichester said the group was able to determine what would and would not work under the assessment program.

Consent Agenda- Commissioner Hanson moved to approve the consent agenda. Vice-Chair Griffith seconded, and the motion carried. Items on the consent agenda included the minutes of the March 17, 2026, meeting, receipts for March from the County Clerk for $5,420.93, from the Public Health Nurse for $2,793.74, a Notice of Valuation Change- Tax Roll Supplement on Seedy Draw LLC., for $9,394.90, and an Official Bond and Oath for Neil Holmes as Treasurer of the Niobrara County Weed and Pest Control District for $100,000.00

Sheriff Starkey reported that the furnace and water heater at the jail were red tagged due to detectible carbon monoxide alerts. Johnson Controls inspected the system, confirmed it is operating safely, and advised repairs. Estimates for repair or replacement are pending. Air handling components were verified, and no safety issues remain.

Payroll and the following vouchers were approved for payment: Bills are listed in the following format: Vendor- Department- Description- Amount- March Payroll- $151,119.23, 14 County Tire- Sheriff- Vehicle repairs- $257.00, Absolute Solutions- LATCF Grant- Radio for new R & B truck- $2,027.40, Aflac- Various- Supplemental insurance- $5,358.34, Allbright's True Value- Various- Parts, supplies- $413.08, Alsco- Various- Shop towels, coveralls, door mats- $468.05, Anne Wasserburger- Various- Supplies- $156.55, Black Hills Chemical & Janitorial- Various- Supplies- $724.36, Black Hills Energy- Various- Utilities- $1,900.50, Canon Financial Services, Inc.- General County- Copier lease payments- $380.00, CenturyLink- Various- Telephones- $1,446.40, CenturyLink Business Services- Various- Telephones- $65.44, Charm-Tex- Detention- Commissary account- $119.60, Christopher Pavone- Facilities- Snow removal- $2,000.00, Connecting Point Computer Centers- Various- Copier service agreements- $325.46, Converse County- General County- IT expense- $400.00, Cory Wilcox- Coroner- Deputy Coroner- $150.00, Crook County- Commissioners- FNPRA Dues- $1,688.64, Delta Dental of WY- Various- Dental insurance- $1,002.30, Dennis C. Meier- Circuit Court Magistrate- Office rent- $1,000.00, Double A Properties, LLC.- Various- Office rent- $1,500.00, Empower Trust Company, LLC.- General Co.- Deferred Compensation- $24,515.00, Floyd's Truck Center, Inc.- Road & Bridge- Equipment repairs- $790.24, Frank Parts Co.- Road & Bridge- Parts- $627.83, Fusion Cloud Service- Various- Telephone- $1,395.33, Geographic Innovations- Various- Professional mapping services- $2,175.00, GreatAmerica Financial Services- Sheriff- Copier service agreement- $103.00, Harris Govern Ft. Collins User Group, Inc.- Assessor- Dues- $150.00, Intab- Elections- Supplies- $201.95, Jameson Cleaning & Maintenance- Facilities- Fairgrounds & public health building cleaning contracts, fairgrounds event booking contract- $9,027.50, Jub Jub, Inc.- General County- IT expense- $126.00, Kassidy Miller- Prevention grant- Operational supports, travel expense- $351.75, Lexie Painter- Extension- Contract labor- Fair board bookkeeping- $600.00, Lusk Herald- General County- Publications- $1,869.71, Lusk State Bank- General County- Payroll taxes- $43,808.16, Mark C. Hardee Law Office, P. C. – Clerk

of Court- County appointed attorney- $48.00, Michelle Kremers- Various PHN- Travel expense- $163.86, Mobile Concrete- County Road Fund- Gravel- $252,000.00, Motorola Solutions, Inc.- E-911- New equipment- $22,478.00, NCIC Inmate Communications- Detention- NCIC Tablets- $55.30, Niobrara County Assessor- Assessor- Postage, supplies- $42.12, Niobrara County Fair Board- Qtrly. tax allocation in lieu of monthly mill levy payment, supplies- $26,832.41, Niobrara County Hospital District- 1% Option tax - $17,583.92, Niobrara County Library- Reimburse for deferred comp.- $2,900.00, Niobrara County Public Health- Prevention Grant- Indirect costs- $279.20, Niobrara Electric Association- Various- Radio tower electricity- $60.35, ODP Business Solutions, LLC.- General County- Supplies- $1,010.24, Office of State Lands & Investments- Various- Annual lease payment for radio tower- $1,118.50, Olson Tire, Co.- Sheriff- Supplies- $5.00, Palen Law Offices, LLP.- Clerk of Court- Court appointed attorney- $372.00, Platte Custom Harvesting & Repair- Sheriff- Vehicle repairs- $94.45, Pomp's Tire Service, Inc.- Road & Bridge- Equipment repairs- $1,775.60, Randy Starkey- Sheriff- Travel expense- $172.31, Roxanne Fish- 250 Grant- Supplies- $925.00, Swanson Services Corp.- Detention- Inmate commissary account- $229.83, Team Laboratory Chemical, LLC.- Facilities- Fairgrounds supplies- $116.88, Thompson Safety, LLC.- Sheriff- Schools- $320.00, Thomson Reuters-West- County Attorney- Law library- $163.13, Town of Lusk- Various- Utilities- $3,205.44, Traci Bruegger- Facilities- CH, Library, Justice Center cleaning contract- $4,300.00, Tyler Technologies- Treasurer- Computer expense- $165.38, Verizon Wireless- Various- Phones, computer expense- $399.07, Visa- Various- Supplies, new equipment, postage, subscriptions, dues, IT & computer expenses, inmate medical, transports- $11,362.18, Vision Service Plan- Various- Vision Insurance- $470.86, Visionary Broadband- Various- IT expense- $479.08, Westco- Road & Bridge- Fuel- $5,396.87, WY Enterprise Technology Services- Various- IT expense- $89.44, Wyoming Child & Family Development- General County – Annual County Match- $1,000.00, WYDOT Financial Services- Various- Fuel- $1,531.00, Wyoming County Commissioners Association- Commissioners- Dues- $375.00, Wyoming County Treasurer's Association- Treasurer- Dues- $200.00, Wyoming Dept. of Workforce Services- Quarterly Worker's Comp- $11,647.66, Wyoming Educators' Benefit Trust- General County- Health & life insurance- $40,380.58, Wyoming Machinery- Road & Bridge- Parts, repairs- $3522.39, Wyoming Network, Inc.- General County- IT expense- $200.00, Wyoming Retirement System- General County- Law enforcement retirement- $16,129.33, March Total- $687,844.20

There being no further business, Chairman Wade adjourned the meeting.

NIOBRARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Patrick Wade

Patrick Wade, Chairman

STATE OF WYOMING COUNTY CLERK COUNTY OF NIOBRARA

Attest:

Becky L Freeman

Becky L. Freeman, County Clerk