

**COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING**

January 4, 2000

The Niobrara County Commissioners met for their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 4, 2000 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Room at the Niobrara County Courthouse. Present were Chairman Donna I. Ruffing and Commissioners Richard L. James and Richard A. Ladwig.

Minutes of December 21, 1999 and December 30, 1999 were approved as presented.

Receipts from the Clerk of District Court for November (\$130.50) and for December from the Sheriff (\$9,278) and the County Clerk (\$1,886.50) were acknowledged.

The following business was addressed:

Road and Bridge - Discussed the status of the County Line Road with Deputy Sheriff Larry Crawford. Reviewed the November 30, 1999 SC-CFM Status of Funds, the WYDOT update on planned haul road at the Manville Pit, and the UPRR revised construction project plans Lusk to Manville.

County Coroner - Discussed the cost for the Coroner to attend certification school in St. Louis. No action taken.

County Attorney Vacancy - Met with Judge Kautz to discuss alternatives. No action taken.

Special Prosecutor - The invoice from ^{LOWELL}~~Keith~~ Fitch for the meth lab prosecution was discussed. No action taken. Resolution 98-10 was amended to appoint Ed Buchanan as Assistant Special Prosecutor to Greg Knudsen, at no cost to the County, in the livestock rustling case.

Facilities - Reviewed fire hazard complaint and inspection report from the Lusk Volunteer Fire Department. A minor deficiency was found and has been addressed. The fire hoses (made in 1936) and the valves were recommended to have yearly inspections. After discussion with Ed Rapp, it was decided that the hoses and valves would not be used in case of fire, but remain installed for 'historical' value.

Taxes - Rebate Order #260 for Belle Fourche Pipeline Co., for \$817.97 was approved and signed.

BLM - Area Manager Bill Hill met to update the Commissioners on the Resource Management Plan (RMP). One protest had been received from the Sierra Club on the elimination of the Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The final RMP has been signed off on by the Director of the BLM, Tom Frye, in Washington, D.C. The Record of Decision (ROD) should be forthcoming in April or May. Other issues discussed were DM&E railroad, the proposed visitors center, no reduction of AUM's in 2000, and the status of the Black Tailed Prairie Dog.

Custom, Culture and Heritage - Resolution 00-01, dealing with Federal actions; and Resolution 00-02, dealing with State action which affect Niobrara County were approved and signed. Both resolutions are identical to the original resolutions passed on March 21, 1995 and November 12, 1996 respectively, and must be renewed on an annual basis.

DM&E - Noted information on the progress and status of the EIS.

DEQ Proposed 2000 303(d) List - Reviewed and noted no streams in Niobrara County are listed as impaired. McMasters Reservoir appears on the 'Delisted' list as at "natural potential".

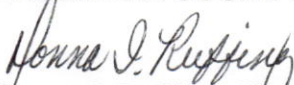
Holiday Declaration - The elected officials in the Courthouse presented a written schedule of holidays to be observed in 2000. The declaration is in conflict with the Employee Handbook and was tabled.

Time Cards and Payroll - Time cards were extensively reviewed with several clarifications needed. Although payroll checks for the month of December were distributed to the employees on December 30, 1999, the Commissioners declined to sign the authorization of said checks until the time cards could be verified.

The following vouchers for the month of December were approved.

There being no further business, the meeting recessed to reconvene on January 18, 2000.

NIOBRARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Donna I. Ruffing, Chairman

ATTEST:


Suzanne R. Sturman, Clerk