

**COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING
January 7, 2003**

The Niobrara County Commissioners met for their regularly scheduled meeting on January 7, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Room at the Niobrara County Courthouse. Present were Chairman Donna I. Ruffing and Commissioners Richard A. Ladwig and Tom Wasserburger; and Becky L. Freeman, County Clerk.

Minutes of the December 17, 2002 meeting were approved as presented.

Minutes of the Public Hearing for the renewal of the liquor license for Rex Groves, D/B/A Pronghorn Bar were approved as presented.

Receipts for the month of December from County Sheriff (\$395.00) and County Clerk (\$3,441.00) were acknowledged.

The following business was conducted:

Election of Chairman- Commissioner Ladwig moved to re-elect Donna Ruffing for the position of Chairman, seconded by Wasserburger. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Bond for Elected Officials- Met with County Attorney Doyle Davies and approved bond for County Treasurer Rhonda Holdbrook. Wasserburger moved to approve bond amount of \$40,000.00 and Ladwig seconded. **MOTION CARRIED.** Also approved was blanket bond for other elected officials. Ladwig moved, seconded by Wasserburger. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution 03-01- Federal Custom/Culture/Heritage

Resolution 03-02- State Custom/ Culture/Heritage

Resolution 03-03- 911 Surcharge

Resolution 03-04- Sheriff's Duty Limitations.

Wasserburger moved, seconded by Ladwig to approve the above resolutions. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Road & Bridge- Met with Brett Dockery regarding S-Bar Road conservation effort. Dockery was authorized to negotiate renting a bulldozer from Jack's Truck & Equipment in Gillette for a month to help reconstruct the deteriorating road.

Dick Tollman discussed the issue of donating shale from his pit to the County, free of charge, to assist in the effort of conserving the S-Bar Road. Tollman requested that if the County is to use his shale, they leave him as much shale as they take. Further information was required and no action was taken.

Terry Browder, landowner, stated that he would be willing to grant whatever easements are required to assist this project. No action was taken pending the need for further information. Cheryl Lund, County Road Indexer, was asked to GPS the area and help define possible areas in question.

Ladwig moved, seconded by Wasserburger to ratify the sale of the 1983 Ford pickup to Bob Shockley for \$800.00. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Bob Taylor and Thomas D. Cobb with Benchmark of Torrington met with the Commissioners and discussed the preliminary design of the Silver Springs project. Andy Barnett, landowner representative, was also present.

Ladwig moved, seconded by Wasserburger, to approve the transfer and acceptance of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit at the Eagle Creek Pit. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Weed & Pest - Tom Wasserburger moved, seconded by Ladwig, to approve petitions submitted reappointing Jim Wasserburger as Weed and Pest Director for Area V and John Fenno for Area III. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Gail Mahnke, Weed & Pest Director, discussed a public hearing to be held on February 5, 2003 at 1:30 p.m. at the fairgrounds regarding the West Nile Virus and Grasshoppers. Prevention and control of threats will be topics of discussion featuring several speakers. County offices will close for the West Nile presentation.

Elected Officials will meet with the Commissioners once a month, beginning January 7, 2003, to discuss any concerns or upcoming events, which would effect their offices or the county.

State Land & Investment Board (SLIB) Doors & Locks- The grant application will be withdrawn until exact amounts for the projects are known.

Cancellation of Tax- Wasserburger moved, seconded by Ladwig to approve the Cancellation of Tax for The Walter F. Kant Revocable Trust for \$28.36. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Towell (Common Energy)- Amended payment plan- The County received a payment of \$25,000.00 for delinquent taxes. Towell also agreed to pay the county \$5,500.00 a month for five months to finalize the amount due.

Liquor Permit- The Wyoming Liquor Commission has advised that El Jarro is not eligible to be granted off-premises liquor catering permits. County Attorney Davies will advise El Jarro by letter.

Mid-Term Commissioner's Salary- The legalities for allowing Ruffing to receive the elected officials' salary increase effective January 1, 2003, were discussed with County Attorney Davies. The matter was tabled for additional information.

Committee Assignments- Ruffing made the following assignments: Richard Ladwig: Wyoming County Commissioners' Association Board of Directors, EQUIP, Fire District, State Public Safety Radio. Tom Wasserburger: Hospital District, Library Board, Fair Board, Wyoming Association of Risk Management. Donna Ruffing: Weed & Pest District, Conservation District, Public Health Advisory Board, North East Wyoming Economic Development Coalition (NEWEDC), Prevention Policy Board, Hazard Mitigation Planning Team, GASB 34 Task Force, Wyoming Counties for Responsible Energy Development (WCFRED), Basin Advisory Group (BAG).

Fair Grounds Campground- Wasserburger presented preliminary plans to construct an 80 space electrical and water hook up with renovations to the mens/womens restrooms to provide shower stalls. The matter was tabled for additional information.

Payroll and the following vouchers for the month of December were approved:

There being no further business, the meeting recessed to reconvene at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 21, 2003.

NIOBRARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Donna I. Ruffing
Donna I. Ruffing, Chairman

ATTEST:

Becky L. Freeman
Becky L. Freeman, County Clerk