

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING
JULY 7, 2003**

The Public Hearing for the 2003-2004 Proposed Budget was called to order at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, July 7, 2003 in the Commissioners' Room at the Niobrara County Courthouse. Present were Commission Chairman Donna I. Ruffing, Commissioners Richard A. Ladwig, Tom L. Wasserburger, and County Clerk Becky L. Freeman. Also present were County Assessor Elaine B. Griffith, Clerk of Court Linda Foshier, Sheriff Rick L. Zerbe, Extension Coordination Denise E. Smith; Library Board representatives: Linda Decker, Traci Bruegger, Lisa Pischel, Wanda Lorenzen, Chairman Lynn Carlson, Library Director Debbie Sturman and Past Chairman Leslie Hammond; Hospital Board member Gene Kupke; Senior Center Board member Dave Jassman and local land owners and area residents Lewis Landkamer, Patrick Miller, Dan Krueger, Kacy Krueger, Justen Miller, and Jim Shepperson.

Ruffing the proposed budget revenues and major proposed budget expenditures. The 2003-2004 valuation was 39,529,867. This is an increase over last year's valuation of 38,541,535. This resulted in an overall cash increase of over \$11,000.00. Anticipated revenues increased from \$959,602 and grant monies increased from \$658,274 to \$3,510,731. The Library Board's mill levy was increased to 1.5 mills allowing funds for raises. The Fair Board remained at .8 mills.

Clerk of Court Linda Foshier requested more money to fund her part time position. District Court will be going to an automated system and during that time of conversion, there will be necessary training outside of the office. Foshier felt her previous request of \$1000.00 would be insufficient to provide adequate coverage for her office while she and her deputy were in training. Both the County Clerk and County Assessor requested additional money for new equipment, specifically new office furniture. The desks currently in use are antiquated and ergonomically unfit to use with computers.

Lynn Carlson requested additional funds for social security/medicare in view of the salary increase money proposed. The issue of participation in the Wyoming Deferred Compensation Program was discussed with the Library Board preferring to participate on their own. Additional funds were requested for the retirement contribution. IN addition, the Library Board requested the \$1,045 received from WYDOT in 2001 for the trees and easement be placed in their budget for landscaping when the Main Street project is completed.

There were protests to the proposed budget of the Sheriff. Lew Landkamer requested the Sheriff's budget be decreased to the Sheriff and one (1) part time deputy. He expressed concern that too much time was being spent by the Sheriff's office issuing tickets for speeding in the Lance Creek area and not being effective in any other part of their job. Pat Miller and Jim Shepperson echoed this sentiment. They also felt that continued patrol and ticketing in this area would eventually hurt local businesses and prohibit delivery trucks from coming to the area resulting in a loss of revenue. The Commissioners took these concerns into consideration.

The Public Hearing adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

NIOBRARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Donna I. Ruffing

Donna I. Ruffing, Chairman

ATTEST:

Becky L. Freeman

Becky L. Freeman, Clerk

MEETING ATTENDANTS

MEETING DATE

7/7/03

Budget Hearing

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME AND ORGANIZATION

PHONE NUMBER

Lewis Landkammer

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Patrick A Miller

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DAN KRUEGER

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Justen Miller

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Jim Shepperson

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~~Dave~~ DAVE JASSMAN

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Rick Zerbe

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