

**COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING
May 20, 2003**

The Niobrara County Commissioners reconvened for their regularly scheduled meeting on May 20, 2003, at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Room at the Niobrara County Courthouse. Present were Chairman Donna I. Ruffing, Commissioners Richard A. Ladwig, Tom L. Wasserburger and County Clerk Becky L. Freeman.

Wasserburger moved, seconded by Ladwig, to approve the minutes of the May 6th, 2003 meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The following business was conducted:

Road & Bridge- Met with Road & Bridge foreman Brett Dockery and discussed road maintenance and equipment issues. Donna Ruffing reported on a call she received from Bob Taylor, of Benchmark of Torrington, regarding new bid dates for the Silver Springs Road project. Taylor did not submit the publication for notice of bids to *The Lusk Herald* in time for publication, setting back the entire bid process about two weeks. The original bid deadline was May 30, 2003. The 1st publication date will now be May 28th, the 2nd publication June 4th, the 3rd publication June 11th. The pre bid will be June 4th, 2003 at 2:00 pm in the Commissioners' Room at the Courthouse. The deadline to receive bids will be June 16th, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. with the bids being opened on June 16th, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. and awarded on June 17th at 3:00 p.m.

Investment Policy- Met with Todd Bishop of Kaiser & Company and Treasurer Rhonda Holdbrook to discuss investment options on fairgrounds, library, courthouse and jail o & m accounts. An agreement was presented and the commissioners asked that County Attorney Davies review it before it is signed.

D.O.R.-The commissioners acknowledged valuation changes for Walter F. Kant in the amount of (+12,708.33) and Anschutz Exploration Corp. in the amount of (+846.66).

Preliminary Abstract of Assessment- Noted the 2003 preliminary abstract of assessment for local property from Assessor Elaine B. Griffith. The local assessed valuation for 2003 is 13,893,688. This figure does not include state assessed properties, as they have not yet been received.

Change of Zoning- Planning and Zoning forwarded to the commissioners, with a recommendation for approval, Bill and Doris Robinson's application requesting a change of zoning from agriculture to 19.4 acres residential. A public hearing will be held June 17, 2003 at 2:00 pm in the commissioners' room at the courthouse. The change of zoning will be contingent upon sale of property to the Robinson's.

Board of Equalization- Noted an order vacating and resetting a pre hearing conference for QWEST Communications to be held at 10:30 a.m. on July 21, 2003, in Room 1722 (State Board Room), Herschler Building, Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Hazard Mutual Aid Agreement- Wasserburger moved, seconded by Ladwig, to approve the mutual aid agreement with Converse County. **MOTION CARRIED.**

NEWEDC- Met with Susan Bigelow of NEWEDC and discussed her budget request for the 2003-2004 fiscal year. The funding request is the same as the 2002 request for \$ 946.00.

County Attorney- Met with County Attorney Doyle Davies and discussed the museum lease agreement between the Historical Society and Niobrara County. No action was taken at this time. Met with Ken Martin and discussed his concern about fireworks. He requested a

county resolution be drawn up prohibiting fireworks being shot off near a commercial business. No action was taken at this time.

Entered into executive session at 1:47 p.m. and reconvened the regularly scheduled meeting at 2:10 p.m.

Clerk of District Court- Clerk of Court Linda Foshier presented a contract to be signed with the State of Wyoming for receipt and distribution of child support payments. Wasserburger moved, seconded by Ladwig, to approve the Child Support Agreement. **MOTION CARRIED**

Brice Refrigeration- Met with Brice Johnson of Brice's Refrigeration, Inc. and Sheriff Rick Zerbe and discussed repairs done to the evaporative cooler and equipment and maintenance issues in the Sheriff's department. Brice also addressed the need for repairs to the County's boiler and the benefits of a maintenance agreement for the boiler. A proposal with Brice Refrigeration, Inc. for boiler inspection, descaling, if necessary and boiler chemical treatment for the next heating season to be done as necessary was approved and signed.

Homeland Security Grant- Met with City Council member Pete Pier and discussed equipment issues. There was unanimous support to apply for grant funds to replace the repeater and radios, to support the volunteer fire department's need for personal protective equipment and support the rural fire department's need for hand held radios. Chairman Ruffing was authorized to sign a letter of support for Homeland Security funds.

Entered into executive session at 3:47 p.m. and reconvened the regularly scheduled meeting at 4:10 p.m.

CDBG Museum- Commissioner Ruffing discussed bid specifications for the ADA compliancy project for the museum. The first publication for notice of bids will be May 28, 2003, the 2nd will be June 4th, 2003, the 3rd will be June 11th, 2003 with a pre bid walk through being done on June 12, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. The deadline for receiving bids will be June 20, 2003 at 4:00 p.m. with the bids being opened on June 23rd, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. and awarded July 1, 2003.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

NIOBARRA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Donna I. Ruffing, Chairman

ATTEST:


Becky L. Freeman, County Clerk

