

**COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING
May 6, 2003**

The Niobrara County Commissioners met for their regularly scheduled meeting on May 6, 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.

Minutes of the April 15th regular meeting and two public hearings were approved.

Receipts for the month of April from the County Clerk (\$ 3,289.50) and the Sheriff (\$ 13,846.76) and receipts for March from the Clerk of District Court (350.61) were acknowledged.

The following business was conducted:

Road & Bridge- Met with Road & Bridge foreman Brett Dockery and discussed equipment and maintenance matters. Another work session was scheduled for May 21, 2003 at 5:00 p.m. to review the status of roads.

Silver Springs Road Project- Ruffing updated the board on the Silver Springs road project. She received a call from Bob Taylor, with Benchmark of Torrington, and discussed the bids for the construction phase of this project. The bid deadline will be May 30, 2003. The bids will then be opened at 10:00 am on June 2, 2003 at the courthouse. Taylor will review the bids and present recommendations for award on June 3, 2003 at 4:00 p.m. There was also discussion about the contract fee and the need for County Attorney Davies to review this and respond to Benchmark.

Fairboard- Wasserburger reported on the fair board's meeting and addressed concerns the board had regarding the current road construction and how it will affect the fairgrounds during their busiest time of year. The board wants to open the east gate and use it as their main entrance to the fairgrounds during the road construction, however, the entrance is in need of repair and the board would like Road & Bridge to do the improvements including the placement of roto mill. The commissioners acknowledged this request and noted that the Fairboard would be responsible for any black top repair costs.

Sheriff- Met with Sheriff Rick Zerbe and Detention Supervisor Lori Brillhart. Discussed the two police department phone lines, repairs to the recorder and the possibility of purchasing new vehicles.

Planning & Zoning- Present were board members Dean Nelson and John Hester. Also in attendance was County Attorney Doyle Davies, landowner Lynn Boas, zoning change applicant Joey Taylor, and interested parties Jason Cole and Lee Denny. A letter from Planning and Zoning recommending a do not pass on the Taylor request for change of zoning was read aloud. After considerable discussion on the matter, Wasserburger moved, seconded by Ladwig, to accept Planning and Zoning's current recommendation of **not approving** this application.
MOTION CARRIED.

Entered into executive session at 1:40 p.m. and reconvened the regular meeting at 1:55 p.m.

Elected Officials- Met with Sheriff Rick Zerbe, Clerk of Court Linda Fosher, Treasurer Rhonda Holdbrook and County Clerk Becky Freeman. The commissioners informed the elected officials of their decision denying Joey Taylor's request for change of zoning. Clerk of Court Linda Fosher addressed concerns she has regarding the leaking roof, lights that are out and the women's restroom, which is not working. County Treasurer, Rhonda Holdbrook, had no concerns to report for her office. County Clerk Becky Freeman discussed her upcoming clerks' spring meeting and changes affecting elections.

Departmental budget hearings were scheduled for June 11, 2003 beginning at 8:00 a.m. to receive input on requests for the 2003-2004 budget.

Commissioners' Scholarships- A letter was received from scholarship recipient Amanda Nelson declining the commissioners' scholarship because other funding had become available. The commissioners reviewed the remaining applicants and chose a new recipient and three alternates. The recipients of the Commissioners' Scholarships are as follows: Kyle Thompson, Brandi Sides and Rebecca Heth.

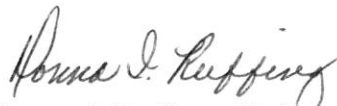
Gas Choice- Ratified Wyoming Community Gas as the County's provider of natural gas at a fixed rate of .699.

CDBG Museum- The commissioners approved resolution 03-09 Fair Housing and two policies; Residential Antidisplacement and Relocation Assistance Policy and Benefits to Low-To-Moderate Income Individuals or Families Policy. They appointed Dolores Vollmer as the labor enforcement officer for the project and authorized Ruffing to sign contracts for funds with the Wyoming Business Council.

Payroll and the following vouchers were approved for payment:

There being no further business, the meeting recessed to reconvene on Tuesday, May 20, 2003.

NIORARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Donna I. Ruffing, Chairman

ATTEST:



Becky L. Freeman, County Clerk

