

**COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING
November 4, 2003**

The Niobrara County Commissioners met for their regularly scheduled meeting on November 4, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Room of the Niobrara County Courthouse. Present were Chairman Donna I. Ruffing, Commissioners Richard A. Ladwig, Tom L. Wasserburger and County Clerk Becky L. Freeman

Ladwig moved, seconded by Wasserburger, to approve minutes of the October 21, 2003 regular meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Acknowledged receipts for the month of October from the County Clerk (2,645.25) and the Sheriff (17,437.24).

The following business was conducted:

Road and Bridge- Met with Road & Bridge Foreman Brett Dockery and discussed equipment, roads and easements. Accepted an offer of \$6500 from Dave Simonson of Triple S Industries for the mulcher. Stanley & Linda Cole were in to discuss the fencing project along Silver Springs Road.

Requested the County Attorney to review road easements on Meridian, 28 and Ridge roads.

28 Road- An estimate from Benchmark of Torrington for the design-engineering phase on 28 Road was discussed. The estimate was \$88,800 for 9 miles of road.

Senate District #1 Vacancy- A conference call was held with the Commissioners from Weston, Crook, Goshen, Converse and Niobrara Counties to discuss the agenda and procedures for the special meeting being held on November 10, 2003 in the Courtroom of the Weston County Courthouse in Newcastle, Wyoming, to fill the vacancy in Senate District #1 caused by the resignation of Senator Bill Barton. Floyd Canfield, Commissioner of Crook County moved, seconded by Ruffing, to appoint Martin Tysdal, Commissioner of Weston County, to be the chairman of the special meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.** Due to other appointments, the conference call adjourned until 2:00 p.m.

Notice of Cancellation Orders- Noted and approved the following cancellation of tax notices: CIT Communications and Finance Corp. #0678 \$31.16; Bergen Brunswig Drug Co. # 0679 \$5.07; Bergen Brunswig Drug Co. # 0680 \$15.36.

County Capital Facility Needs- The Wyoming County Commissioners Association (WCCA) has requested information on immediate (1 year), short-term (2 to 5 years) and long-term (6-10 years) needs. Ruffing will compile a draft for review.

County Attorney- Met with County Attorney Doyle J. Davies Contractor Dan Hart and Stanley and Linda Cole to discuss the Qwest claim, billing calculations, the fencing project and items to be completed. A meeting was scheduled for November 18, 2003 at 10:00 to discuss the Qwest issue and load counts. Entered into executive session at 1:19 p.m. and reconvened at 1:42 p.m.

Elected officials- County Attorney Doyle J. Davies, Clerk of Court Linda Foshier, Extension Office Coordinator Denise E. Smith, County Coroner Pete Pier, County Assessor Elaine Griffith, County Sheriff Rick L. Zerbe, County Treasurer Rhonda Holdbrook and County Clerk Becky L. Freeman were in attendance to discuss their offices and county issues.

Zerbe, Pier and Foshier will spearhead the safety meeting, tentatively scheduled for December 6, 2003.

Clerk of Court Foshier advised the board of upcoming trials and a change of venue. Niobrara County is required to pay all expenses. Only \$1500 was budgeted for trials.

Basic services funds were reviewed with additions made to the list for consideration. Ladwig reported on the Internet/Network project.

Senate District #1 Vacancy continued- The commissioners reconvened their conference call with the above- mentioned counties to finalize procedures. Paper ballots with the commissioners' names and county would be used instead of a roll call vote. Questions for the candidates would be discussed at 10:00 a.m. before the interview process begins at 10:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Executive Session- Entered into executive session at 3:15 p.m. and reconvened the regular meeting at 3:55 p.m.

Benchmark of Torrington- A conference call was held with Bob Taylor of Benchmark of Torrington to schedule a meeting for November 18, 2003 at 8:00 a.m. to review the work done on the Silver Springs road, weather permitting.

Homeland Security Grant- Robert L. Freeman, Chairman of the Niobrara Rural Fire District; Fred Mastriona, Lusk Volunteer Fire Department; Peter W. Pier; Rick L. Zerbe, Niobrara County Sheriff were in attendance for a conference call with Kent Drummond of WYO Link to discuss the requirement of the APCO25 (Program 25) compliant radio systems.

Received correspondence from Governor Freudenthal that Niobrara County has been authorized an additional \$107,372.89 for Part I and Part II, bringing the total grant to \$150,000.

Hospital- Ladwig moved, seconded by Wasserburger, to commit \$217,196 of the 2002 Special Purpose Tax monies to fund a portion of the 25% SLIB match requirement. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Payroll and the following vouchers were approved for payment:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned until November 18, 2003 at 9:00 a.m.

NIOBARARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Donna I. Ruffing, Chairman

ATTEST:



Becky L. Freeman, Clerk