

**COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING
February 17, 2004**

The Niobrara County Commissioners reconvened for their regularly scheduled meeting on February 17, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Room of the Niobrara County Courthouse. Present were Chairman Donna I. Ruffing, Commissioner Tom L. Wasserburger, and County Clerk Becky L. Freeman. County Commissioner Richard A. Ladwig was absent.

Minutes of the February 3, 2004 meeting were approved.

The following business was conducted:

Road and Bridge: Met with Road and Bridge Foreman Brett Dockery and accepted his resignation effective Feb. 24, 2004. Dockery advised the board to appoint Freddie Thomas III as an acting foreman. Also discussed Stage Road Bridge and detours to be set up before and during the bridge replacement phase. Reviewed the 28 Road agreement between Niobrara County and Benchmark of Torrington. Ruffing and Wasserburger didn't see any real problem with the agreement and approved moving forward with it. Dockery also suggested that two (2) people be hired in the summer to clean out cattle guards. Dockery received a letter from the D.O.T. regarding road names, mileage, and surface types. After reviewing the maps and information sheet, it was determined that three roads need to be added.

County Road Sign Project- Dockery advised the board that United Rentals informed him the road sign project should be completed in two weeks once utility locates are obtained. Dockery also noted that the green stakes already set up are in the wrong place. D.O.T. requires the stakes to be 30' off of the road so they can mow.

Executive Session: Entered into executive session at 9:08 a.m. to discuss personnel issues. Reconvened the regular meeting at 9:16 a.m. No action was taken on this matter.

Peterson Pit- Discussed what the county has paid in haul agreements and quantities of gravel for this pit.

28 Road Gravel- Discussed a letter Donna Ruffing received from Terry Craig of WY D.O.T. regarding planning and zoning requirements the county has in relation to gravel pits. Ladwig was authorized to send a letter to Terry Craig stating that Niobrara County has no planning and zoning in effect as of now. A phone conference was held with Craig to discuss the work schedule for the opening of the Ruffing Quarry. Craig advised the commissioners that the project wouldn't be let until the fall of 2005 due to lack of money in the program at this time. This delay in the opening of the pit will change the amount of gravel the county wants to stockpile because there will be more funds in the C.R.F. monies. Wasserburger inquired about the county opening the pit sooner or negotiating an agreement with Ruffing regarding the pit. Craig advised the board that this would not be a good decision. Craig also stated that he would need to discuss these issues with district personnel. Wasserburger also inquired about the cost of crushing gravel and Craig informed him he would research the question.

Facilities Bid- The commissioners reviewed the facilities bid proposal. After discussion, it was determined that the County Attorney should review the proposal as well as the Fair Board, Library Board, elected officials and department heads. The commissioners advised the current personnel that this proposal was being considered.

Homeland Security- Pete Pier attended the meeting to discuss the repeaters. Pier was able to purchase the repeaters for \$33,951.30. The commissioners authorized Pier to purchase the radios and have them flashed later, which will make them P25 compliant with WYOLink. Pier noted that Absolute Solutions will be here the middle of April to conduct training on the radios.