

**COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS  
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING  
February 3, 2004**

The Niobrara County Commissioners met for their regularly scheduled meeting on February 3, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Room of the Niobrara County Courthouse. Present were Chairman Donna I. Ruffing, Commissioners Richard A. Ladwig, and County Clerk Becky L. Freeman. County Commissioner Tom L. Wasserburger was absent.

Ladwig moved, seconded by Ruffing, to approve minutes of the January 20, 2004 meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Acknowledged receipts for the month of January from the County Clerk for (\$2,621.00) and the County Sheriff (\$12,362.85)

The following business was conducted:

Ruffing stepped down as Commissioner Chair and joined the audience.

Road and Bridge:

Gravel Pit- Met with Road and Bridge Foreman Brett Dockery and Wyoming Department of Transportation Resident Engineer Terry Craig and Donna Ruffing to discuss the proposed opening of a gravel pit on land owned by Ruffing Trust. Richard Ladwig contacted Wasserburger by phone and discussed gravel crushing cost estimates, various issues regarding the proposed pit, and the County Road Fund. Ladwig was authorized to draft a letter to Terry Craig of the Wyoming Department of Transportation requesting that WYDOT include up to 120,000 tons of crushed gravel (one inch minus reject) for the county to use for work to be done on 9 miles of 28 Road and yet to be determined additional roads. There was additional discussion regarding the road going into the proposed pit. Ruffing noted that the road was designated a county road in 1897 and maintained until the early 1960's. Wasserburger moved, seconded by Ladwig, to reinstate this road as a county road from the end of the current gravel pit road to a point approximately 1.7 miles North. **MOTION CARRIED.** Ruffing resumed her position as Chairman.

Cole Reseeding Contract- Ladwig moved, seconded by Ruffing, upon advice of the County Attorney, to sign the reseeded contract with Cole Lumber and Construction for the Silver Springs Road Project Contract # 2001-02A. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Roto-Mill Stockpile- County Attorney Doyle J. Davies and landowner Bill Proctor met with the Commissioners to address the county roto-mill stockpile issue on land that Proctor leases. There was some concern about the unauthorized removal of gravel from this stockpile. It was determined that there had been a verbal agreement between former County Commissioner Richard James and landowner Craig Beckner regarding the roto-mill. The agreement was that the roto-mill was to be removed within the two-year period, but the base would be left intact for the school bus to turn around. Proctor advised the board that the landowner's concern with the remaining stockpile is that it is an eyesore and it is setting up and will be difficult to remove. The commissioners advised Proctor that the stockpile would be removed as soon as there is warmer weather. They also asked Proctor to forward this information on to the landowner. The Commissioners will follow up with a letter confirming the understanding. Also discussed Qwest line damage and the Silver Springs Reseeding agreement. Davies presented a letter to the commissioners regarding unauthorized use of county equipment by the public.

Other items discussed were the county road sign project and equipment repairs and the Stage Road bridge.