

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING
JULY 12, 2004**

The Public Hearing for the 2004-2005 Proposed Budget was called to order at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, July 12, 2004 in the Courtroom at the Niobrara County Courthouse. Present were Commission Chairman Donna I. Ruffing, Commissioners Richard A. Ladwig, Tom L. Wasserburger and County Clerk Becky L. Freeman. Also present were County Assessor Elaine B. Griffith, Sheriff Rick L. Zerbe, Library Board representatives: Chairman Lisa Pischel, Past Chairman Leslie Hammond, board members Liz Kaultenhauser, Linda Decker and Library Director Debbie Sturman; Hospital Board members Kevin Baars, Ron Pfister, Chairman Mel ZumBrunnen, Hospital Administrator George Mender, Cheryl Christianson and Shelly Christianson; Senior Center Board member Kester Akers and Senior Center Director Connie Baker; Public Health Nurse Lisa Mellott; Dispatch Supervisor Bonnie Tousley, Dispatchers Janine Carpenter, Dennis Richards, Mary Bowman, Wendy Hill and Renee McElroy.

Ruffing discussed the valuation for FY 2004-2005. The valuation for FY 2004-2005 increased from 39,529,867 to 43,728,488, resulting in \$50,384 cash increase. Cash carry over increased from \$20,232 to \$261,465. Anticipated revenues increased by \$314,022 and grant monies increased by \$368,157. The Library and Fair Boards' mill levies remained the same at 1.63 and .8 respectively.

County Sheriff Rick Zerbe pointed out that in the proposed budget, a position in detention was not funded. Zerbe also discussed the raises in detention versus the raises in dispatch.

The Commissioners received letters from dispatch employees voicing their concerns over the proposed budget and their raises. Dispatch Supervisor Bonnie Tousley spoke on behalf of the dispatch office and pointed out their duties and the importance of their jobs.

The Commissioners took these concerns into consideration.

The Public Hearing adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

NIOBRARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Donna I. Ruffing, Chairman

ATTEST:


Becky L. Freeman, Clerk