

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
NIORARA COUNTY, WYOMING
June 1, 2004

The Niobrara County Commissioners met for their regularly scheduled meeting on June 1, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Room of the Niobrara County Courthouse. Present were Chairman Donna I. Ruffing, Commissioner Richard A. Ladwig and County Clerk Becky L. Freeman. Commissioner Tom L. Wasserburger was absent until 1:30 p.m.

Ladwig moved, seconded by Ruffing, to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2004 regular meeting and the May 18, 2004 Public Hearing. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Acknowledged receipts for the month of April from the Clerk of District Court for (\$941.98) and for the month of May from the County Clerk for (\$3,007.00) and from the Sheriff for (\$10,446.75)

The following business was conducted:

Road & Bridge- Met with Road and Bridge Foreman Fred Thomas and discussed bridges, personnel, equipment, and roads. Thomas noted he ordered planks for the Wasserburger Bridge. There was discussion on establishing a permanent detour by the Stage Road Bridge but it seems unlikely to occur because the landowner will not give consent. Ladwig noted that more detour/caution signs are needed on the Stage Road Bridge detour. He suggested placing them about a ¼ mile before the actual detour. Thomas also noted that he is researching the possibility of purchasing a power screener for pit run rock.

Manville Quarry- Ruffing will compose a letter to Benchmark of Torrington requesting that they, as engineers, certify the gravel-crushing project for the Spanish Diggings Road so that County Road Funds money may be used to pay for the crushing.

County Attorney- Met with County Attorney Doyle J. Davies and discussed correspondence he had received pertaining to the Qwest cable damage. Also discussed other litigation, the planning and zoning resolution and prescriptive easements.

Executive Session- Entered into executive session at 9:15 a.m. Reconvened regular session at 9:38 a.m. The following action was taken:

Qwest Phone Line- Ladwig moved, seconded by Ruffing, to acknowledge the letter from Qwest's Attorney, Mary Throne dated May 21, 2004 and grant Qwest a private easement within our public easement on the Silver Springs Road for phone line access if necessary. **MOTION CARRIED.**

TANF Grant- Western History Center representative Geri Zeimens and Patty Sigvartsen & Carolyn Gill with Dept. of Family Services met with the Commissioners and discussed a \$10,000 planning grant. The grant provides for an entity to work as a planning agency to determine what programs fall within the TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) guidelines. Ruffing moved, seconded by Ladwig, to apply for the \$10,000 mini grant for the TANF funds, and further moved that Western Plains Historic Preservation Assoc. Inc. be authorized to act as our primary contact and administrator of this grant. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Coroner Position- After completing the interviews with Lisa Mellott, Dr. Ed Wilson, and George Clarke, Ladwig moved, seconded by Ruffing, to appoint Lisa Mellott as Coroner and Pete Pier as Deputy Coroner effective immediately and running through January 3, 2005. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Preliminary Abstract of Assessment- Noted the 2004 preliminary abstract of assessment for local property from Assessor Elaine B. Griffith. The local assessed valuation for 2004 is

15,234,989. This figure does not include state assessed properties, as they have not yet been received.

Roto-Mill Removal- Received a letter from landowner Craig Beckner stating the removal of the roto-mill stockpile was satisfactory.

Bond and Oath- Noted and approved the Bond & Oath for Penny VenJohn as Clerk/Treasurer for the Town of Lusk.

Heartland Express Highway Project- Ruffing moved, seconded by Ladwig, to ratify Ruffing's signature on the Memorandum of Understanding on the Port to Plains and Heartland Express Highway Project with Lusk, Torrington, Goshen County, and the Wyoming Department of Transportation, which was signed on May 24, 2004. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cancellation of Taxes-The Commissioners acknowledged a petition of affidavit for cancellation of tax for MCI WorldCom Network Services, Inc.-cancellation # 00688 for \$1.10.

Drought Disaster Declaration- Ladwig moved, seconded by Ruffing, to approve Resolution 04-08 declaring Niobrara County an agri-business disaster area due to the drought. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Payroll and the following vouchers were approved for payment:

There being no further business, the meeting recessed. The next meeting will be held June 15, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Room at the Niobrara County Courthouse.

NIOBRARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Donna I. Ruffing, Chairman



Becky L. Freeman, Clerk