

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
NIORARA COUNTY, WYOMING
March 16, 2004

The Niobrara County Commissioners reconvened for their regularly scheduled meeting on March 16, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Room of the Niobrara County Courthouse. Present were Chairman Donna I. Ruffing, Vice-Chairman Richard A. Ladwig, Commissioner Tom L. Wasserburger, and County Clerk Becky L. Freeman.

Ladwig moved, seconded by Wasserburger, to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2004 meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Acknowledged the following receipts for the month of February from the Sheriff for (\$13,017.93).

The following business was conducted:

Road & Bridge- Met with Acting Road and Bridge Foreman Freddie Thomas to discuss road, equipment, and personnel issues. Discussed the county road sign project and noted some problems with signs being in the wrong areas. Thomas is aware of the problems. Road Indexer Cheryl Lund informed the board and Thomas that the State had contacted her regarding Flat Top and Cedar Top Roads. The State alleges that Platte County and Niobrara County are claiming the same portion of road. At this point, it is believed that Niobrara County owns this portion of road. After further research is conducted, and the Platte Co. Road and Bridge Foreman is contacted, Ruffing will write a letter to the State clarifying who maintains and owns the road in question.

Thomas informed the board he had received a call from Kevin McCoy with the State regarding the 2004 County Road Mileage Summary. He informed Thomas that the McConaughy Road did not have a county road number. Road Indexer Cheryl Lund informed the board and Thomas that the road number is #5.

Also discussed water drainage problems in Niobrara Park Addition. Ruffing noted that the Union Pacific Railroad has 6"x20' corrugated pipe that they no longer need. Thomas thought this pipe might alleviate some of the water drainage issues. He will contact Mike Larson and have the railroad deliver the pipe.

Discussed the roto-mill located on property that Bill Proctor leases. Proctor has not delivered the requested letter of agreement from the landowner regarding the time frame for the removal of the roto-mill.

Discussed options for purchasing more gravel from the quarry south of Manville.

Acknowledged receipt of the complaint to quiet title filed March 11, 2004 in District Court Eighth Judicial District: *James L. Shepperson and Emily A. Shepperson Plaintiffs vs. Board of County Commissioners of Niobrara County.*

Wolf Management- Kerry Powers updated the Commissioners on the Wolf Management Plan. He noted pending lawsuits against the Federal Government for denying Wyoming's Plan.

Sheriff- The Commissioners met with Sheriff Zerbe and discussed vacancies in detention and the inability to attract applicants due to low wages. Zerbe stated that this is a public safety concern. He noted the revenue the Sheriff's Office has brought in due to detention housing federal inmates. The Sheriff's Office receives \$55.00 per day for each inmate.

Executive Session- Entered into executive session at 3:05 p.m. to discuss personnel issues. Reconvened the regular meeting at 3:40 p.m. After considerable discussion, the commissioners authorized the sheriff to proceed with mid-year salary adjustments to detention and one deputy sheriff salary due to classification areas being impacted.

High Plains of Wyoming-Land Surveyor Darrel Schlup met with the commissioners requesting permission to establish a base station on the top of the hill at the fairgrounds to use with his GPS station. This will be used to locate the corners, which were torn out when the city streets were reconstructed. Schlup noted that this area of the fairgrounds would be accessible for public use. The commissioners authorized this and Wasserburger stated he would contact Corky Foshier.

BLM- Bill Hill, Field Office Manager, updated the commissioners on the grasshopper impact and BLM standards and guidelines for rangeland health. Currently, Niobrara County has 49 leases that encompass 37,497 acres of BLM land that will be audited this year for proper grazing practices. Hill also informed the board about the availability of BLM laptop computers to assist firefighters in tracking fires when in the field. He also noted that Peg and Bud Middleton are adopting 28 wild horses from the new wild horse program.

WCCA Spring Meeting- Discussed the Wyoming County Commissioners Spring Meeting to be held April 28-30, 2004 in Torrington, Wyoming.

Rural Fire District- Ladwig moved, seconded by Wasserburger, to approve the signature page for the Wild land Fire Management Annual Operating Plan. **MOTION CARRIED.** A copy of the agreement will be provided with a photocopied signature page when all required signatures are obtained.

American Red Cross- The American Red Cross of Wyoming, Thunder Basin Branch provided information for the commissioners to use to proclaim March as Red Cross Month. Ladwig moved, seconded by Wasserburger, to declare March as American Red Cross Month. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution 04-06- County Treasurer Rhonda Holdbrook presented a Corporate Authorization Resolution for Community First Nat'l Bank to be signed by the commissioners granting her authority to act on this account. The commissioners signed the resolution and Wasserburger moved, seconded by Ladwig, to adopt Resolution 04-06. **MOTION CARRIED.**

28 Road- Reviewed the revisions to the project and engineering agreement for 28 Road between Benchmark of Torrington and Niobrara County. Wasserburger moved, seconded by Ladwig to approve the agreement on 28 Road. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Basic Service Funds- After compiling a priority list, the commissioners allocated \$95,071 to various departments for the basic service projects. The remaining money will be set aside in reserve to supplement any project that might exceed its estimated cost. The following are departments and facilities receiving funds:

County Clerk's Office:	Public Access Window	\$ 5,000
Courthouse:	Heating	\$18,211
Courthouse:	Sprinkler System	\$ 5,000
Courthouse:	Sidewalk & Step Repair	\$25,000
Detention:	Air Conditioning replacement	\$ 5,760
Fair Board	Lawn Sprinkler System	\$15,000
Jail:	Water Softener replacement	\$ 7,100
Library Board:	Painting & Maintenance	\$ 5,000
Library Board:	Staff Computers	\$ 4,000
Road and Bridge:	Cement pad & drainage at county shop	\$ 5,000