

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING
May 18, 2004

The Niobrara County Commissioners reconvened for their regularly scheduled meeting on May 18, 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, Tom L. Wasserburger, and County Clerk Becky L. Freeman.

Wasserburger moved, seconded by Ladwig, to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2004 meeting.

MOTION CARRIED.

The following business was conducted:

Hospital District O & M- Wasserburger moved, seconded by Ladwig, to grant the Hospital District access to the 1% Special Purpose Excise Tax O & M funds as needed up to the available limit. The bills will be paid through the county voucher system. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Road & Bridge- The Commissioners met with Road and Bridge Foreman Freddie Thomas and discussed roads, gravel, equipment. Thomas received an estimate of \$200 from Brett Roetman, of Prairie Spray Service, to spray weeds around the Road & Bridge property. Thomas said that Fenno would be sending in his landowner agreement for the Petz Road gravel.

BROS funds will be requested to replace the Cheyenne River Bridge that is across old Highway 85.

There was also discussion about the Stage Road Bridge and the possibility of installing a permanent detour and closing off the bridge instead of removing it.

Ridge Road- Thomas revised his estimates of gravel needed to do this project. Also discussed renting a dozer to do work on this project. Equipment rental and gravel estimates will be scheduled for discussion at the next meeting.

County Attorney- County Attorney Doyle J. Davies was in attendance to discuss the Qwest phone line damage. Also in attendance were: Fred Thomas, Road & Bridge Foreman; Brian Wakefield and Bob Taylor with Benchmark of Torrington; Connie Hoskins of Qwest Communications; Mary Throne-attorney with the law firm Hickey & Mackey, representing Qwest; David Cole of Cole Lumber and Construction Co.; Dan Hart of Dan Hart Patrol Services; and Stanley Sheehan, attorney representing Dan Hart.

Qwest Phone Line- There was continued discussion about the costs of replacing the damaged telephone cables on Silver Springs Road. Qwest had submitted an itemized estimate of repairs thru their attorney, Mary Throne. The estimate submitted, with the project going out for bid for boring & plowing the trench, is 61,039. Throne suggested that the Commissioners allow Qwest to complete the repairs at a cost to Niobrara County of \$61,039, but not to exceed \$70,000. This estimate also assumes that the Commissioners would provide Qwest with a private easement in Niobrara County's public easement.

Executive Session- Entered into executive session at 10:43 a.m. and reconvened the regular meeting at 11:04 a.m.

Qwest Phone Line Cont. - It was decided that after further research is done and if there are no restrictions, Qwest will be advised if Niobrara County can grant them a private easement within our public easement. No other action was taken at this time.

Facilities Bid Proposal - Received one bid from Kevin Dobson for an annual amount of \$90,000.

Library Endowment Foundation- Lynne Carlson, Leslie Hammond, Linda Decker, & Debbie Sturman were in attendance to discuss the Kresge Challenge and request support to solicit endowment dollars for this project. A letter was drafted on behalf of the elected officials endorsing the Kresge Challenge Grant. The grant states that for every \$3 raised in Niobrara County, the Kresge Foundations will match \$1 of it own money when the \$250,000 Challenge Grant goal has been reached.

Library Basic Service Funds- Discussed maintenance issues requiring attention such as painting, termite inspection, and other items. Also discussed the heater & air conditioning unit located in the old