

**COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING
May 4, 2004**

The Niobrara County Commissioners met for their regularly scheduled meeting on May 4, 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.

Ladwig moved, seconded by Wasserburger, to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2004 meeting with changes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Acknowledged the following receipts for the month of March from the Clerk of Court (1,393.48) and for the month of April from County Clerk (\$3,570.50) and Sheriff (\$15,361.68).

The following business was conducted:

Road & Bridge- The Commissioners met with Road and Bridge Foreman Freddie Thomas and discussed roads, gravel, equipment, and Homeland Security equipment. Also reviewed the bridge report that the Dept. of Transportation sends out. BROS funds will be requested to replace the Wasserburger Bridge on the Red Bird Road that transects Lance Creek.

The Roto-mill clean up was completed on property leased by Bill Proctor. Ruffing will compose a letter and submit it to the landowner releasing us from the project.

Road Signage- Thomas stated the project is complete except for the construction area on Highway 270. Signs will be put up after the construction is completed. It was noted that the sharp curve signs were not included in the bid process. Thomas stated the cost would be \$85.00 per sign with 18 signs. The signs will be placed within a 5-mile radius of the Town of Lusk.

Stage Road Bridge- Thomas advised the board that the detour is complete and the bridge has been fenced off. Wasserburger noted he had received two phone calls regarding rescuing the Stage Road Bridge.

Gravel Pits- DEQ Pit Permit applications will be submitted for pit run gravel once landowner consent is obtained from Bob Manning for Twenty Mile Road and from John Fenno for the Petz Road.

GASB34- Ruffing noted progress is being made on the project but more information is needed on assessing a value per mile on unimproved roads and improved roads with shale or pit run on them. No action was taken.

County Attorney- Met with County Attorney Doyle J. Davies and continued discussion on the Qwest line damage. Davies suggested that Benchmark should forward any correspondence that is not confidential to Dan Hart. The commissioners agreed.

It was also noted that the State of Wyoming filed suit against the Federal U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the wolf classification issue. In response to the filing of that suit, the Wyoming County Commissioners' Association passed a resolution joining the suit as an intervenor. Wasserburger moved, seconded by Ladwig, to join as an intervenor with the W.C.C.A. at a cost of \$225.00. **MOTION CARRIED.**