

**COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS  
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING  
April 19, 2005**

The Niobrara County Commissioners reconvened for their regularly scheduled meeting on April 19, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Room of the Niobrara County Courthouse. Present were Commissioners Tom L. Wasserburger, Richard A. Ladwig, Ronson B. Pfister and County Clerk Becky L. Freeman.

The Commissioners acknowledged the following receipts for the month of March from the Clerk of Court for \$321.67.

Ladwig moved, seconded by Pfister, to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2005 meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.** Ladwig moved, seconded by Pfister, to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2005 public hearing. **MOTION CARRIED**

The following business was conducted:

Road & Bridge- The commissioners reviewed the plan and profile of the proposed 28 Road project submitted by Benchmark of Torrington. The commissioners noted that there are changes that need to be addressed before this plan is accepted.

They also discussed an off system bridge inspection and inventory report that WYDOT sends out. This report contains information on bridges that are in need of repair or debris clean up. The commissioners also noted that work has begun on Kaltenheuser road.

County Attorney- Met with County Attorney Doyle J. Davies and discussed old business, legislative issues, pits, and pending litigation.

TANF/CPI Grant Extension- TANF Grant Coordinator Lynne Carlson met with the Commissioners to discuss the current TANF/CPI program and presented a progress report for the period of January 1, 2005 - March 31, 2005 for the commissioners' to review. Carlson also advised the board that there is a TANF/CPI grant extension and she would like to apply for the extension for FY 2005-2006. The grant extension proposes a position for a registered nurse, a licensed practical nurse and five CNA's.

Pfister moved, seconded by Ladwig, to approve that Lynn Carlson apply for the contract extension for the TANF/CPI Grant. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Homeland Security EMPG Grant- The commissioners received notice that Niobrara County is being awarded a Part I Grant Award Agreement for the Emergency Management Performance Grant. The EMPG is a federal initiative to supplement the local Homeland Security Program. The grant award agreement is from October 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005. The second Grant Award Agreement will be from July 1, 2005 through September 30, 2005. The award amount for Part I allocations is \$1,857.92.

Cent\$ible Nutrition- Pfister moved, seconded by Ladwig, to continue support for the Cent\$ible Nutrition program by submitting a letter of support and providing space in the courthouse to use for displays as an in-kind match. **MOTION CARRIED.** The program is provided by the University of Wyoming and Shirley Huizenga is the Nutritional Educator for the program.

Audit Fee Increase- The commissioners reviewed a letter from Porter, Muirhead, Cornia and Howard noting an increase of audit fees. A phone conference was held with Jim Dodson of P.M.C.H. to discuss possible fee reductions. After some discussion, Dodson stated he would agree to reduce the proposed fee of \$31,000 to \$26,000 for audit year 2005.

Pfister moved, seconded by Ladwig, to retain Porter, Muirhead, Cornia, and Howard as the county's auditors at a cost of \$26,000. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Commissioners' Scholarships- The commissioners received five (5) scholarship applications from Niobrara County High School seniors. After much review, the commissioners awarded the three available scholarships to the following students: Erin Frye, Kitson Brown, and Kaylee Reed. First alternate was Jake Swenson and second alternate was Andrew Hammond. The scholarship provides for tuition and mandatory fees at any Wyoming institution of higher education.

Wild Land Fire Management Annual Operating Plan- The commissioners signed the signature page of the operating plan. A copy of the agreement will be provided to the board, along with a photocopied signature page, when all required signatures are obtained.

Emergency Fire Suppression Account- The commissioners noted the Emergency Fire Suppression Account premium and forwarded the notice to the Niobrara Rural Fire District for payment. The premium is \$6,418.47 and is based on FY2004 valuations.

Natural Gas Selection- Ladwig moved, seconded by Pfister, to remain with Wyoming Community Gas as the provider for natural gas. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Homeland Security Integration of Citizen Corp. & Search & Rescue Programs- The commissioners received correspondence from the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security stating that the Pilot Project for integrating the Citizen Corp. program and local Search & Rescue Programs was approved by the United States Dept. of Homeland Security (USDHS) and that Niobrara County has been chosen to participate in the pilot program. The program begins April 1, 2005 and all funds must be spent by December 31, 2005.

Communications/911/Dispatch Services Operations Agreement- Ladwig moved, seconded by Pfister, to sign the Communications Agreement as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.** The agreement states that the Town of Lusk will pay the County \$5,125 per month to assist in the operations of the communication department.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

NIORARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Tom L. Wasserburger, Chairman



ATTEST:



Becky L. Freeman  
Niobrara County Clerk