

**COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS  
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING  
September 6, 2005**

The Niobrara County Commissioners met for their regularly scheduled meeting on September 6, 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 August from the County Clerk for \$4,031.25, the Sheriff for \$29,539.69 and the Clerk of Court for \$638.65.

Ladwig moved, seconded by Pfister, to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2005 regular meeting as amended and the August 16, Public Hearing. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The following business was conducted:

Road & Bridge- The Commissioners met with Road & Bridge Foreman Fred Thomas and discussed roads and equipment. Thomas informed the board that the screen is ready to go and will be out at Ron Brown's. Thomas talked about blading the Gun Club Road and Node Road. He stated that conditions are very dry and it would take a lot of water on the roads to do any good. He suggested waiting a while until more moisture is on the ground to begin work. The Commissioners and Thomas discussed the price of fuel and the effect it would have on his budget. They asked him to be aware of the cost of fuel.

County Attorney- The Commissioners met with County Attorney Doyle J. Davies and discussed litigation, various contracts and miscellaneous business issues.

Executive Session- Entered into executive session at 10:06 a.m. to discuss litigation. The regular session reconvened at 10:37 a.m. No action was taken at this time.

Radio Tower- Ladwig stated he had received a lease from Two-Way radio regarding the Kant Radio Tower. Ladwig asked Davies to review the contract and discuss less restrictive options with Two-Way Radio, Mike Kant, and Kant's attorney Dennis Meier.

OrbitCom Phone Service- Judy Fisher, OrbitCom Phone Company representative, met with the Commissioners to discuss options available to the County for phone service. The Commissioners took this information into consideration.

TANF Funding for FY 2005-2006- The Commissioners acknowledged a letter from the Department of Family Services. The letter stated that Niobrara County would be the recipient of a TANF Grant for \$41,100. The contract runs from Oct. 1, 2005 – Sept. 30, 2006.

Professional Services Contract- Pfister moved, seconded by Ladwig, to approve Professional Services Contract between H. Rick Hollon and Niobrara County for the Guardian Ad Litem Program. The contract runs through December 31, 2005. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Qwest- The Commissioners acknowledged a Notice of Complaint filed by Qwest. The Complaint and Summons was received by County Attorney Doyle J. Davies on

behalf of Niobrara County. The complaint states that damage occurred to their cables during the construction of the Silver Springs Road Project in late summer and fall of 2003. The amount of the claim is \$82,700.

Birch Telecom- The Commissioners received notice from Birch that they are filing Chapter 11 Bankruptcy. There was discussion about the possibility that Birch may discontinue service in this area. The County is researching other provider options.

Museum Cement- County Clerk Becky L. Freeman stated she had a conversation with Museum Board President Val Peterson regarding the cracks in the cement at the museum. Peterson advised Freeman that the Museum Board wanted the crack in the top portion of the cement drilled out and filled with epoxy. She also stated that they wanted the cracked bottom portion replaced. Peterson Construction had guaranteed the concrete and advised in writing that he would replace and or repair when weather permitted.

LGLP- The commissioners completed a survey regarding the county's needs as far as additional coverage was concerned. Currently, LGLP purchases additional coverage and sent the survey out to members to see what the actual needs were.

Sheriff's Contract- Ladwig moved, seconded by Pfister, to ratify the contract between the Niobrara County Sheriff's Office and Jessica Cisneros to attend the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy from September 6, 2005- October 27, 2005, with the following changes: Pay period raise will occur with the pay period ending November 30, 2005 instead of October 31, 2005. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Ladwig moved, seconded by Pfister, to ratify the contract between the Niobrara County Sheriff's Office and Danielle Sigvartsen to attend the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy from September 6, 2005- October 27, 2005, with the following changes: Pay period raise will occur with the pay period ending November 30, 2005 instead of October 31, 2005. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Elected Officials- The Commissioners met with Extension Coordinator Denise E. Smith, Sheriff Rick L. Zerbe and County Clerk Becky L. Freeman to discuss county business.

Smith informed the commissioners that the office is very busy until the end of the year with a variety of events taking place. Zerbe stated that there was an issue in dispatch with static electricity from the floors and the radios. Zerbe did some research and inform the Commissioners that he received a bid of \$2500 from Anderson Carpet to install dissipative tile.

Executive Session- County Treasurer Rhonda Holdbrook met with the Commissioners and entered into executive session at 2:23 p.m. to discuss personnel issues. The regular meeting was reconvened at 2:41 p.m.

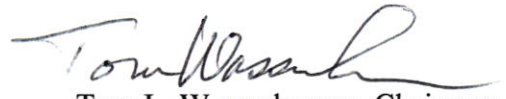
Holdbrook discussed the August 16, 2005 minutes and stated she disapproved of how the minutes read. She felt that the blame was laid solely upon her shoulders when in fact according to Holdbrook; the Commissioners authorized the transactions that caused the bookkeeping errors. The Commissioners asked for her suggestions on what to put in the minutes and no suggestions were offered.

Entered into executive session at 3:10 p.m. to discuss personnel issues. The regular meeting reconvened at 3:28 p.m.

Payroll and the following vouchers were approved for payment:


There being no further business, the meeting recessed until Monday September 19, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.

NIOBRARA COUNTY COMMISISONERS

  
Tom L. Wasserburger, Chairman



ATTEST:



Becky L. Freeman, Clerk