

Commissioners' Proceedings
Public Hearing
Niobrara County
July 16, 2007

Niobrara County Commissioner Chairman Richard Ladwig called the Public Hearing to order at 4:04 p.m. on July 16, 2007 in the Commissioners' Room of the Niobrara County Courthouse. In addition to Ladwig, those present were Commissioners Ronson B. Pfister, Arlene Zerst Rapp and County Clerk Becky Freeman. Also in attendance were Linda Foshier, Keri Thompson, Rick Zerbe, Fred Thomas, Debbie Sturman, Denise Smith, Crystal Tirado, Cary Gill, Randy Starkey, Teresa Modine, Kester Akers, Dave Jassman, Nona Trudeau, Lisa Mellott, and Lori Doyle.

The purpose of the public hearing was to receive public comment on the proposed FY 2007-2008 budget for Niobrara County.

Commissioner Ladwig addressed the group and discussed the figures. He noted that the valuation was \$66,141,159. He asked for any questions or input on the budget.

Ron noted that our budget had increased by approximately 39% over last year but warned that a large portion of revenue is based on the oil and gas industry, which fluctuates.

Ladwig noted that everyone received a 6% pay raise with the exception of the Sheriff's deputies, who received a 9% increase to try and close the pay gap between detention officers and sheriff's deputies.

Additional items addressed were the financial package, capital improvements, and the involuntary commitment issue from January.

Clerk of Court Linda Foshier discussed her office and asked the Board to reconsider her request for the removal of a wall in her office. She also suggested an increase of \$6,000 in the Court Appointed Attorney line item.

County Sheriff Zerbe talked about the involuntary commitment. The only other issue he had was the patrol deputies' wages. He would like to see their wages more in line with the detention officers.


Emergency Management Coordinator Kester Akers requested that the County match the city's funding of his budget. Currently, the city has budgeted \$5,050 for FY 07-08.

There being no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

NIOBRARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Richard A. Ladwig, Chairman

Attest:


Becky L. Freeman, Clerk