

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
NIOBRARA COUNTY
July 17, 2007

The Niobrara County Commissioners Meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.m. on July 17, 2007. Present were Commissioner Chairman Richard A. Ladwig, Commissioners Ronson B. Pfister, Arlene Zerbst Rapp, and County Clerk Becky L. Freeman.

Road & Bridge- Road & Bridge Foreman Fred Thomas met with the Commissioners and discussed roads and equipment. Thomas informed the Commissioners that the hospital needs a pickup and Thomas recommended that the County give the hospital one of ours that is no longer being used. Upon this recommendation, Zerbst Rapp moved, seconded by Ladwig to give the hospital the 1994 Chevrolet pickup. **MOTION CARRIED.** Pfister abstained from voting.

Thomas also discussed the Correctional Education Program with the Wyoming Women's Center. This program would provide training on heavy equipment for the inmates to better assist them in job procurement once they have been released. Thomas said the Town of Lusk and Jim Jordan have agreed to lend equipment for this training. Thomas thought the training would take place in mid to late August.

Solutions for Life representative Bob Shinmori met with the Commissioners to discuss the Juvenile Diversion Program, Prevention Framework Strategy. The concept behind this program is to provide meaningful and appropriate sanction for juvenile offenders subsequent to Circuit Court adjudication. This program focuses primarily on alcohol related offenses, but can be utilized for tobacco and other status offenses. A program coordinator would be placed under the direct supervision of the Circuit Court Judge and /or County Attorney. The fiscal aspect will be administered through the County with funding provided by Solutions for Life via the SPF-SIG grant. The Commissioners felt more information was needed regarding the fiscal aspect of the plan before committing to this program. They will discuss this with their auditors.

Minutes- Zerbst Rapp moved, seconded by Pfister, to approve the Minutes of the July 3, 2007 meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Catering Permit- Pfister moved, seconded by Ladwig, to approve the Catering Permit for Kristen Stauffer, D/B/A Paleo Park to sell alcoholic beverages on August 3, 2007 at the Fair Dance. **MOTION CARRIED.** Arlene Zerbst Rapp abstained from voting.

The Commissioners noted a letter from WAM-WCCA regarding the Energy Lease Program request for proposals. Deadline for applications is December 31, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

Homeland Security – The Commissioners noted a letter from Bill Moore concerning the wild land fire season, fire suppression, and responsible parties.

Jared Blair met with the Commissioners and presented a proposal for a sign for the courthouse. The Commissioners will take this under advisement and will review it at a later meeting.

28 Road-Landowners Bob and Polly Johnson, John Robb, Ray Robb, Mike Larson, Wayne Tatman, Karen and Clayton Sides, Rose Kremers, Brad James, Jeanine Larson, Bobby Giese, and Benchmark of Torrington representatives Bob Taylor, Brian Wakefield, Rachelle Thompson, and William Fowler met with the Commissioners and County Attorney Doyle Davies and Road and Bridge Foreman Fred Thomas to discuss the plans for 28 Road and opened the floor for any questions anyone might have.

Benchmark and Thomas discussed the rock tonnage and water requirements. Clayton Sides stated that he has an artesian well that could be used if needed.

Benchmark stated that the project would probably start in September and take approximately four (4) months to complete. He noted that the south half would require a lot of dirt work relocation. There were concerns about construction and winter storms and having to deal with a half-completed road. Benchmark said that some areas would require a bypass or closure for 24-48 hours. Benchmark noted that the landowners will be given advance notice of any closures and stated that the contractor's plans require their approval before any roadwork begins. The contractor is not allowed to tear up the road completely.

There was discussion about where the best place to start would be. They will work out the logistics and let everyone know.

There were also concerns about the road being in disrepair during hay hauling and the selling of cattle. Benchmark felt that the landowners should contact the landowner representative(s) and they can work around this.

Easements, cattle guards, approaches, and fencing were also discussed. Benchmark said that any fence that is disturbed would be replaced. Thomas stated that new cattle guards would be installed to replace existing ones unless the existing ones are in good condition. Topsoil would only be replaced in areas where there is major disruption or cuts. Drainage ditches would be installed where necessary. If auto gates do not need to be pulled to do construction, then they will not be replaced however, the north end will have new auto gates. The new approaches will be 24' wide and 18' culverts will be installed under the approaches if necessary.

There will be weekly landowner, County, and Benchmark meetings.

Benchmark provided a tentative schedule of going out to bid with advertising beginning on July 25, 2007. A pre-bid conference will be held on Wednesday, August 8, 2007 and the opening of bids will take place on August 15, 2007. Benchmark will review the bids and make recommendations to the Commissioners and bids will be awarded on August 21, 2007.

Landowner representatives are Bob and Polly Johnson and Mike Larson.

Guardian Ad Litem- County Attorney Davies suggested selecting Dennis Meier as the GAL for Niobrara County.

RESOLUTION 07-06- Zerst Rapp moved, seconded by Pfister, to approve RESOLUTION 07-06 adopting the FY 2007-2008 Budget. **MOTION CARRIED**. A complete copy of the Resolution and budget is on file in the Clerk's office.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

NIORARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Richard A. Ladwig

Richard A. Ladwig, Chairman

Attest:

Becky L. Freeman

Becky L. Freeman, Clerk