

Budget Hearing for
FY 2008-2009 Budget
Niobrara County, Wyoming

July 14, 2008

Niobrara County Commissioner Chairman Richard A. Ladwig called the Public Hearing on the 2008-2009 Budget to order at 4:02 p.m. Those in attendance were Chairman Ladwig, Commissioners Ronson B. Pfister, Arlene Zerbst Rapp, County Clerk Becky L. Freeman, Sheriff Rick L. Zerbe, Denise E. Smith, Treasurer Keri Thompson, Assessor Elaine B. Griffith, Library Director Debbie Sturman, Library Board member Ted Holman, Emergency Mgmt. Coordinator Kester Akers, Niobrara Senior Citizen Service District Board member Theresa Modine and Library Foundation Board Member Linda Decker.

Ladwig reviewed highlights of the budget noting the valuation of \$69,178,442.00, which is an increase over last year's valuation. He noted that the County mill levy remained at 9.633 mills totaling \$666,395.93, the Fair Board's mill levy remained at .08 mills, totaling \$55,342.75, and the Library Board's mill levy remained at 1.567, totaling \$108,402.62.

Other items discussed were the pay raises of 7% given to permanent full and permanent part time employees, the increase of the Clerk of Court's deputy to full time status from $\frac{3}{4}$ time, funding of the Treasurer's request for \$48,250 for a tax, auto, sales tax software program, addition of a new line item in the Coroner's budget of \$9,200 for support from the local mortuary for transport fees, facility usage, etc., \$20,000 for the purchase of a countywide phone system, and the cash reserve fund was increased to \$1,277,104.79

Ladwig also noted that the Commissioners were able to fund \$135,000 for the implementation of some type of insurance program. While it won't be a major medical plan at this point in time, whatever is chosen will provide some type of coverage that the county has not been able to provide previously.

Ladwig then opened the floor to questions. Keri noted that on page three of the budget, the grant funds should read fund balances, not grant revenue.

Rick asked the Commissioners to consider increasing the road deputies starting salaries. He would like to see the road patrol starting wage be the same as the detention officers starting wages. Richard asked if he was fully staffed and Rick said that he was down one position in patrol and one down in detention. Ron inquired about the county wages vs. the Women's Centers wages and Rick said that while we are close in wages, once you factor in the insurance provided by the Women's Center, it isn't as close.

Elaine provided a graph showing where most of the county valuation comes from. She also discussed her request for professional appraisals and said the amount of \$6500 that she originally requested was insufficient and asked the Commissioners to consider an increase to \$10,000.

The Commissioners took this information into consideration and there being no further comments or questions, adjourned the meeting at 4:31 p.m.

Niobrara County Commissioners

Richard A. Ladwig

Richard A. Ladwig, Chairman



Becky L. Freeman

Becky L. Freeman