

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING
MAY 6, 2008

The Niobrara County Commissioners meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. Those present were Chairman Ladwig, Commissioners Ronson B. Pfister, Arlene Zerbst Rapp, and County Clerk Becky L. Freeman.

Road & Bridge- Foreman Fred Thomas met with the Commissioners and discussed roads. Thomas said they had seven roads they had to plow this weekend. He also discussed equipment problems.

28 Road- BenchMark Engineers Bob Taylor, Brian Wakefield, Scott Larson, and Tim Wilson met with the Commissioners and Fred to discuss the 28 Road project and the construction meetings. Scott handed out a topo map showing existing grades, grades that are higher than the plans allowed, and design lines. He voiced concerns about the amount of dirt being used and what is available and the roadway being much wider than called for.

Brian is worried that there might not be enough material in some places because the contractor is not following plans and is probably getting dirt from a place he is not supposed to.

Bob was concerned that the contractor is tearing up road. If there is really wet weather, the road will be a big mess.

Richard has been involved with both the Silver Springs Road Project and this project and has seen problems with subcontractors setting stakes. He wondered if it would have been better for Benchmark to have done the staking.

Ben Ryschon, Paul Reed Construction, Jason Falldorf, John Niedfelt, and Dennis Geiseman with Platte Valley Construction met with Benchmark, the Commissioners and Fred Thomas to discuss the 28 Road project. Scott handed out the same topo maps to the contractors and explained what they had found when Benchmark went out and checked the grade of the road.

Platte Valley knows they need to do some finishing and add shape to the road. John was concerned about topsoil quantities. In the plan, the quantities were identified as cubic yards and now Platte Valley is being told the quantities are in square yards. Benchmark noted that it was a mistake in the plans; the amounts should be total yards.

Platte Valley offered a suggestion for the county to consider. They suggested using the plan quantities, without an additional charge to the county, instead of trying to shape up the road and make everything fit using the square yard figures. They would work under Fred's discretion and this would allow them to get everything up to grade and begin laying gravel.

Scott was inclined to go along with the plan and appreciated the contractors making the offer. He feels it is a good offer but still had two concerns, one being that the side slopes are steep. He wants this issue taken care of so there isn't a safety problem. Secondly, there are some areas that need more compaction so there isn't an erosion problem.

Ladwig had two questions about topsoil and pipes. He wanted to know if there was enough topsoil to do the project. The contractors and Benchmark thought there was. He also wanted to know how the pipe over/under issue will be addressed. It was suggested that flared ends be used, but Fred stated there weren't supposed to be any flared ends on this project. The contractors will get back with them on this issue.