

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING
October 7, 2008

The Niobrara County Commissioners meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on October 7, 2008 in the Commissioners' Room of the Niobrara County Courthouse. Those present were Chairman Richard A. Ladwig, Commissioners Ronson B. Pfister, Arlene Zerbst Rapp, Commissioner Candidate Greg Starck, and County Clerk Becky L. Freeman.

Road & Bridge- Foreman Fred Thomas and Benchmark of Torrington Engineers Brian Wakefield and Rachell Thompson met with the Commissioners to discuss finalization plans for the 28 Road project. There were several areas that needed addressed and the Commissioners asked BenchMark to compose a letter pointing out the concerns and questions and have it ready for review at the next meeting.

Thomas also discussed railroad crossings by Keeline, Divide Road and North Mahnke Road and the difficulty many people are experiencing in getting trailers or cattle pots over them. Thomas contacted Bill Thompson with WYDOT and discussed the matter with him. A meeting with Thomas, Thompson, and the railroad commission from Omaha, will meet at 9:00 a.m. on October 8, 2008 at Keeline to review the situation.

Thomas also stated that he spoke with WYDOT Resident Engineer Jim Barnes and Barnes asked Thomas about roto mill stockpile agreements with Dale Gunn and the Town of Lusk. WYDOT is constructing passing lanes from here to Mule Creek Junction and needs the agreements signed and delivered before the project can move forward.

Niobrara County Treasurer Keri Thompson met with the Commissioners and discussed the county's investment options. She presented information on two investment options; the Wyoming Government Investment Fund (WGIF) and CDARS. Thompson asked the Commissioners to authorize her to invest county funds in the WGIF and CDARS options in light of the recent financial market's instability.

Resolution 08-13- Pfister moved, seconded by Zerbst Rapp, to approve RESOLUTION 08-13 authorizing the County Treasurer to conduct business with WGIF. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution 08-14- Pfister moved, seconded by Zerbst Rapp, to approve RESOLUTION 08-14 authorizing the County Treasurer to conduct business with CDARS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Thompson also discussed the Hospital O & M account.

Elected Officials & Dept. Heads- Elaine Griffith, Keri Thompson, Denise Smith, Tammie Jensen, Debbie Sturman, Linda Fosher, and Rick Zerbe met with the Commissioners to discuss county operations.

Extension Office-Denise Smith and Tammie Jensen met with the Commissioners and discussed information they received regarding the proposed strategic plan from the University of Wyoming, College of Agriculture. The strategic plan proposes to realign areas for extension services. Currently, Niobrara County is part of the Converse, Natrona, and Niobrara area. With the proposed realignment, Niobrara County would now be part of Campbell, Crook, Weston, and Converse counties. Neither Denise nor Tammie is for this change as it will create much more travel for both. They would prefer to stay within the current area. The Strategic Plan must be to the Board of Trustees by May 1, 2009.

Denise also informed the board that Glen Whipple, Director of Extension Services, told her that a 4-H educator is being hired in Weston County and that this leaves Niobrara County as the only county with out a full time 4-H educator. Currently Tammie and Denise cover this position in their jobs. If there is a new position created, it would be a county funded position.

Denise noted that Glen Whipple will be meeting with the County Commissioners' Association at their winter meeting in December to discuss these proposed changes.

Mobius Communications- Zerbst Rapp moved, seconded by Pfister, to approve the contract with Mobius Communications for phone systems for the courthouse and fairgrounds. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Minutes- Zerbst Rapp moved, seconded by Pfister, to approve the Minutes of the September 22, 2008 meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Commissioners acknowledged the following statements of earnings for the month of September from the County Clerk for \$5,496.25, the Sheriff for \$20,267.94, and the Clerk of Court for \$585.70.

The Commissioners noted receipt of paperwork for a Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) application. There are no qualifying projects at this time.

Notice of Valuation Change- The Commissioners acknowledged a valuation change for O'Brien Energy Resources Corp. for the 2008 Tax Year resulting in an increase of \$2,419.01.

Petition of Affidavit for Cancellation of Taxes- The Commissioners acknowledged the petition of affidavit for cancellation of taxes for Hedges Oil Co. from the 2008 Tax roll, resulting in a decrease of \$638.56.

The Commissioners acknowledged a Hearing Order from State Board of Equalization regarding DirectTv.

The Commissioners acknowledged a letter from the State Board of Equalization to Continental Production Company regarding an appeal on behalf of Asher Associates, Inc. to the Dept. of Revenue, Minerals Division for 2006 oil production.

Official Bond & Oath -Pfister moved, seconded by Zerbst Rapp, to approve the Official Bond & Oath for Keri Thompson as Treasurer of Niobrara County. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Homeland Security Grant -The Commissioners received two HLS grants, one for Citizen's Corp and the other for Niobrara County. Zerbst Rapp moved, seconded by Pfister, to sign the grant agreement between the Office of Homeland Security and Niobrara County. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Pfister moved, seconded by Zerbst Rapp, to approve the stockpile agreement between the Gunn Ranch and Niobrara County. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Zerbst Rapp moved, seconded by Pfister, to approve the stockpile agreement between the Town of Lusk and Niobrara County. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Payroll and the following vouchers were approved for payment:

There being no further business, the meeting recessed until October 21, 2008.



NIOBRARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Richard A. Ladwig
Richard A. Ladwig, Chairman