

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING
MARCH 20, 2012

The Niobrara County Commissioners' meeting was called to order on March 20, 2012 at 9:01 a.m. Those in attendance were Chairman Richard A. Ladwig, Commissioners Arlene Zerbst Rapp, Greg B. Starck, and County Clerk Becky L. Freeman.

Road & Bridge- Foreman Fred Thomas met with the Commissioners and discussed personnel issues. He also informed them about washouts the crew is working on and pipe that needs to be installed on Nelson Road and one that was installed on an approach on Quigley Road.

The group also discussed the Cheyenne River Bridge and whether or not it should be taken off system as it is cost prohibitive to upgrade/repair in comparison to the use that it receives.

Liz Venable met with the Commissioners to introduce a company; NioTest, she and Barbara Cushman have started regarding third party drug testing and collections. Mrs. Venable stated that they hope to have the business up and running by April 1, 2012. Their goal is to be able to go to the site where the collections will take place making it easier for the employer and employee to have the tests done. She stated that she would like to come back at a later date and visit in depth with the Commissioners about this.

Kirk Bemis, owner of Rawhide Drug, met with the Commissioners to discuss the NACO Prescription Drug Discount Card Program. County Attorney Doyle J. Davies, and Tom Bartelt, representing *The Lusk Herald* were in also in attendance.

Mr. Bemis presented information to the Commissioners showing prescription costs using the discount card, his cost to customers, and what a larger retail chain store would charge. Mr. Bemis offers a better price on a majority of the prescriptions sold. He also does not believe that the card is beneficial to citizens and is creating unnecessary work for him and his staff. He stated that it costs him money to transmit the claim and then to back it out when the price using the card is higher. He believes that the Commissioners should have contacted him to work with him on this matter before implementing the program. The Commissioners stated they implemented this program, not to create problems for him and his staff, but to assist citizens with prescription drug costs. Mr. Bemis did apologize for his behavior and for removing the cards. The Commissioners stood firm in their belief that this program would assist citizens and do not intend to remove the cards.

Town of Lusk Mayor Pat Smith, Town of Lusk Council members Nola Blackburn and Mark Kupke, Lusk Public Works Director Todd Skrukrud and Town of Van Tassell Councilmember Dale Miller met with the Commissioners to discuss finalizing projects to be funded by the 1% Specific Purpose Excise Tax. The Commissioners told the group that they would support the pool project. Mr. Skrukrud stated he would forward the revised cost information to the County Clerk to begin the process.

Tom Marshik met with the Commissioners and spoke in support of the local pharmacy and Kirk Bemis and warned them to be careful with the prescription drug discount card program as he didn't want to see the local business to go out of business. He stated he had seen this happen in other small communities. The Commissioners assured him that was never their intention to hurt the local business with this program and didn't feel it would affect his business negatively.

Sheriff Rick L. Zerbe met with the Commissioners and discussed the CMI Software contract. This agreement will provide software which offers Justice RMS (incident, Names, Contacts, etc.), Justice Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) Justice Jail and up to five (5) terminal licenses. The cost for this program is \$35,000 which includes a down payment of \$8,750 to be paid at signing and \$26,250 due after installation.

Commissioner Zerbst Rapp moved, seconded by Commissioner Starck, to approve the contract with CMI. MOTION CARRIED. It was noted that this software will be paid for with Homeland Security Funds.

House District 2 Representative Hans Hunt met with the Commissioners and discussed the recent legislative session. He discussed the State's budget, which was set and funding for local governments.

Minutes- Commissioner Zerbst Rapp moved, seconded by Commissioner Starck, to approve the Minutes of the March 6, 2012 meeting. MOTION CARRIED.

The Commissioners received a request for funding from the Wyoming Child & Family Development Inc. in the amount of \$500 plus a property tax waiver. Commissioner Zerbst Rapp moved, seconded by Commissioner Starck to grant the property tax waiver. MOTION CARRIED.

The Commissioners acknowledged receipt of \$67,500 from Rock Systems for the Thunderbird Crusher.

Shooting Sports Building- The group discussed reducing the amount of the performance and payment bond for this project and all projects in which the county is involved. Commissioner Starck moved seconded by Commissioner Zerbst Rapp, that Niobrara County require a 50% performance and payment bond on all projects in which the county is involved. MOTION CARRIED.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.



NIOBARARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Richard A. Ladwig

Richard A. Ladwig, Chairman

Attest:

Becky L. Freeman

Becky L. Freeman, County Clerk