

NIOBRARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING

May 6, 2014

The Niobrara County Commissioners' meeting was called to order on May 6, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. Those in attendance were Chairman Richard A. Ladwig, Commissioners Arlene Zerbst Rapp, Greg B. Starck, and County Clerk Becky L. Freeman. John Midkiff was also in attendance.

Friends of the NRA- Niobrara County Shooting Sports representative Kevin Gaukel and Friends of the NRA Members Judy Martin, Sean Dreesen, Karin Alvis, Dan Cushman, and Alyssa Barnsdale were in attendance to present a check to the Niobrara County Commissioners in the amount of \$23,000 from the NRA. This check is a result of a grant awarded to the Friends of the NRA to assist the County in offsetting the costs of construction of the 4-H Shooting Sports Multi-Use Complex.

Road & Bridge- Roxie Sharp met with the Commissioners and Road and Bridge Foreman Fred Thomas to inquire if the County had ever acquired a permit to access the pit run gravel on the Christianson land to place on the Thompson Road and other county roads in the area. The Commissioners provided a pit access permit from the BLM showing that the county has a valid permit.

She then asked when Road and Bridge might be able to work on the road and install culverts to help alleviate the standing water on the flat spots of the road. The Commissioners and Fred will see what they can do about culverts.

There was also discussion about landowners maintaining county roads. Fred said that it can only be done with the permission of Road and Bridge or the Commissioners.

Roxie also noted that Terry Williams does a good job on the roads in that area.

The Commissioners and Fred then discussed road and bridge business. Fred stated he had rented a skid steer for \$3,000 a month from Wyoming Machinery to work on the washouts.

Fred also mentioned that engineers from Benchmark of Torrington met with him to review S Bar Road to see what repairs might be necessary. A report will be forthcoming.

County Attorney- County Attorney Doyle Davies and Deputy County Attorney Cally Lund met with the Commissioners and Fred to discuss the revised road use agreement between Niobrara County and ONEOK.

Doyle and Cally then discussed abandoned vehicles and other county business.

Executive Session- Arlene moved to enter into Executive Session with Doyle and Cally pursuant to WSS 16-4-405(a)(i). Greg seconded, motion carried.

Arlene moved to reconvene the regular session at 11:21 a.m. Greg seconded, motion carried. No action was taken.

Frank Eathorne and Dave Pellatz met with the Commissioners to give a power point presentation on the Thunder Basin National Grasslands Prairie Ecosystem Association.

Elected Officials and Department Heads -Lisa Mellott, Elaine Griffith, Doyle J. Davies, Cally Lund and Denise E. Smith met with the Commissioners to discuss county business and update them on office operations.

Denise noted they were getting busy at the fairgrounds preparing for fair. Elaine noted that there was one week left of the property tax protest period. She also noted that Niobrara County will be one of the first counties to implement the updated appraisal software.

Lisa noted that a new contract for MCH is in the works.

Valley Plumbing- Kevin Pearson, Service Manager for Valley Plumbing and Heating, presented a maintenance contract and a furnace replacement project contract for the Commissioners to review.

The Commissioners and elected officials then discussed setting salaries for the next four years.

Greg suggested freezing wages for the next four years and Richard proposed a 2% increase per year for Elected Officials from present salaries. He suggested increasing the Coroner's salary to match that of the Commissioners and approve the County Attorney's request of \$60,000.

After a lengthy discussion, the Commissioners agreed to a 2% COLA per year for the next four years. They agreed to increase the County Attorney's and Coroners wages for 2015 to \$56,000 and \$12,000 respectively in addition to the 2% COLA to be more in line with what other counties are paying for these positions.

RESOLUTION 14-07- Arlene moved, to approve RESOLUTION 14-07 setting the Elected Officials' salaries for the next four (4) years.