

NIOBRARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING

August 2, 2016

The Niobrara County Commissioners' meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on August 2, 2016. Those in attendance were Chairman Richard A. Ladwig, Commissioner Patrick H. Wade and County Clerk Becky L. Freeman. Also in attendance were County Commissioner candidates Rob Carpenter and Dustin Cushman. Commissioner Starck was unable to attend and was excused.

Road and Bridge- Foreman Fred Thomas met with the Commissioners and discussed pits. He said he had met with DEQ regarding the Brown pit and it appears that there is room to expand. Fred would like to permit 5 acres to the East, however, it is \$2,000.00 an acre to do so and the pit is privately owned, however, the County uses material from it at no cost. The Commissioners would like to visit with the County Attorney before making any decisions.

Richard said that Brett Latten with Cheyenne River had contacted him and asked if he could get a letter stating that they have complied with their portion of the N. Lance Creek Rd. Fred said he would get with Cally to draw up a release.

County Attorney - Cally Lund met with the Commissioners and Foreman Thomas and discussed county business. The group discussed the Brown Pit and the Commissioners inquired if county funds could be used to bond a private pit so we can access additional material. She wasn't fond of the idea, but thought we would be the only ones who suffer financially if reclamation of the pit is not done. She also said that as long as there is no additional language limiting the county in the bonding documents, she didn't think it would be a problem. The auditor's need to be contacted about this.

The group then addressed the request from Cheyenne River for a letter stating they have complied with road work requirements for N. Lance Creek Rd. Fred said he needs to get quantities on the gravel, but everything Cheyenne River has done so far is great.

NEWEDC - Dell Atkinson, Executive Director of North East Wyoming Economic Development Coalition and Kim Rightmer, East Central Regional Director of the Wyoming Business Council, met with the Commissioners to discuss the grant application for the Local Disaster Recovery Manager Position. The grant request is for \$170,000.00 with no county match and is for two years. Dell said that if the grant is submitted with no match from the county, then it would go to Washington for approval. If the county agreed to an 80/20 match, it could be approved through the Denver Economic Development Agency office. Lastly, he said the county could try to go back to the Wyoming Business Council to request a \$25,000 grant match.

After some discussion, Pat thought it would be best to submit the application for the full \$170,000.00 and have the Long Term Recovery Joint Powers Board oversee it.

Elected Officials & Dept. Heads- Denise Smith, Extension Educator, Teri Stephens, Assessor, Kayla Courtright, Clerk of District Court, Keri Thompson, Treasurer and Becky Freeman, County Clerk met with the Commissioners and discussed county business and office operations.

Denise discussed the fair. Keri discussed the tax sale and wanted to point out to the Commissioners that she is in awe of the cleaning taking place

Teri echoed Keri's sentiments about the cleaning. She also noted that the tax roll is done and things are going well.

Kayla said that the Supreme Court is changing child support programs. There will also be a new jury management system as well. Pat asked if there would be additional costs for the county with the state going to these new programs and Kayla didn't think so.

Becky discussed the upcoming elections.

Pat asked about the migration of the server and Keri said that Chantry is doing it a step at a time making sure everything works and that he was also thinking about cleaning up the old server and using it as an emergency backup.

NEWEDC Cont. -Dell and Kim returned to the meeting and discussion continued about oversight of the grant and whether or not to submit the grant for the full amount without a match.