

NIOBRARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING

March 1, 2016

The Niobrara County Commissioners' meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on March 1, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. Those in attendance were Chairman Richard A. Ladwig, Vice-Chair Greg B. Starck, Commissioner Patrick H. Wade and County Clerk Becky L. Freeman.

Road and Bridge- Foreman Fred Thomas met with the Commissioners and discussed road and bridge business. Fred said that his crew is working on installing road signs and that they need to fix and clean out auto gates.

Pat asked if Fred had plans to install the culvert on Gropp Road and haul rock out there and Fred said he would as soon as he could.

Fred talked about the rock that was hauled to the fairgrounds and then the group discussed the fairgrounds floor and whether or not to dye the surface. It would cost an additional \$24,000. They will revisit this matter once the floor removal project is complete.

County Attorney- County Attorney Cally Lund met with the Commissioners and discussed county business. She stated she has revised the Cheyenne River pipeline easement and has sent it to Cheyenne River's attorneys for their review.

Pat had concerns about the easement being in effect for the time the pipeline is in the ground, regardless of whether or not product is being pumped through it. He asked what kind of consequences the County might encounter if Cheyenne River abandons the pipeline and doesn't use it. Cally said she wasn't too concerned about that because Cheyenne River can't assign the easement to someone else without the County's written consent.

Richard asked if there could be something in writing stating that if the pipeline is not in use, then the company needs to make it inert/clean it out.

Another question Pat had was regarding repairs to the pipeline and them damaging the road to do so. She said the easement says they have to present such repairs in writing.

The Commissioners and Cally then discussed the public health nurse position.

Community Enhancement Tree Program- Lisa Shaw, Niobrara Conservation District Manager, met with the Commissioners to discuss tree replacements at the courthouse and fairgrounds and the Community Enhancement program. She recommended Honey Locust or Ash trees and thought two would be needed for the courthouse. The Commissioners chose to replace one tree at the fairgrounds with a Honey Locust as well.

Pat moved, to approve application for a 75/25 split grant with the Conservation District for the Tree Enhancement Program. Greg seconded, motion carried.

Elected Officials and Dept. Heads- Denise E. Smith, Extension Office Educator, Rick L. Zerbe, Sheriff, Teri Stephens, Assessor, Keri Thompson, Treasurer, Kayla Courtright, Clerk of District Court and Debbie Sturman, Library Director, met with the Commissioners and discussed county business.

Rick gave the Commissioners a proposal for the WYOLink radio console. Rick said he is submitting a grant to the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security to assist with funding the console. He also said the recorder is going bad and that there was still no identification on the human remains which were found.

Keri said that February is the biggest auto registration month and she noted that all of the new license plates have been labeled.

Teri said that all declarations are due today and her staff is busy inputting the information. Her office is finishing up the summer reviews and sending sales ratios and reports to the state.