

NIOBRARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING
November 1, 2016

The Niobrara County Commissioners' meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on November 1, 2016. Those in attendance were Chairman Richard A. Ladwig, Commissioners Greg B. Starck and Patrick H. Wade and County Clerk Becky L. Freeman. Also in attendance were County Commissioner candidates Dustin Cushman and John Midkiff.

Road & Bridge- Lawanna Reese met with the Commissioners and Fred Thomas, Road and Bridge Foreman, to inquire about weed control on the sides of S. Van Tassell Road. She asked if there was any possible way to use a brush hog on the sides to knock out the weeds because they cause problems when it snows.

She asked if there was any possibility to subcontract that out to someone to help lighten the load for road & bridge.

Pat mentioned that some landowners mow the weeds themselves. Lawanna asked if it was okay for them to mow the weeds on the shoulders and the Commissioners and Fred said it was okay. She also asked if they would plow as often as possible in the wintertime. Fred said that if there was a problem, to call the shop and the crew would get to it as soon as they could.

Lawanna thanked them for their time and said she would visit with the Town of Van Tassell about mowing the shoulders.

Fred then talked about the Lance Creek Bridge replacement and said that WYDOT is going to let the bid on November 8th. Fred suggested that he and the commissioners should attend the pre-bid meeting. He also said that he had been told that the concrete from the existing bridge will be stockpiled for us and the State will keep all the rebar.

The group then discussed other road and bridge business. Richard gave Fred a list of tractors that Corky Fosher had given him which might be options for replacing the one at the fairgrounds.

Pat said it doesn't make sense to purchase a new tractor when it will only see few hours use and Richard suggested looking into the military surplus for equipment, tires, and other items.

Ben Lamp, Stan Swanson, Jim Jordan, Lee Brown, Bill Krejci, Bill Proctor, Brian Peterson, Tom and T. J. Marshak, Gregg Matney and Gene Lenz met with the Commissioners to discuss county roads, dust control and road contracts.

There were several that voiced concerns about the dust on roads and asked why water trucks aren't being used. Fred said that he has one water truck and that wouldn't be enough, and only five employees that work throughout the county.

Stan then asked why the county doesn't designate more resources to roads and why not put pressure on the legislature for more funding. Richard explained the budgeting process and how the county gets a small piece of the whole pie, which then must be divided between the general fund, library and fair boards.

The group continued discussing road conditions and Pat mentioned the 6th penny tax.

The question was posed if the county could "train" someone to run a blade and have them certified and work as a volunteer to blade roads. Stan said he would volunteer and get certified on running a blade. There were questions about liability and it was suggested that the County's liability insurance provider be contacted about this.

They also discussed weeds on shoulders and the Commissioners said that landowners could mow the sides of roads to alleviate the weed problem.

There were also inquires as to why road and bridge only worked four ten-hour shifts. Members of the audience felt that rotating days or having flex time would be a better use of

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resources. Fred said that 90% of the roads get bladed two times a year the way they operate now.

Equipment was also discussed.

Bill Proctor then asked about Kirtley Road and dust control and asked what happened to the \$50,000.00 that the County received from the contractor in lieu of applying magnesium chloride to the road. Greg Starck explained how the situation came to pass; that the work was completed in late fall and it was decided to forgo the dust control at that time due to the lateness of the season. After discussion with the contractor in the spring, it was decided that the best avenue would be to receive a cash payment in lieu of the dust control because the mag chloride is usually only good for one year and the county doesn't have the funding available to make that a part of their maintenance program. The \$50,000.00 will be used for road improvements.

The group then discussed trucking contracts. Some individuals felt they were being left out of the rotation and it was asked if they would work for the current rate of \$115.00/hour. Richard said that the County has been using local trucks, but could get trucks out of Casper that would run for \$85-\$100/hour. Gregg Matney said that he felt it would be a good idea for the County to use less expensive trucks and that he, as a taxpayer, would appreciate it.

The Commissioners thanked the group for their time and input.

BenchMark of Torrington- Brian Wakefield met with the Commissioners and discussed the upcoming road project. He said they have preliminary plans in place.

Bid Opening for Public Health Nurse Building Access Ramp – Roger Peterson of Peterson Construction was in attendance as the bids were opened. One bid was received from Peterson Construction for \$3,140.00. Roger said it would be two-three weeks before he could begin work on the project.

County Attorney- Doyle Davies, Deputy County Attorney, met with the Commissioners and discussed the Breitburn bankruptcy. He said that he has kept in contact with the treasurer and she has a claim that will be submitted to the bankruptcy court against Breitburn. Doyle said that he would like the Commissioners to authorize him to sign on the Secured Priority Claim.

Pat moved to authorize Doyle Davies to sign on the claim. Greg seconded, motion carried.

The Commissioners and Sally Myer, Niobrara County Public Health Nurse, held a phone conference with Melanie Pearce, Regional Supervisor for Public Health Nursing, regarding the public health nurse contracts. Melanie said the contract reads the same for every county. Pat said that the original concern about not signing the contracts was that there was no public health nurse. He also wanted to ensure that the current public health nurse was comfortable with the tasks laid out in the contract. Melanie explained that in the contract, the word "county" actually applies to her as a supervisor to oversee things. She will be the one responsible for the reporting and will ensure that tasks are being done.

Sally said that what the contracts ask of her is not anything she didn't anticipate when she took the job.

Melanie said that the goal is December 1, 2016 to begin the LT101 assessments and once Sally is certified on immunizations, scheduling patients can begin.

Memorandum of Understanding- Greg moved to approve the contract between the Wyoming Department of Health and Niobrara County for MCH Services. Pat seconded, motion carried

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Ebola Virus Disease & Zika Virus Contract- Pat moved to approve the contract between the Wyoming Department of Health, Public Health Division and Niobrara County. Greg seconded, motion carried.

Emergency Management- James Santistevan met with the Commissioners and gave a monthly update.

He said he attended a Coordinator's meeting and learned a lot.

Road and Bridge continued- Fred said that the State will open bids on the 10th of November but won't be in until the middle to end of December to begin work.

Pat asked if BenchMark had any preliminary numbers on the county's 2016 Road Rehabilitation Project (previously addressed as the Walker, Pipe and Wilson Roads project) but Fred said no. There will be a clause that Walker Road is a priority as it will be an alternate route when the Lance Creek Bridge is being replaced. There will be a pre-bid meeting on November 23rd and the bids will be opened and awarded on the 29th.

Public Health Nurse Building Access Ramp Bid- Greg moved to accept the bid from Peterson Construction for \$3,140.00. Pat seconded, motion carried.

Consent Agenda- Pat moved to approve the consent agenda. Greg seconded, motion carried.

Payroll and the following vouchers were approved for payment:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned

NIOBRARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Richard A. Ladwig, Chairman



Attest:



Becky L. Freeman