

NIOBRARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING
February 21, 2017

The Niobrara County Commissioners' meeting was called to order on this date at 9:03 a.m. with Chairman Richard A. Ladwig, Commissioners Patrick H. Wade, John Midkiff and County Clerk Becky L. Freeman, present.

Hospital Update- Mark Groh, Hospital Board member, Chris Smolik, CEO and Jim Tangney, Facility Manager met with the Commissioners and discussed hospital business.

The hospital asked if the County would consider donating one of the sheriff's vehicles that will be sold. The Commissioners said that the sheriff plans on selling two Ford Explorers. The hospital did not think these vehicles would be large enough, however, they would look at them. They said they thought they needed a larger vehicle because they take medical waste to Casper a couple of times a month, deliver laundry to the Wyoming Women's Center and take lab samples to Douglas or Casper.

The group then discussed the parking lot that they would like road and bridge to help build. According to Chris Smolik, the size of the parking lot will be approximately one lot. He said he visited with Fred about doing the work and Fred said he didn't see a problem with doing it, but said it was up to the Commissioners to decide what to do. The Commissioners said they would direct road and bridge to work on this.

They then discussed the financial status of the hospital and other business.

County Attorney- Cally Lund, County Attorney, met with the Commissioners via a phone conference to discuss county business. Cally briefed the Commissioners on the request from Special Prosecutor Nate Hibben to appoint Christyne Martens and Katie Adams from the Attorney General's office, as substitute special prosecutors in the matter of Lisa Mellott because the special prosecutor originally appointed to the case has left the Attorney General's office and Mellott has filed an appeal, and there remains some work to be done in the district court prior to the Supreme Court addressing the issue.

Event Insurance- The Commissioners asked Cally about event insurance at the fairgrounds. The eclipse activities are being held at the fairgrounds and hosted by the Chamber of Commerce and the County's liability insurance provider said that since the County is not hosting the event, the sponsoring entity needs to provide insurance. Cally said she will talk to Bill Miller with the Local Government Liability Pool for further information and report back to the Commissioners.

Pat said that the fair board had concerns over possible damages to the buildings as a result of the eclipse events and the potentially large numbers of people who will be attending.

Pat mentioned a conversation he had with a local landowner regarding the recent eclipse meeting and the fact that the Sheriff not in attendance. Pat later found out that an issue had arisen preventing the Sheriff from attending the meeting. The landowner said they would like to have a meeting with other landowners and the sheriff to iron out what they can and cannot do in regards to protecting their land during the eclipse weekend. Pat asked Cally to attend the upcoming meeting and she voiced concerns about people misconstruing her comments as legal advice.

Richard said he had been contacted by the same individual regarding the matter.

Public Health Nurse- Sally Myer, Public Health Nurse, met with the Commissioners and discussed public health business. She said she has handed out some pamphlets to let people know she is available and that she has seen some people.

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Richard brought up concerns over people having to make appointments vs. having regular hours. She said that she might have a conflict that would interfere with her posted hours if she had to attend a meeting out of town.

She said is working on the emergency response plan and will be meeting next week with the school, prison and hospital to be closed points of dispensing vaccinations (PODs) for their select groups in the event of a disaster and the need for mass vaccinations because these entities have their own nurses on staff that could administer the vaccines. She will draft Letters of Concurrence with each entity spelling out their obligations and responsibilities. She said that there would also be a POD for the County employees as well as a separate POD for public vaccinations located at the fairgrounds.

Visionary Communications- Chantry Filener, Teri Stephens, Keri Thompson, Sally Myer, Kelly Dean and Rick Zerbe met with the Commissioners and held a phone conference with Brian Murphy of Visionary Communications to discuss the logistics of changing to Visionary Communications as the internet service provider for the courthouse and sheriff's office. The group discussed fees, upload/download speeds and redundancy.

Pat moved to move forward with Visionary Communications as the internet service provider for the above entities. John seconded. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda- John moved to approve the consent agenda. Pat seconded, motion carried. Items included on the consent agenda were the minutes of the February 7, 2016 meeting, receipts from the Public Health Nurse for 1/17/17 – 2/17/17 for \$73.00 and a notification from the State Dept. of Revenue notifying the Commissioners that all entities with the ability to levy a mill were in compliance with their rules and regulations.

Appointment of Special Prosecutor- Upon the recommendation of County Attorney Cally Lund, Pat moved to appoint Christyne Martens and Katie Adams from the Attorney General's Office, to serve as assistant special prosecutors in the Mellott appeal. John seconded, motion carried. Nate Hibben will continue to be the special prosecutor.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

NIOBRARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Richard A. Ladwig

Richard A. Ladwig, Chairman



Attest:

Becky L. Freeman

Becky L. Freeman, Clerk