

NIOBRARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING
September 19, 2017

The County Commissioners' meeting was called to order on this date at 9:00 a.m. with Chairman Richard A. Ladwig, Commissioners Patrick H. Wade, John Midkiff and County Clerk Becky L. Freeman, present.

Road and Bridge- Fred Thomas, Road and Bridge Foreman, met with the Commissioners and discussed road and bridge business.

Fred said he has a meeting with DEQ on Thursday to review three pits- Tollman, Boner and Thompson pits. Fred said that the Thomson Pit is pretty much deleted and felt that it should be removed from the County's permit. Richard asked if there would be any reclamation and Fred said no.

Fred said that the Boner Pit is now owned by someone else and he will have to check with the owners to see if we still have access. He said there is still material in that pit as well as material remaining in the Tollman Pit. Fred said he would also like to work with Dave Thomson on his private pit and use that material for roads in the area.

Richard asked about the status of the Brown Pit and Fred said that the county attorney's office has all of the paperwork prepared for us to sign in order to pay the bond for the expansion of the Brown Pit.

Fred then discussed purchasing additional gravel from Mobile Concrete to add to the county's existing stockpile.

Richard asked what kind of stockpile would remain once the work on Divide Road is complete and Fred estimated there would be approximately 75,000 tons remaining and if he purchased an additional 22,000 tons, then he would be close to 100,000 tons. Pat said that he didn't have a problem with Fred purchasing additional gravel, but thought that the county should now move towards working on roads with higher traffic use.

County Attorney- Cally Lund, County Attorney, met with the Commissioners via phone to discuss county business. Also in attendance were Jim Jordan of Jordan Towing, Dave Alley of OK Wrecking and Doug Butler of Butler Auto Salvage.

The group discussed an abandoned vehicle towing bill submitted by Jordan Towing that is in excess of what abandoned vehicle statutes say can be paid, which is up to \$760.00. The bill submitted by Jordan Towing was for \$1,050.00. Jim explained why the bill was so high; citing the use of a larger tow truck to tow the semi-truck to town, the additional liability included with towing a large piece of equipment and the extra time to dismantle portions of the semi and hook it up, etc.

Richard asked Dave Alley how he handles it and Dave said he has a contract with Converse County. Doug Butler said he wasn't aware of the abandoned vehicle fee.

All three operators said they charge \$300/hour to use their heavy trucks to tow larger items.

The group discussed various ways to resolve this matter and Cally stated that until we have a contract with our towing companies, the vehicles will be towed to the County's abandoned vehicle lot and the County won't pay any more than what is statutorily allowed.

Emergency Management- James Santistevan, Emergency Management Coordinator, met briefly with the Commissioners to discuss a request he received from the fair board to purchase an automatic transfer switch for their emergency generator. Denise told James that NEA said it would cost approximately \$10,000.00 to install.

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Richard explained the situation saying that currently, during a power outage, someone has to go out to the fairgrounds and manually flip the switch on the generator as well as go back out to turn the switch off.

James said he talked to Homeland Security and they said that the EMPG grant could be used, however, James was told that bids would need to be submitted by September 30th. Also, with an EMPG grant there is a 50% local match required and the County needs to complete the required reports/plans with the State. The Board suggested laying this matter back until next year, gather all information, complete all reporting requirements and plans through Homeland Security and then have a better idea of what it will actually cost and time frames etc.

James will let Denise know that they are planning to wait.

Library Board Appointment- Pat moved to appoint Virginia Pullen to the Library Board with her term beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2020. John seconded, motion carried.

Niobrara County Socioeconomic Profile- Pat moved to accept the profile developed by WCCA and UW Extension, Wyoming Dept. of A & I. John seconded, motion carried.

Petition to Cross Co Road- John moved to approve the Order authorizing Golden West Telecommunications to bore under Cheyenne River Road to lay and construct a buried 6-pair 19-gauge copper telecommunications cable. Pat seconded, motion carried.

Floor waxing project- The Commissioners chose to deny Townhouse Motel's request for additional funding to offset the unexpected additional costs associated with the courthouse floor wax removal and polishing project.

Pat moved to approve two manual checks from Public Health for Sally Myer for \$102.72 and for Visa for \$115.20. John seconded. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

NIOBRARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Richard A. Ladwig, Chairman



Attest:



Becky L. Freeman, Clerk