

NIORARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

NIORARA COUNTY, WYOMING

December 3, 2019

The County Commissioners' meeting was called to order on this date at 9:02 a.m. with Chairman Patrick H. Wade, Vice-Chair John Midkiff, Commissioner Elaine Griffith, and County Clerk Becky L. Freeman, present.

Chairman Wade led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Road & Bridge- Foreman Fred Thomas met with the Commissioners and discussed roads. He said they are busy trying to clear roads and will need to make minor repairs to plows as a result of the recent storm.

Kody Nelson, Chief Operating Officer for the Niobrara Community Hospital, met with the Commissioners and updated them on the progress of the construction projects from the 2017 1% tax project. Also in attendance was Treasurer Keri Thompson.

He said they are working on a steady repayment plan for Hospital O & M account and are working towards paying \$5,000 a month at a minimum.

He updated the Commissioners on construction projects and noted that they are fully staffed. He said the director of Life Flight in Casper would be coming down to help train nurses.

Lastly, he said that he is recruiting a dentist, Rick Jones from Laramie, to come to Lusk to practice.

County Attorney- County Attorney Anne Wasserburger met with the Commissioners and discussed county business.

She discussed the Workers' Comp Employers' Group Memorandum of Understanding. She said she has not heard of any counter-offers from ONEOK relating to the cash settlement in place of road work on the roads which were impacted by the Elk Creek Pipeline. She also said she hadn't heard anything more on the Tri-County Joint Powers Board or the courtroom technology upgrade.

Executive Session- Vice-Chairman Midkiff moved to enter into executive session at 10:12 a.m. to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Griffith seconded, motion carried.

Vice-Chairman Midkiff moved to leave the executive session at 10:34 a.m., and Commissioner Griffith seconded, motion carried. No action was taken.

The Commissioners discussed an email they received from the National Association of Counties (NACo) that was sent to all Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and Secure Rural Schools counties. The email asks that they sign onto a coalition letter NACo is leading in support of full PILT funding and reauthorizing SRS.

Vice-Chairman Midkiff moved to sign the support letter for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and reauthorizing the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) programs, urging congressional leaders to fund the above programs fully. Commissioner Griffith seconded, motion carried.

Elected Officials & Dept. Heads- Chrisanna Lund, Clerk of Court, Keri Thompson, County Treasurer, Teri Stephens, County Assessor, Denise Smith, Extension Educator, met with the Commissioners to discuss items of interest in their offices.

Clerk of Court Lund discussed upcoming training for an automated juror selection program. She said there are no trials scheduled soon.

Treasurer Keri Thompson said the audit should be winding up and tax collections are about 40% collected.

Assessor Teri Stephens said her office is continuing to work on and input information from the summer reviews, and she plans on printing declarations soon. She also reminded the Commissioners that she and her staff would be attending a GIS training in Casper and that Dawn Godfrey would be filling in to answer phones for the day.

Extension Education Denise Smith discussed the Wyoming Business Council and SLIB grants and noted that meetings for these grants would be sometime in March and April.