

NIOBRARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' SPECIAL MEETING
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING
February 19, 2019

The County Commissioners' meeting was called to order by Chairman Patrick Wade at 9:05 a.m. at the Niobrara County Courthouse in Lusk, WY. Vice-Chairman John Midkiff, Commissioner Elaine Griffith and County Clerk Becky L. Freeman were present.

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

He said that Wyoming Technology Transfer Center (T²) will set up a traffic counters on Cheyenne River Road as well as conduct a traffic accident study. This information will assist Niobrara County in justifying its request to WYDOT for Industrial Road Program (IRP) funding.

He said he had talked to the Weston County Road & Bridge Foreman about Cheyenne River Road and the IRP application Niobrara County is planning to submit and asked him if Weston County would be interested in doing a project on Cheyenne River Road located in Weston County in conjunction with Niobrara County. The foreman said he would be interested and would keep Mr. Thomas informed.

Chairman Wade said that WYDOT Transportation Commissioner Mike Larson had contacted him to let him know that there is money available in the IRP.

The group then discussed the status of the County's request for millings from WYDOT. Mr. Thomas said that he would like six loads of millings at 25 tons/load. This would equate to 150 tons at a cost \$11.00 /ton for a max total cost of \$1,650.00.

Based on this information Vice-Chair Midkiff moved, seconded by Commissioner Griffith, to authorize the purchase of 150 tons of leftover millings from WYDOT at the above noted rate. Motion Carried.

Chairman Wade discussed snow fence and said there is a company that installs snow fence at no cost to the County or landowner. He said that after a certain amount of time, the company reclaims the old wood from the snow fence and repurposes it and put new wood on the existing fence. He suggested that we explore this option and contact landowners to see if there is an interest. He said that we would want to make sure the County is held harmless and that the landowner and County don't incur any liabilities. We would also need to secure easements.

Kerry Steward, Prevention Coalition Specialist, met with the Commissioners to update them on the prevention coalition.

She said she will spend the next 90 days putting together the strategic plan. She noted that some serious issues are underage drinking and vaping.

She left brochures on vaping and dangers associated with it. She has posters and business cards listing the suicide hotline phone number.

The coalition would also like to do a focus group with interested youth to see where they could be most successful in countering drug and alcohol abuse. There isn't a date set yet, but they want to try before school is out.

Joe McDaniel met with the Commissioners to discuss other potential avenues for communication options instead of CenturyLink.

Shawn Leimser stopped in and introduced Chris Davis with Border States and said he sold electrical and lighting fixtures. Mr. Leimser said Mr. Davis could provide lighting supplies, particularly LED lighting and could perform an energy efficiency study to determine exactly what we need. The Commissioner directed Clerk Freeman to complete a credit application with Border States.

County Attorney- Anne Wasserburger, Niobrara County Attorney, met with the Commissioners and discussed county business, criminal activity and potential upcoming jury trials.