

NIOBRARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING
MAY 21, 2019

The County Commissioners' meeting was called to order on this date at 8:56 a.m. with Chairman Patrick H. Wade, Vice-Chair John Midkiff, Commissioner Elaine Griffith, and County Clerk Becky L. Freeman, present.

Road and Bridge- Fred Thomas, Road, and Bridge Foreman met with the Commissioners and discussed county roads and equipment repairs.

Chairman Wade said he has had several people visit with him about the lack of culverts on some county roads. He suggested that perhaps the road crew could look at the pipes when they are blading and report their condition back to Mr. Thomas. He also inquired about culverts on K Field Road. Mr. Thomas stated that K Field and Boner Roads had frozen up and they were unable to install new pipes.

Dell Atkinson, Long Term Recovery Manager, met with the Commissioners and discussed a Comprehensive Retrofit Energy Grant for the fairgrounds. It is for \$25,000.00 and would require the county to match 10% or \$2,500.00

He explained the terms and obligations of the grant and stated that the county would need to apply for an energy assessment, but it is free of charge, and we would need to keep track of bills and energy changes after the improvements are made. Mr. Atkinson recommended that the county move forward and submit the grant application by June 30, 2019, and he said he could complete the paperwork.

After further discussion, the Commissioners agreed to authorize Mr. Atkinson to apply for the Comprehensive Retrofit Grant.

County Board of Equalization – County Assessor Teri Stephens met with the Commissioners to discuss the County Board of Equalization procedures for the appeal process should any appeals relative to property assessments as filed by the County Assessor be filed in the future.

County Attorney- Anne Wasserburger, County Attorney, met with the Commissioners and discussed county business. The Board reviewed the County Board of Equalization appeal procedures with Attorney Wasserburger, and Assessor Teri Stephens joined the meeting to give her a brief overview of the process and suggest names of attorneys from other counties who could serve as hearing officers if needed.

Mrs. Wasserburger then updated them on a prosecutors class she attended in Cheyenne.

Next, the group reviewed quotes from the State's health insurance plan and costs for the County to participate in the plan. It was noted the cost was significantly higher than the quote received from WEBT.

Centennial Woods- Ed Spal and Shea Abbott with Centennial Woods met with the Commissioners, Deputy County Attorney Doyle J. Davies and landowners Rick Zerbe, Brian Zerbe, Kevin Baars and Road and Bridge Foreman Fred Thomas to discuss the snow fences they install.

They said they build and rebuild snow fence all over Wyoming and have contracts with several counties.

Mr. Spal explained the process of establishing the snow fence. Typically, Centennial Woods enters into a no cost 21 year agreement with the County or landowner to install the snow fence. After seven years, they come in and reclaim the weathered wood, repurpose it for sale in a variety of locations (which is what funds the program), and then rebuild the old snowfence.

The Commissioners asked, from a county standpoint, what is expected of the county and what is the easement process; were there any liability concerns for the landowner or county.

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Mr. Spal said that Centennial Woods carries liability insurance, installs the fence and fixes it and coordinates these efforts with road and bridge. They also stated there was no taxation to the landowner or county because neither entity would own the snow fence.

The group thanked the representatives for the information. Kevin Baars thanked the Commissioners and Mr. Thomas for the gravel placed on Kaan Road.

Deputy Attorney Davies remained after the meeting, and he and the Commissioners discussed easements on Nelson Road.

Planning & Zoning Board- The Commissioners received applications for the planning and zoning board from the following individuals: Terry Bukowski, James P. Kruse, Dean Nelson, Rick Bridge, Sena Pearson, Dan Cushman, Dan Henry Hanson and Brian Zerbe. After some discussion Commissioner Griffith moved, and Vice-Chairman Midkiff seconded to appoint the following individuals to serve on the Board: Dan H. Hanson- one year term expiring June 30, 2020, James P. Kruse and Brian Zerbe- two year terms expiring June 30, 2021, and Sena Pearson and Rick Bridge- three year terms expiring June 30, 2022. Motion carried.

2020 Thunder Basin National Grasslands Plan Amendment Scoping Comments- Vice-Chairman Midkiff moved, and Commissioner Griffith seconded to ratify Chairman Wade's signature on the 2020 Thunder Basin National Grasslands Plan Amendment Scoping Comments. Motion carried.

County Road Crossing Permit- Commissioner Griffith moved, and Vice-Chairman Midkiff seconded to approve the County Road Crossing Permit for Hanson Livestock to cross under a section of Meridian Road located in the SESE of section 10, T36N, R63W, to install a 3" water pipeline. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda- Commissioner Griffith moved, and Vice-Chairman Midkiff seconded to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried. Items on the consent agenda were the minutes of the May 7, 2019 meeting and a Petition of Affidavit for Rebate of Taxes for Thunder Basin Resources, LLC., from the 2017 tax roll for a rebate amount of \$379.39.

Vice-Chairman Midkiff moved, and Commissioner Griffith seconded to accept the Assessor's assessment roll. Motion Carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

NIOBRARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Patrick H. Wade, Chairman

Attest:





Becky L. Freeman, Clerk