

NIOBRARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING  
NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING  
September 17, 2019

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

Mr. Thomas said that Shannon Bruegger had contacted him and asked if he could put in some spreader dikes to help protect Cow Creek Road. Mr. Thomas told the Board that he had conveyed to Mr. Bruegger that he could not do that as the land requiring the work is privately owned, plus by installing the dikes, the flow of the water could be altered creating more problems down the line.

He said that work on Cow Creek Road was done and they put gravel on it and that they were also doing a bit of work on Walker and Oil Tank Roads and are using material from the Wasserburger Pit.

The group discussed the Centennial Woods fencing project and agreed that the County doesn't need to enter into a contract with Centennial Woods, but we need to try and facilitate with the landowners about getting contracts with Centennial Woods.

County Attorney- Anne Wasserburger, County Attorney met with the Commissioners to discuss county business. Wendi Dutcher was also present.

Vice-Chairman Midkiff moved to enter into executive session with County Attorney Wasserburger and Wendi Dutcher at 9:30 a.m. to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Griffith seconded, motion carried.

Vice-Chairman Midkiff moved to move out of executive session at 10:23 a.m. Commissioner Griffith seconded, motion carried. No action was taken.

Mrs. Wasserburger went on to discuss the Energy Audit and Retrofit grant agreements between the Wyoming Business Council and Niobrara County and pointed out some requirements by which the County must abide. These grants will be used to aid in the funding of lighting and HVAC work to be done at the fairgrounds.

Chairman Wade asked about the status of the Impact Statement relating to the request for de-annexation of a portion of the Town of Van Tassell and the Tri-County Joint Powers Agreement for broadband. She said she would send the impact statement to them for review and is waiting to hear back from Platte County regarding the Joint Powers Agreement.

Lastly, Chairman Wade asked if anyone was aware of a gun policy on County-owned property. No one was aware of one, and the only place you are not allowed to carry a weapon is in the courtroom. The reason for his inquiry is that the State Republican Party is having a statewide meeting in Lusk at the fairgrounds and Chairman Wade wanted to prevent any problems before they arose.

Kerry Steward, Prevention Coalition Specialist, met with the Commissioners and updated them on events and meetings in which she participated.

The group briefly discussed opioids and any problems related to them in Niobrara County. Mrs. Stewart said she doesn't see a significant amount of issues with opioids; however, methamphetamines are a more significant problem here.

She noted that all government agencies signed a proclamation declaring the month of September suicide prevention month.