

Richardson County Commissioners Handle Bridge Issues

Richardson County Commissioners addressed several bridge matters during their meeting this week.

Commissioners received good news when engineers with Mainelli Wagner and Associates submitted the final inspection certification for the Verdon North Bridge project. The bridge is complete, and is ready for traffic. Commissioners approved a task order from the engineering firm of Kirkham, Michael and Associates on a bridge replacement project on 712 Road east of 638 Avenue northwest of Dawson.

The Board authorized chairman David Sickel to sign an agreement with the Nebraska Department of Roads regarding the 2012 Fracture Critical Bridge Inspection.

Following a review, commissioners rejected a bid submitted in December by Commercial Construction of Lincoln for the 2011 Abutment-Wing Replacement project. The board gave Highway Superintendent Scott Huppert permission to advertise for sealed bids for the project, with the bids to be opened at 11:00 a.m. on February 28th. The county is also accepting sealed bids for the sale and removal of permanently closed bridges. Those bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 21st.

In other business, Commissioners approved a request from Sheriff Randy Houser to increase the amount in the Sheriff's Department petty cash fund from the current \$500 to two thousand dollars. The county will set up an account for the petty cash fund at Richardson County Bank and Trust. The creation of that account will eliminate credit card usage by the department.

Commissioners approved an agreement with the City of Falls City for E-911 and dispatch services in Richardson County. The agreement is subject to clarification of the membership of the 911 Board and approval of the City of Falls City.

Emergency Management Director Jim Gerweck informed Commissioners that Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds have been approved, with the money to be used to build a storm shelter at the Cornhusker Boy Scout Camp south of Humboldt. Commissioners voted to accept the grant funds from the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.