

No Progress on Negotiations Between Richardson County and Road Department Employees

There was no progress during a brief negotiating meeting between the Richardson County Commissioners and the Road Department Union representatives Tuesday afternoon in Falls City.

Commissioners proposed a 2.5-percent increase for the first year and a 2.25-percent increase for the second year on a two year contract that would have been retroactive to October 1, 2011 and continue through September 30th, 2013. The offer also included health insurance during the life on the contract as provide to all other union and non-union employees of the County.

The Road Department Union presented a counter proposal stating they would accept the Consumer Price Index raise, the same as elected officials through July 1, 2013. The Union also want to keep the same union security, the same insurance and also recognition on an additional article. No action was taken by the Board.

In other business during the Tuesday meeting Commissioners awarded a bid to M.E. Collins Contracting, to replace a bridge on 704 Road southwest of Salem at a cost of \$103,090. The Collins bid was the only one submitted.

A public hearing date of on the 1 and 6 Year Road Plan was scheduled for Tuesday, February 28th at 1 p-m. Richardson County will also be opening bids for culvert and steel materials on March 13th.

Andy Snyder with Smith Hayes Financial Services presented information to Commissioners that Smith Hayes is resigning as the dissemination agent for the County due to new rules. Snyder presented a continuing disclosure agreement with B.O.K. Financial of Lincoln who will now serve as the dissemination agent.

Sheriff Randy Houser presented information about the purchase of a new patrol vehicle from Gene Steffy Dodge in Omaha who has the State bid for patrol units. The vehicle being considered is a 2012 Dodge Ram Quad Cab 4 x 4 1500 that would cost \$23,931 with added features. No action was taken by the Commissioners.

A purchase order for the replacement of radio equipment was presented by Sheriff Houser. Two quotes were received, on in the amount of \$1,400 and one for \$1,815.