

## Health Dept. officials meet with commissioners

Written by April Peregoy

---

During the month of November, Phillips County Commissioners met with administrators of Northeast Colorado Health Dept. (NCHD) to hear about services provided to the county.

Among the administrators present were director of public health administrator John Crosthwait, director of client health services Trish McClain and director of Environmental Health Division Julie McCaleb. They explained the history of NCHD and how efficiently it has been run over the past 60 years. Noted commissioner Susan Roll Walters, NCHD serves an area of 9,200 square miles in six counties with a population over 70,000. Yet, they only have 43 workers and receive less state money than other county health departments. While there, commissioners agreed to sign an Emergency Management Agreement with NCHD. According to county administrator Randy Schafer, the agreement outlines how NCHD will provide information services to the public and counties in case of a health emergency.

It also required the county and Phillips County Sheriff's Dept. to appoint public information officers. Dana Warren has taken the position for the county and Shawna Bergstrom for the Sheriff's Dept. If a health emergency were to occur in Phillips County, Bergstrom and Warren will act as resources for the public. Along with contractor Mike Smith, commissioners also met with NCHD's consumer protection coordinator Carmen Vandenbark to discuss health requirements for the new Event Center building. Progress continues on the construction at the fairgrounds, with the board reporting that workers are done with the footings and lane block. Colors chosen for the building's exterior are charcoal grey for the roof and frost white for the sides.

Commissioners noted they are still working on receiving pledges for the project. In order to receive Enterprise Zone benefits, pledges must be turned in before Monday, Dec. 15.

A meeting with CDOT's regional road maintenance director took place in November as well. The director explained to commissioners the snow plow removal schedule and which roads are designated for 24-hour removal. Clearing of all roads will take place during regular CDOT hours of 5 a.m.-7 p.m. This includes Highways 23, 59 and 385 from Holyoke north.

Roads seeing high traffic rates of over 1,000 vehicles daily are eligible for 24-hour snow removal. In Phillips County, these roads are Highway 6 and Highway 385 from Holyoke south. Also in attendance at the meeting with CDOT were the county's school district supts. and bus managers. It was noted by commissioners the county road dept. works closely with the schools to keep them updated on road conditions and closures.

### **Other business**

In other business, county commissioners:

—met with Golden Plains Area Extension Agent Bonnie Sherman. She is sponsoring a radon program through the State Health Dept. People who think they may have a radon problem can pick up a kit at the county Extension Office.

—announced they will be attending the annual CCI Winter Conference in Colorado Springs Dec. 1-3.

—have set a public hearing for the 2009 budget Friday, Dec. 5 at 11 a.m.

—approved a subdivision exemption to Bradford Rauch from Rudolph and Randolph Haynes.

—noted they received 19 oil and gas applications to drill in the northeast section of the county from PRB Energy.

—approved John Ayoub and Judith Sudmeier as additional drivers for East Phillips County ambulances.