

Forman, North Dakota
January 2, 2018

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioners' Room at the Sargent County Courthouse at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present: Dave Jacobson, Bill Anderson, Sherry Hosford, Jason Arth, & Mike Walstead. Also present was Tibby Hinderlie, the Sargent County Teller; and, Pam Maloney, Sargent County Auditor.

The proposed County Commission Chairmanship Rotation Policy that had been tabled at the December 19 commission meeting was brought back for further consideration. Discussion centered on whether the proposed policy was necessary or desirable to codify what had been, prior to December of 2016, traditional practice; whether the proposed policy would be more confusing than no written policy; and, whether administering a written policy would add more work for the auditor's office. Roll call vote on the motion to approve a new County Commission Chairmanship Rotation Policy pursuant to the motion made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Arth during the December 19th meeting. Yes – Anderson & Walstead. No – Arth, Jacobson and Hosford. Motion failed.

Brenda Peterson, Sargent County Health Administrator, arrived at the meeting to discuss the amendments to Sargent County's On-site Sewage Treatment Systems Ordinance voted on at the last meeting. She had some concerns about a change that was made regarding the minimum lot size in which a new OSTs can be installed. The ordinance adopted on May 16, 2017, with an effective date of July 1, 2017 read "1 acre," and that wording would have been changed to read "40,000 square feet" on new home construction in the proposed amendment. The amendment language approved on December 19 changed that to read "20,000 square feet unless the engineer determines more or less is required". Ms. Peterson pointed out that, according to ND Uniform Plumbing Code 62-03.1-03-04, the minimum lot size in which a private treatment system may be installed is forty thousand square feet. Smaller lot sizes may be approved by the administrative authority if a centralized sewage treatment system is provided or the soil conditions present throughout the lot are such that a second treatment area is able to be installed in the lot. Motion to amend Section 9 – General Provisions, paragraph 3 be changed to "the minimum lot size in which a new OSTs can be installed shall be 40,000 square feet on new home construction". (Hosford/Anderson) Roll call vote: Yes – Arth, Anderson, Hosford and Walstead. No – Jacobson. Motion carried. Final reading of the proposed amendments to the Sargent County OSST ordinance will be on the agenda for the next Commission meeting on January 16, 2018.

Approve December 19, 2017 meeting minutes as corrected. (Anderson/Arth, unanimous)

Melissa Seykora, NDSU Extension Ag and Natural Resources (ANR) Agent; and Cindy Klapperich, NDSU Extension Family and Community Wellness (FCW) Agent; met with the commission to report on the activities of the County's Extension Service office personnel from October through December, 2017. A written report was delivered to each commissioner and to the county auditor. A copy of the report can be obtained from the Extension Office. Ms. Klapperich has been involved with numerous projects involving many county residents. Some include Human Development and Family Science Education, 4-H Youth Development, Nutrition, Food Safety & Health Education & Community Vitality. She also attended many other workshops & meetings. Ms. Seykora was busy with projects in Natural Resource Management, Crop Management, and 4-H Youth Development. She also participated in the fair board meeting, organized & coordinated the Sargent County Township Officer's Annual Meeting, & participated in an Annie's Project Steering Committee Meeting. The commission thanked the Sargent County Extension Service staff for a job well done.

Alison Toepke, Sargent County Treasurer/Recorder/Clerk of Court, arrived at the meeting to update the board on the procedure for handling taxes paid under protest. The Treasurer's Office has been informed that there is a possibility that several taxpayers may pay their 2017 property taxes under protest pursuant to the advice of their attorney. These taxpayers are the plaintiffs in a lawsuit with the Sargent County Water Resource District concerning several issues, including the Drain #11 maintenance levy. Ms. Toepke has researched the law and regulations pertaining to tax payments paid under protest, including provisions concerning special assessments, and is relying on the advice of the Sargent County States Attorney in determining how to handle taxes paid in this manner. The taxes paid under protest will be receipted into a holding fund for 60 days at which time they will be processed for distribution to the appropriate governmental entities, if an application for abatement has not been timely filed with the county.

Motion to deny a request for cost share funding from Heimbuch Farms for 2 36" x 100' culverts that were installed across County Road #5 in Brampton Township, based on the fact that the request was neither made nor received before the work was done. (Jacobson/Arth) Consideration of the motion was tabled until the Sargent County Water Resource Board has time to review the request.

Approve Games of Chance Permit SC-2017-05 to Cogswell Gun Club, Cogswell, ND for a raffle on February 5, 2018 at Kraft Lake, formerly known as Kraft Slough. (Anderson/Jacobson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Lyle Bopp, State's Attorney, arrived at the meeting at 11:20 a.m. He stated that he still had not received any communication from Gallagher Benefit Services regarding the commission's questions and concerns about some provisions of the draft contract. Mr. Bopp also discussed the proposed amendments to the county's On Site Sewage Treatment Ordinance, and stated that he intends to have a complete, updated draft ready for the commission's consideration at the January 16 commission meeting.

Kim Ruliffson, Eastern Director for NDSU Extension Services; Melissa Seykora, NDSU Extension Ag and Natural Resources (ANR) Agent; and Cindy Klapperich, NDSU Extension Family & Community Wellness (FCW) Agent arrived at the meeting. Ms. Ruliffson stated that the legislature had cut the extension service budget 14%, so the Extension Service needs to change the funding model (and base policy/partnership with counties). The current funding model consists of the NDSU Extension and the county each covering 50% of salary for all agents, but the NDSU Extension pays all fringe benefits, and the county pays all operating expenses. The proposed funding model would change the formula so the county would cover 40% of total compensation (salaries + fringe benefits), as well as all operating expenses, & the state proposes to cover 60% of total compensation. This proposed formula will require an increase of county support of \$9,724 for 2019, and could be more depending on State mandated salary increases. The commission will consider budgeting options & make a decision on how to come up with the funds needed for the State mandated increased County share of costs. The commissioners are in agreement that the extension service is a valuable resource for the citizens of Sargent County, and plan to allow no decrease in services to the people of Sargent County.

Motion to pay off the lease to SCB Public Finance for the 2000 Sterling snowplow truck leased in July, as of January 4, 2018. Funds for lease payoff and truck purchase to be allocated from the Road Department equipment fund line item. (Jacobson/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

The board acknowledged the information received from NDACO that the federal GSA mileage rate for travel after December 31, 2017 will be \$0.545.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

MIKE WALSTEAD – CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

PAM MALONEY – COUNTY AUDITOR