

Forman, North Dakota
January 3, 2017

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present: David L Jacobson, Mike Walstead, Jason Arth, Sherry Hosford and Bill Anderson. Also present were Jayne Pfau, Assistant State's Attorney; Tibby Hinderlie, the Sargent County Teller; and, Pam Maloney, Sargent County Auditor.

Approve December 20, 2016 minutes as corrected. (Hosford/Arth, unanimous)

Some discussion on the conflict training to be presented by UGPTI for Sargent County employees. There is a tentative date of Thursday, February 23, however, some commissioners and employees were wondering if the training could be completed at individual workstations, rather than in a group session. Denise Brown of UGPTI will be contacted to discuss training formats available.

No new information has been received from the Fair Board or the Sheriff's Department regarding the possible installation of surveillance cameras at the fairgrounds as had been discussed at the December 20, 2016, Commission meeting.

Motion to appoint James Peterson to the Sargent County Park Board. Term ending January 1, 2020. (Anderson/Walstead, unanimous) The auditor was instructed to run the ad another week seeking applicants for the other park board member position.

Motion to adhere to state policy for travel reimbursement. Mileage changes from .54 cents/mile to .535 cents/mile effective January 1, 2017. (Anderson/Hosford, unanimous)

Luke Siemieniewski, Korey Martinson, & Richard Engst, Sargent County Water Resource Board Members; & County resident Mark Breker, a former Sargent County Water Resource Board Member; arrived at the meeting. Luke Siemieniewski, Sargent County Water Resource Board Chairman, requested that the Sargent County Commission remove Richard Engst from the Sargent County Water Resource Board. Assistant State's Attorney Jayne Pfau read from North Dakota Century Code 61.16-08 which states: A manager may be removed from the board by the board of county commissioners after it appears to the board of county commissioners by competent evidence, and after a public hearing, if so requested by the manager subject to removal, at which hearing the manager must be apprised of and allowed ample opportunity to repudiate the evidence, that the manager has been guilty of misconduct, malfeasance, crime in office, neglect of duty in office, habitual drunkenness, gross incompetency, or inability to perform the duties of office for reasons of health. Mr. Siemieniewski, Mr. Martinson & Mr. Breker made several allegations, complaining that Mr. Engst had failed to do what the board had instructed him to do, or did something that the board had not approved or requested. It was also alleged that Mr. Engst had been reprimanded by Sean Fredricks, the Sargent County Water Resource Board's attorney, in the past, for doing things that were not proper. Mr. Engst requested that he receive a public hearing, as authorized in NDCC 61.16-08. Ms. Pfau was requested to contact the WRB's attorney to set up a date and time for the hearing. Mr. Engst then stated, that if the commission and the water board members were unhappy with his performance on the water board, he would resign, although he has enjoyed being a member of the water resource board during the past 19 years. Commission Chairman Jacobson requested that Mr. Engst submit a formal written resignation to the commission, if that was his decision.

Travis Paeper, Sargent County Sheriff; & Merrill Engquist, Road Supervisor; arrived at the meeting. The commission proceeded to call David Ruch on a conference call. Mr. Ruch had previously requested time on the agenda to meet with the Commission, but was unable to be physically present at the scheduled time. Mr. Ruch stated that, in his opinion, the county roads out in the southwest area of the county were in terrible condition. He stated that there is still ice in several spots on County Road #4, and that, in his opinion, road conditions in neighboring counties are in much better shape than in Sargent County. He stated that County Road Department employee John Mlnarik was out in the area spreading salt/sand at intersections, etc., on Tuesday, December 27, but that it was four days later before he came back again. Mr. Ruch concluded his call at this time. Mr. Engquist stated that with the thick ice on some of the county roads, it is a lengthy process to get it all off. Some areas of the county were harder hit than others. He said County Roads #1 & #4 still need attention. The County Road Department has applied 300 ton of salt/sand as of January 3, and has more on order. County Road Department employees were working to: remove snow; apply sand & salt to icy roads; and, remove ice from County roads when and where possible; during both the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

Mr. Engquist provided more information regarding the tractor lease program sponsored by the North Dakota Association of Counties, however, there are still some questions. Chairman Jacobson asked Commissioner Walstead to obtain additional information prior to the next Commission meeting.

Sandra Hanson, Tax Director/911 Coordinator/Emergency Manager, arrived at the meeting. She recommended that the commission declare an emergency in Sargent County as there were areas in the county that were adversely affected by power outages and Rural Electric Co-ops had sustained major damage to poles and lines as a result of ice buildup and high winds. The County Road Department had also incurred additional expenses as a result of ice and snow removal efforts. Ms. Hanson and Commissioner Hosford also stated that in their opinion, the County could use funds from the County Emergency fund for salt/sand, overtime pay for the road department and other expenses brought on by this ice storm if an emergency was declared. Motion to adopt the emergency resolution as presented by County Emergency Management Director Sandra Hanson, as shown below. (Anderson/Hosford) Roll Call Vote: Yes – Arth, Walstead, Anderson, Hosford, and Jacobson. No – None. Resolution duly declared adopted.

Declaration of Emergency Sargent County

Whereas, Sargent County as well as many portions of Southeastern and South Central ND seriously affected by winter weather conditions beginning December 24th through the December 26th 2016 that caused rain, snow, and ice throughout the region;

Whereas, these conditions created power outages, causing loss of primary services in some areas of Sargent County and the region creating hazardous conditions on the public and private road accesses throughout the county with extreme ice conditions;

Whereas, Because of the conditions stated above, the loss of power and the current winter temperatures that threatened the health, well-being, and safety of the people, responders, utility company crews, and county, city, and township road departments that are working within Sargent County,

Whereas, Sargent County, the Communities, and the townships, feel that the impact of this ice storm has also caused additional threat and hardship to county, township, and city public works and their resources as they try to keep roads clear and safe for the traveling public.

WHEREAS, the County, communities, and townships have began measures of protection and safety for the infrastructure that lies within the boundaries of such areas within Sargent County,

WHEREAS, The Sargent County Commission through this declaration does release the use of the Sargent County Emergency Funds for the purpose of use in response and recovery of the public infrastructure in Sargent County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the board of Sargent County Commission declare that a State of Emergency does exist in the County of Sargent, North Dakota.

Dated this 3rd day of January, 2017 at the Sargent County Courthouse in Forman, ND.

David Jacobson, Chairman
Sargent County Commission

Attest:

Pam Maloney
Sargent County Auditor

Melissa Seykora, NDSU Extension Ag and Natural Resources (ANR) Agent; & Cindy Klapperich, NDSU Extension Family and Consumer Science (FCS) Agent;, met with the commission to report on the activities of the County's Extension Service office personnel from October through December, 2016. 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. Both Ms. Seykora and Ms. Klapperich have been involved with a multitude of projects involving many county residents. Some include 4-H youth development, cover crop tours, nutritional classes within the county schools, fair board meetings, and

many other workshops & meetings. The commission thanked the Sargent County Extension Service staff for a job well done.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

DAVID L JACOBSON – CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

PAM MALONEY – COUNTY AUDITOR