

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present: Mike Walstead, Maurice Orn, Bill Anderson and Jerry Waswick. Absent: Steve Wyum. Jacque Dotzenrod, the Sargent County Teller, was also present.

Approve minutes of December 15, 2009 meeting as corrected. (Waswick/Orn, unanimous).

Lisa Janes, Co-Chairperson, Sargent County Relay for Life met with the Board to request permission to use the courthouse block for the 2010 Relay for Life to be held on Friday, June 25. The 2008 Relay for Life was held in Forman, and using the courthouse block worked well. There were no problems according to Sheriff Travis Paeper and only a couple of minor issues regarding the courthouse lawn. Board members thought that it was a good idea to have this activity at the county seat. Grant permission to use the courthouse grounds and facilities for Relay for Life Activities. (Orn Anderson, unanimous)

Gina Hillestad, Treasurer/Recorder/Clerk of Court introduced Alison Toepke, Deputy Treasurer/Recorder/Clerk of Court who began her work with Sargent County on January 4, 2010. Gina is recommending a Grade 7/Step 2, pending receipt of a job classification recommendation from the County's consulting firm. Motion to approve. (Orn/Anderson, unanimous) Alison will be employed fulltime. Gina has discussed Alison's employment with the judge and States Attorney, and it is their opinion that there is no conflict of interest with her husband, Derek Toepke serving as a Sargent County Deputy Sheriff and Alison serving as a Deputy for the Clerk of Courts Office. Also discussed part-time temporary employment of Lacey Wyum as Deputy Treasurer/Recorder/Clerk of Court. Lacey had agreed to continue her employment with Sargent County working 12:30-4:30 each weekday for up to six months. Approve part-time temporary employment of Lacey Wyum for up to 6 months at a Grade7/Step 2 effective January 1, 2010. (Anderson/Waswick, unanimous) The temporary Grade of these two positions is based on the current deputy Treasurer position, which is Grade 7.

Motion to approve appointment of Pam Maloney as Chief Deputy Auditor at a Grade9/Step 12 effective January 1, 2010. (Anderson/Waswick, unanimous)

Motion to appoint Sandra Hanson as Sargent County Tax Director in addition to her other duties as Emergency manager and 911 Coordinator effective January 1, 2010. (Anderson/Orn, unanimous)

Mike Walstead reported on the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant. The deadline has been extended to February 12, 2010. Mike is expecting information from Elite Heating and Air by the January 19th meeting.

The Board reviewed two (2) Applications for Abatement and Settlement of Taxes from R & G Inc., Gwinner, for property located on Sub lots 1 and 2 in the NW1/4-26-132-56 (5.78 acres) in Gwinner City. The structure was destroyed by fire on January 2, 2009. The request is to remove the \$97,200 commercial building valuation for 2008 and 2009. Gwinner City approved removal of the valuation of the building for 2009 but not for 2008 as the structure did not burn down until January 2, 2009. Concur with Gwinner City. (Anderson/Waswick, unanimous)

Jerry Waswick reported on the Gwinner City meeting with Montana Dakota Utilities regarding the possibility of extending natural gas service to Gwinner. He reported that the cost to get the line to Gwinner alone would be \$8 million dollars. The Public Service Commission continues to work with Gwinner City to see if this would be a feasible operation. If a line was extended to Gwinner, the principal consumer of natural gas would be the Bobcat factory, which would use more than 10 times as much as all of the other residential and commercial properties in Gwinner, combined.

Approve appointment of David A Jacobson, Forman to replace Neil R. Anderson on the Sargent County Job Development Authority representing the City of Forman. (Anderson/Orn, unanimous) Mr. Jacobson's term will end December 31, 2012.

Approve 2010 Sargent Seniors Council Contract. (Waswick/Anderson, unanimous)

Authorize Chairman to sign the Barnes County Correctional Facility Contract for 2010. (Waswick/Orn, unanimous)

A concern from Tom McKinnon, Veterans Service Officer (VSO) was discussed by the Board regarding Monday holidays. Mr. McKinnon is scheduled to work in Sargent County on Mondays, and there are four Monday holidays. The Board thought that as long as the work is getting done and the veterans of Sargent County are getting the service that they deserve from the VSO, there is no reason

to reschedule those days. If Mr. McKinnon finds that these Monday holidays interfere with his ability to perform his duties in Sargent County then he will be allowed to rearrange his work schedule.

The Board discussed snowstorm emergencies and removal of snow. They also prepared a map for the Department of Transportation indicating traffic count locations that the Board would like the NDDPT to add to their scheduled locations.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

MIKE WALSTEAD – CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

SHERRY HOSFORD - AUDITOR