

Forman, North Dakota
October 6, 2009

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present: Maurice Orn, Mike Walstead, Steve, Wyum, Bill Anderson, and Jerry Waswick. Absent: None. Others in attendance were Lyle Bopp, States Attorney, and Guliya Lajutina, a Foreign Exchange student from the Ukraine, who is attending the North Sargent School this year.

Motion to approve the corrected minutes of the September 15, 2009, meeting and the special meeting held September 23, 2009. (Waswick/Orn, unanimous).

Approve the change to Section 528 Business Travel Expenses of the Employee Handbook to read as presented by Lyle Bopp, States Attorney: "The County will reimburse employees for reasonable business travel expenses incurred while on assignments away from the normal work location. A normal work location shall be defined as being within the county of employment." (Anderson/Walstead, unanimous).

Lyle Bopp presented the following Resolution for Exemption up to \$150,000 true and full valuation on eligible single-family, condominium and townhouse residential property for the first two taxable years after the taxable year in which construction is completed when residence is owned and occupied for the first time.

RESOLUTION

Introduced by Commission Member Mike Walstead

Who moved for its adoption on the 6th day of October, 2009:

Be it resolved by the Sargent County Commission, to-wit:

WHEREAS The Sargent County Commission wants to encourage the ownership of new single-family, condominium and townhouse type residential property and

WHEREAS NDCC 57-02-08 (35) provides local governments with the opportunity to exempt such property for the owner provided the residential housing is owned and occupied for the first time and

WHEREAS The exemption cannot be greater than \$150,000 of the True and Full value of the property, nor can it be applied to the land that the structure is situated on and

WHEREAS The exemption would be for the first two taxable years after the taxable year in which construction is complete and

WHEREAS The exemption can only be applied if the special assessments and taxes on the property upon which the structure shall be situated are not delinquent. THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED That the County of Sargent shall grant an exemption of \$150,000 of the True and Full value of any new single-family, condominium, and townhouse type structure to the first time owner and occupant for the first two taxable years after the taxable year in which construction of the structure is completed, is occupied by the owner, and all special assessments and taxes are not delinquent and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED That the term "completed" shall mean that the County Tax Director has deemed the structure to be fully capable of being connected to all utilities (water, sewer and electric) and in such a condition as to be habitable at anytime during the year.

Commission Member Maurice Orn seconded the motion for adoption.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Sargent County Auditor

Chairman, Sargent County Commission

Roll call vote: Ayes: Walstead, Anderson, Orn, Waswick, and Wyum. Nay: none.

Holly Jessen arrived at the meeting.

Norman Preble, Tax Director, had no valuations set on the property taken October 1st for non-payment of 2004 taxes, and was instructed to have them ready for next meeting. Discussed the 3% increase on all residential property in Milnor, Forman, Cogswell, Rutland, and Gwinner for 2009 mandated by the State Tax Department, which has also directed Sargent County to reappraise all residential property for 2010 to ensure equalized assessments representing current market value. After

Lyle Bopp and Norm contacted the Tax Department about these issues, it was decided that the commissioners would request a meeting with the State Equalization Board on November 5, 2009 to discuss options available to the county for this re-evaluation.

Lyle reported on bidding requirements for proposed work to be done on the courthouse. Discussed various improvements and equipment to be submitted for the Court Facilities Grant due by December 31, 2009.

Travis Paeper, Sheriff, introduced his new deputy, Derek Toepke, whose employment with Sargent County became effective October 1, 2009.

Motion to authorize Chairman Wyum to sign the Traffic Safety Contracts for FY 2010: PHSP4101003 02 12, which will provide \$4000 funding for surveillance equipment, and also PHSP4101003 01 28 which will provide \$2200 funding for Overtime for Alcohol Enforcement for Sheriff's Department. (Waswick/Anderson, unanimous).

Myrna Larson, Partnership Assistant, Denver Regional Census Center, discussed the upcoming 2010 Census. The census will be safe (each worker takes an oath of confidentiality), easy (only 10 questions for each U.S. citizen to answer), and important (as billions of Federal dollars are factored by the census). North Dakota receives approximately \$1000 per person annually from Federal funding. She encouraged the county to establish a Complete Count committee of volunteers from various groups of residents to promote and educate the public on the importance of filling out the census questionnaires when they arrive at their homes starting about March 15, 2010, and they must be returned by May 1, 2010.

Appoint Jerry Erickson, Gwinner, to the at-large vacancy position on the Sargent County Job Development Authority Board. (Waswick/Orn, unanimous).

Colleen Sundquist, Personnel Board, presented a revised Vacation Benefits (306 - Personnel Manual) for discussion. The requirement of employees using at least two weeks vacation annually had been removed, and the commission wanted more discussion before approving this revision which also includes changing the vacation year from May 1 - April 30 to a calendar year. Employees would also accrue vacation hours each month effective January 1, 2010, if it's approved.

Julie Hassebroek, Extension, presented a letter from Candy Hansen withdrawing her resignation which was to become effective October 7, 2009, and accepting a 60% Extension Staff position which results in a reduction of hours from her present 80% position. Discussion followed about this possible workable modification to the restructuring plan. Motion to accept Candy's letter withdrawing her resignation and accepting the workable modified 60% (3-day) position in the Extension Office, and creating a separate part-time Deputy Auditor position. (Anderson/Waswick, unanimous).

After previous discussion with Julie Hassebroek, Colleen Sundquist, and Sherry Hosford, the auditor was instructed to cancel the ad for the clerical and receptionist position, and send a letter to all applicants that the position will be filled by current county employees. Authorize Sherry Hosford, Auditor, to proceed with offering Hollie Asche the 2-day Part-time Deputy Auditor position starting with a Grade 6, Step 2 salary, and training to start at the discretion of the auditor. (Walstead/Orn, unanimous).

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

ATTEST:

Steve Wyum, Chairman

Elaine D. Anderson, Deputy Auditor