

Forman, North Dakota  
October 1, 2019

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9:01 a.m. in the Commissioner's Room with the following members present: Bill Anderson; Jason Arth; Lyle Bopp; and, Richard Ruch. Also present were: Wendy Willprecht, Emergency Manager/911 Coordinator; Mary Engst, Sargent County Teller; and, Pam Maloney, Sargent County Auditor.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Jerry Waswick, Commissioner; and Jayne Pfau, State's Attorney; arrived at the meeting at 9:04.

Ms. Willprecht discussed the wireless fire/smoke alarm system proposal. Nardini will be here at the courthouse on Wednesday to do some testing to see if the courthouse is capable of handling a wireless system. She also stated that the project could be partially funded with a Courthouse Facilities Grant if the proposal quote was split to reflect the different areas of the courthouse that would be served. There is a \$350 yearly monitoring fee along with the purchase price of the equipment.

Ms. Willprecht also reported that the majority of the balance in the Disaster Assistance account is underrun funds remaining after all repairs/replacements were made & the FEMA Project Worksheet Scope of Work was accomplished. The money can be used for upgrading of roads that are not FAS roads or involved in a current disaster recovery or hazard mitigation effort. The county needs to provide documentation showing that the dollars were actually spent in order to access those funds. Ms. Willprecht, Road Supervisor Merrill Engquist and the Auditor, Pam Maloney will get together & determine which invoices would be applicable.

Ms. Willprecht also asked about the floor in her office. Commissioner Bopp stated that he will be applying an epoxy to the floor once it's completely dry and then purchase an area rug for her desk area.

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 with a 4-H Week Proclamation for consideration by the Commission; a report on 4-H activities in the county; and, a report on the different opportunities that participation in 4-H provides to youth in Sargent County. They reported that they have great volunteers and club leaders teaching in areas of Hippology, Crops Judging and Communication Arts, to name a few. Motion to adopt the following resolution. (Bopp/Ruch) Upon roll call vote: Yes – Anderson, Arth, Bopp, Ruch and Waswick. No – None. Resolution duly declared adopted.

**NATIONAL 4-H WEEK PROCLAMATION**  
**October 6-12, 2019**

WHEREAS, 4-H is open to all youth ages 5-18; and,

WHEREAS, the mission of 4-H is to create supportive learning environments for youth and adults to reach their full potential as capable, confident, caring citizens of good character, compassion and integrity; and,

WHEREAS, 4-H strives to identify and provide hands-on projects, activities, educational events, and community service opportunities for youth to be fully engaged with head, heart, hands, and health, to learn by doing, acquire knowledge, develop life skills and form attitudes that will enable them to become self-directed, productive, contributing members of society; and,

WHEREAS, adult volunteers and family members play an integral part in the success of 4-H youth development experiences; and,

WHEREAS, 4-H is a well-proven positive youth development program in Sargent County, the State of North Dakota and throughout the nation helping youth grow into true leaders.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sargent County Board of Commissioners hereby recognizes and celebrates October 6-12, 2019, as National 4-H Week in Sargent County, and, encourages all Sargent County citizens to recognize 4-H for the significant impact it has made and

continue to make by empowering youth with the skills they need to lead for a lifetime.

Approve September 17, 2019 meeting minutes as corrected. (Bopp/Waswick, unanimous)

Commissioner Bopp stated that we are still waiting on the repairs to the courthouse heating system. It was suggested that Commissioner Bopp check with Ottetail Power Company to see if there are companies other than Johnson Controls that Otter Tail could recommend to work with the Courthouse heating system.

Commissioner Arth provided a photo of a used snow blower suitable for use at the Courthouse that is for sale. He will bring the snow blower to the courthouse for the custodian to evaluate. The county could purchase it at a much lower price than the quote received for a new model.

There was discussion on whether the county is legally obligated to take ownership of properties forfeited for non-payment of taxes. Ms. Pfau said that, in her opinion, the county is obligated to take ownership as required by the ND Century Code. However, it seems unfair that the county's taxpayers bear the burden of cleaning up these lots, when the cities should have been monitoring the conditions of these abandoned structures and lots. Currently, all taxpayers of the county are paying for the cleanup of a property within a city's limits.

Ms. Pfau provided a letter to the commission from Matt Daniel of Ferrer Poirot Wansbrough Law Firm regarding the Opioid Litigation. The letter states that the ND Attorney General's lawsuit against Purdue Pharma has been dismissed and that the Ohio Attorney General has filed an action seeking to dismiss all of the county, municipality, and other non-state AG claims from the litigation. His argument appears to be that only State Attorney Generals should have the ability to sue the perpetrators of the Opioid Epidemic. The lawyers do not believe the Ohio AG's action will prevail, and they will continue to fight the action & defend the county's right to participate in the litigation.

Documentation has been received from Interstate Engineering concerning re-submission of an application for a Special Road Fund (SRF) Grant from the State of North Dakota for the Silver Lake Access Road Grading and Inslope Widening Project. The project is planned to be re-bid in 2020 if the SRF Grant application is approved.

The sheriff's department vehicle that went up for auction was sold for \$11,800.

Motion to appoint Richard Ruch as delegate to the State Fair Association's Annual meeting to be held in Minot on November 20, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. (Waswick/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Information was received regarding the USDOT Build America program and a meeting to be held in Bismarck. Infrastructure loans are available from the program at 1½% interest. As the minimum project size is ten million dollars, it is too large for Sargent County's needs at this time.

Sheriff Travis Paeper arrived at the meeting. He reported that, after fees were taken out, the proceeds from the sale of the sheriff's deputy's car amounted to \$11,497.50. He has ordered a new camera for the new squad vehicle, and has also applied for a grant from the state to pay for it. However, he will not know until the end of the year whether the grant is approved. He requested authorization to use funds received from the sale of the deputy's vehicle, obtaining an exchange check from the County Treasurer for the amount of the camera & depositing the remainder of the proceeds into the general fund. However, this method would leave no paper trail for the state auditors. The commissioners directed the check be deposited in the general fund & that the camera be paid for out of the general government department, rather than the sheriff's department expenditures.

Sheriff Paeper also asked the commission about switching out the squad car currently assigned to Deputy Johnson, a 2016 Ford Explorer, with the 2014 Ford Explorer now in the county fleet. The new squad car is at the dealership, but still getting all the equipment installed in it. Motion to authorize Sheriff Paeper to get the 2014 Ford Explorer county fleet car, along with Deputy Johnson's 2016 Ford Explorer, detailed as soon as Deputy Johnson is in possession of the new squad vehicle. Once that is finished, Sheriff Paeper should take the 2014 county fleet vehicle to auction and the county will add Deputy Johnson's 2016 Ford Explorer to the county fleet. (Bopp/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Arth had received an email from James Martinson regarding an Application for a drainage permit pertaining to land in Hall Township that had been approved back in 2013 for EB Farms. He states that there was an obstruction created by the drainage project, & he is requesting that the obstruction be removed and that the ditch be returned to an approximation of pre-application condition. Additionally, in coordination with returning the ditch drainage system to pre-application level, he is also requesting replacement of the culvert located along 146<sup>th</sup> Ave in the SW1/2 of Section 9-132-53, located approximately 3/8 mile north of Highway 13. Commissioner Arth will do some further checking and confer with Mr. Martinson regarding the issue.

The commissioners had received a letter from Bill Brown, SE Regional Emergency Response Coordinator with the ND Department of Emergency Services regarding the exemplary job Wendy Willprecht has been doing as Sargent County's Emergency Manager. Mr. Brown has been very impressed with Ms. Willprecht's expertise, commitment to her job and the fact that she continually strives to ensure she is doing everything possible to serve the best interests of the citizens of Sargent County. Motion to commend Sargent County Emergency Manager Wendy Willprecht on the excellent job she is performing for Sargent County, and on the recognition she has received from the State Department of Emergency Services. (Anderson/Waswick) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Meeting recessed at 11:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. this evening for the final budget hearing on the 2020 County Budget.

Meeting reconvened at 6:07 p.m. for a public hearing on the proposed 2020 County Budget. Those present: Bill Anderson, Jason Arth, Lyle Bopp, Richard Ruch and Jerry Waswick. Also present: Pam Maloney, County Auditor; Mary Engst, the Sargent County Teller; and the following county residents: Roger Bopp, Gwinner; David Jacobson, Forman; & Georgette Pickell, Gwinner.

Chairman Arth opened the hearing. There were several questions answered and clarifications made in response to questions from the members of the public attending the hearing. Mr. Jacobson commented that the budget increase was really quite concerning to him, with the farm economy the way it is. Mr. Bopp had questions regarding the dust control on the county roads. There were other road concerns brought up on County Roads #4 & #6. With no further comments or concerns being received, Chairman Arth closed the hearing on the 2020 Budget at 7:05 p.m.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1**

Commissioner Anderson offered the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Bopp:

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the Board to make appropriations for the current year beginning January 1, 2020 and ending December 31, 2020 of money in specific amounts for all offices, officials, improvements, roads, bridges, which are supported wholly or in part by the county.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sargent County Commission approve and adopt the 2020 budget in the sum of \$9,388,444.

Voting aye: Anderson, Arth, Bopp, Ruch and Waswick.

Voting nay: None.

Resolution was adopted.

The following is a summary of the taxes to be levied for 2020:

	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>
BUDGET REQUEST	2,275,844	6,906,374	9,182,218
BUDGETED TRANSFERS OUT	42,100	281,000	323,100
CASH RESERVE	450,000	1,873,954	2,323,954
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>2,767,944</b>	<b>9,061,328</b>	<b>11,829,272</b>

ESTIMATED CASH BALANCE (12-31-18)	599,599	4,118,112	4,717,711
ESTIMATED TRANSFERS IN	103,450	654,100	757,550
ESTIMATED REVENUE	626,756	2,820,725	3,447,481
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES</b>	<b>1,226,355</b>	<b>6,938,937</b>	<b>8,165,192</b>
LEVY REQUIRED	1,541,589	1,928,572	3,470,161
ALLOWANCE FOR DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTIONS	31,000	71,469	102,469
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT LEVIED</b>	<b>1,572,589</b>	<b>2,000,041</b>	<b>3,572,630</b>

**RESOLUTION NO. 2**

Commissioner Anderson offered the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Waswick:

WHEREAS, the Lake Agassiz Regional Council strives to assist in the planning and economic development of Sargent County and Lake Agassiz Regional Council as a whole, and

WHEREAS, planning and economic development are among the objectives of the Board of Commissioners of Sargent County,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Sargent County approves and supports the planning and economic development program and budget of the Lake Agassiz Regional Council during the Fiscal year 2020 in the amount of \$2,000.00.

Voting aye: Anderson, Arth, Bopp, Ruch and Waswick. Voting nay: None. Resolution was adopted.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

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JASON ARTH - CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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PAM MALONEY - AUDITOR