

October 6, 2020
Forman, North Dakota

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9:10 a.m. in the Conference Room with the following members present: Bill Anderson, Jason Arth, Lyle Bopp, and Jerry Waswick. Present through technology: Richard Ruch. Also present were Jayne Pfau, State's Attorney; Alison Toepke, Treasurer/Recorder/Clerk of Court; Jill Mulder, Human Resources Director; & Joey Reinke, Veteran's Service Officer; Mary Engst, Sargent County Teller; and Pam Maloney, County Auditor.

Chairman Waswick called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

New employees Jill Mulder, Human Resources Director; and Joey Reinke, Veteran's Service Officer were introduced to the board and welcomed to Sargent County.

Motion to approve September 15th & 18th minutes as corrected. (Bopp/Arth). Motion carried.

Motion to appoint Wade Anderson, Havana, to the Sargent County Weed Control Board to fulfill Ronald Narum's term ending August 10, 2021. (Anderson/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was held on the quote received from Digital Guru for enhanced teleconferencing equipment for the conference room. The quote amounted to \$9,418.21. The commission agreed this was more than they had hoped to spend. It was decided that more microphones, a larger TV and better camera were necessary items.

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. Motion to adopt the following resolution. (Anderson/Arth) Upon roll call vote: Yes – Anderson, Arth, Bopp, Ruch and Waswick. No – None. Resolution duly declared adopted.

NATIONAL 4-H WEEK PROCLAMATION
October 4-10, 2020

WHEREAS, 4-H promotes positive youth development and the mission of 4-H is to empower youth to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults; and

WHEREAS, many Sargent County youth participate in 4-H programs that offer hands-on, real-life experiences through a variety of learning experiences, including club, after-school, school enrichment and day camp opportunities; and

WHEREAS, 4-H is the educational youth development program of North Dakota State University and is conducted at the county level by NDSU Extension staff with the help of adult volunteers who influence the development of youth in their communities through 4-H experiences; and

WHEREAS, 4-H is open and accessible to all youth of all ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds in communities and rural areas; and

WHEREAS, youth who participate in 4-H achieve positive youth development outcomes based on opportunities for supervised independence, a sense of belonging with a positive group, a spirit of generosity toward others and a wide variety of opportunities to master life's challenges; and

WHEREAS, October 4-10, 2020 has been designated National 4-H Week,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as Commissioners of Sargent County, we do hereby proclaim October 4-10 to be 4-H Week in Sargent County.

Brenda Peterson, Health Unit Administrator, arrived at the meeting through technology. She reported that there are 23 active COVID 19 cases in Sargent County at this time & we seem to be on the downward trend. As we know more about the virus, it appears that the current policy will need to be revised in some areas. Ms. Toepke requested that the COVID-19 Request for Management Assessment be reviewed by the employee's supervisor and the human services director, rather than the shared leave committee. Motion to eliminate the shared leave committee as the review committee of the COVID-19 Request for Management Assessment, and allow the supervisor and the human resources director to handle it. (Anderson/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Wendy Willprecht, Emergency Manager/911 Coordinator, arrived at the meeting. She stated that as there is a surplus balance in the 911 fund, these funds could be used for a cost-share match for sirens within the county. These funds cannot be used for radios, but for warning equipment, training, and payroll/benefit costs. She brought proposals & estimates of sirens that could be placed out at Silver

Lake Recreation Area. As this is a match proposal, the remaining 50% would have to come out of the General Fund and, as this isn't budgeted, it will decrease the fund more than they are comfortable with. These funds can also be used for a possible cost share expense for city warning equipment. Motion to cost-share 50% with Milnor and Havana, as these cities have already requested funds, and as other cities apply, consideration will be made for their request as well. (Arth/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Merrill Engquist, Road Supervisor; Tim Faber, Road Supervisor in Training; arrived at the meeting. Damon DeVillers, Interstate Engineering, arrived at the meeting through technology.

Mr. Engquist reported on the County Road #1 drainage project on the west end of the county. He is anticipating completion of the project by the end of October. He also reported that he is behind on working on County Road #1 east of NDSH #32, as the tractor used for the project needed some repairs.

The commission discussed 2022-2025 Highway Safety Improvement Program. Mr. DeVillers will apply for funds to improve the Jensen Slough curve on County Road #3 east of NDSH #32; install more chevrons in the county and purchase replacement signs for those shot up or worn out.

The commission reviewed the Federal Aid Program Project sheet with Mr. DeVillers. The commission will resubmit the same project sheet to the NDDOT.

The commission discussed the courthouse parking lot project with Mr. DeVillers. The project will be done by October 1, 2021.

Mr. Engquist reported that there are lots of road signs down or damaged by mowers or other farm equipment. He requested the public to call the road department if they notice a sign down or damaged, so it can be repaired or replaced.

He also reported that most of the graveling projects have been completed. The commission requested a map that will reflect all projects not completed, so those can be completed first next year.

More discussion was held on the CARES Act reimbursement to cities with police contracts. Motion to send emails out to all city auditors requesting an itemized list of COVID-19 related expenditures to be returned to the auditor by November 1st. (Arth/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to appoint Richard Ruch as delegate to the State Fair Association's Annual meeting to be held in Minot on November 19, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. (Arth/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Bob Banderet, Sargent County Resident, arrived at the meeting. He was there to discuss the Attorney General's opinion regarding how NDCC chapters 61-16.1 & 61-21 interact with regard to water resource districts' authority and special assessment projects. It is the State's Attorney's opinion that this opinion can be applied to both the Drain #11 and Drain #12 projects and that the Sargent County Water Resource District could be in violation of the requirement that the project(s) should have went to the vote of the landowners before obligating the district for the costs. Pursuant to the AG's opinion, motion to request the state's attorney to draft a letter to the Sargent County Water Resource District to comply with the state law regarding the Drain #11 & Drain #12 projects. (Bopp/Arth) Roll Call Vote: Yes – Arth, Bopp, Waswick. No – Anderson. Absent: Ruch. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the Chief Deputy Position Job Classification and retro pay. Gallagher Benefits classified this position as a D61 grade. It was decided to invite Sheriff Paeper & Chief Deputy Johnson to the next commissioner meeting to review the job description and discuss the retro pay.

Motion to approve the following bill: (Anderson/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

80942	NDAAO	Hayen Registration	\$300.00
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Motion to support Gwinner City's continued economic development utilizing a Renaissance Zone to assist in rehabilitating and improving existing residential and commercial structures and promoting new construction in the community and to authorize the auditor to draft a letter of support. (Anderson/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Jill Mulder, Human Resources Director, discussed training opportunities with the board. There is a HR training that she typically attends that is very helpful to her position and she would like approval to

attend the next training. Motion to approve the training for up to three attendees. (Anderson/Bopp)
 Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Wendy Willprecht, Emergency Manager/911 Coordinator, arrived back at the meeting. She stated that she had contacted the state and Cogswell City’s siren repairs that had been done this past summer would qualify for the cost-share funding through 911. Motion to allow 50% cost share reimbursement to Cogswell City for their siren repairs payable from the 911 funds. (Bopp/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Meeting recessed at 12:36 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. for the final 2021 budget hearing this evening.

The meeting reconvened at 6:01 p.m. for a public hearing on the proposed 2021 County Budget. Those present were: Bill Anderson, Jason Arth, Lyle Bopp, Jerry Waswick, Commissioners; Jayne Pfau, State’s Attorney; Pam Maloney, Auditor; & Kathy Marquette & David Jacobson, Sargent County Taxpayers. Also present via technology were Richard Ruch, Commissioner; and Leon Mallberg, Sargent County Taxpayer.

Chairman Waswick opened the hearing. The commissioners answered several questions from Ms. Marquette regarding different line items within the budget.

Mr. Mallberg was concerned about what he considers to be extremely excessive funds in CD’s that are in the Water Board’s possession. He wanted the commission to be aware of them & to make sure these were not in excess of the cash reserve any entity may have.

Mr. Jacobson is concerned about what he considers to be extreme increases in taxes in the current economy and waste that he sees in some departments.

RESOLUTION NO. 1

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

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the Board to make appropriations for the current year beginning January 1, 2021 and ending December 31, 2021 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 2021 budget in the sum of \$11,716,901, including all programs and projects of the Sargent County Water Resource Board that are in compliance with North Dakota State Law.

Voting aye: Anderson, Arth, Ruch and Waswick.

Voting nay: Bopp

Resolution was adopted.

The following is a summary of the taxes to be levied for 2021:

	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	TOTAL ALL FUNDS
BUDGET REQUEST	2,471,958		11,716,901
BUDGETED TRANSFERS OUT	34,100	308,000	342,100
CASH RESERVE	400,000	1,025,134	1,425,134
SUBTOTAL	2,906,058	10,578,077	13,484,135
 ESTIMATED CASH BALANCE (12-31-19)	 404,060	 4,280,705	 4,684,765
ESTIMATED TRANSFERS IN	4,000	578,100	582,100
ESTIMATED REVENUE	578,345	4,099,195	4,677,540
TOTAL RESOURCES	982,405	8,379,900	9,362,305
 LEVY REQUIRED	 1,923,653	 1,934,722	 3,858,375
 ALLOWANCE FOR DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTIONS	 29,724	 79,912	 109,636

TOTAL AMOUNT LEVIED	1,953,377	2,014,634	3,968,011
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RESOLUTION NO. 2

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

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 2021 in the amount of \$3,600.00.

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

Voting nay: None.

Resolution was adopted.

Motion to repeal the motion previously made at the September 1, 2020 to move the county's health insurance provider from ND PERS to NDPHIT and to remain enrolled with ND PERS for employee health insurance. (Anderson/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

JERRY WASWICK – CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

PAM MALONEY – COUNTY AUDITOR