

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9:05 a.m. with the following members present: David Jacobson, Sherry Hosford, Jerry Waswick, Mike Walstead, and Bill Anderson. Also present was Tibby Hinderlie, The Sargent County Teller; and Pam Maloney, Sargent County Auditor.

Approve minutes of the October 18, 2016, commission meeting as corrected. (Walstead/Hosford, unanimous)

Commissioner Hosford reported that the windows for the Health Department Building have been delivered and are scheduled to be installed by the end of the week.

Donna Eklund, county resident, arrived at the meeting

The commission received notification from Public Employment HR Consulting that the recommended grade for the sheriff's office deputy matron has been determined. Commissioner Waswick will contact Ms. Person asking for some clarification and documentation regarding the recommended change in the grade.

Commissioner Anderson introduced the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

Whereas the Congress of the United States of America has designated the eleventh of November as a legal holiday to be known as Veterans Day, and has dedicated it to the cause of world peace (Act of May 13, 1938, 52 Stat. 351, as amended (5 U.S.C. 87a)) ; and

Whereas Veterans Day has an important dual significance in that it gives each American an opportunity both to honor the dedicated men and women of all races and religious beliefs who have honorably served in our armed forces, prepared for war in times of peace and prepared to serve in times of war, and to reemphasize our determination to achieve world peace with patience, perseverance, and courage; and

Whereas each one of us should have an opportunity to participate in publicly observing the twofold purpose of this day:

Now, Therefore, the County Commission of Sargent County, North Dakota, calls upon the people of this County to observe Friday, November 11, as Veterans Day, remembering those who have borne the burden in time of war and resolving with one accord to achieve a just and lasting peace throughout the world.

County officials are requested to work together with local Veterans groups and local committees so that this day may be appropriately commemorated by exercises and ceremonies in every part of our county.

It is also directed that the appropriate County officials and employees shall arrange for the display of the flag of the United States on the Sargent County Courthouse and the Courthouse grounds on Veterans Day.

Commissioner Jacobson seconded the motion and the resolution was unanimously adopted on November 1, 2016.

Commissioner Hosford has received a receipt book from the park manager that had been requested for use in reviewing fees charged at the Park, and whether or not a monthly rate would be justified, however, the book received contained only the receipts for the month of October. Commissioner Anderson will discuss this with the prior park manager, Dennis Goltz.

Jayne Pfau, Assistant State's Attorney, arrived at the meeting.

The hearing on appraisals of property forfeited to the county for delinquent taxes was opened at 9:30 a.m. As there were no comments or objections made to the proposed minimum sales prices, motion made to approve the minimum sales prices set at the October 4 meeting. (Anderson/Jacobson, unanimous). The public auction for sale of this property is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2016, in the County Commissioner's office beginning at 10:00 a.m. The list of property to be sold will be posted at the front door of the Courthouse.

It was decided to hold a park board meeting on November 15 at 9:00 a.m. to discuss some unresolved park issues. Commissioner Hosford has also received further suggestions for some changes to the park

manager and assistant park manager job descriptions. She will make these changes to the draft to be discussed further at the November 15 meeting.

Austin McLaen, SCB Public Finance, arrived at the meeting. He provided refinancing quotes for the county's three John Deere motor graders, which could result in a \$26,000 savings to the county over the remaining term of the leases. Motion to authorize the refinancing with SCB Public Finance subject to the state's attorney's office review of the existing leases and of the proposed new leases and determination that the warranty would still be in effect and that there would be no prepayment penalty for prepaying the present leases. (Jacobson/Anderson, unanimous.)

There was discussion held on the Silver Lake Dam and what repairs are needed to address the seepage that has been occurring through the embankment. There is 75% cost share money available through the State Water Commission for the repairs at the present time, but this money will not be available after June 2017. The commission discussed other alternatives for repair, and will discuss the matter at the November 15th Park Board meeting. Cost estimates for the various repair alternatives proposed have been received from the State Water Commission by the County Water Resource Board and the County Park Board.

Acknowledged letter from ND DOT regarding the Transportation Alternatives Program. Sargent County has no proposed projects at this time.

Joe Butler, Courthouse Custodian, has completed an inspection of the courthouse roof, at the suggestion of the North Dakota Insurance Department's Fire & Tornado Insurance Fund, insurer of the building. The only action apparently needed at this time is to add some rock to cover some areas where the rubberized roofing is showing through.

The auditor was instructed to send a letter to the Sargent County Water Resource Board requesting 50% cost share on the 72" culvert needed to replace the old timber bridge south of Immanuel Cemetery in Tewaukon Township between Sections 21 & 22-129-54 LTL. Interstate Engineering had completed a hydraulic study for this site, and a copy of the study is to accompany the letter. The 72" culvert complies with North Dakota Stream Crossing Standards for the site.

There was some discussion on the administrative hearing scheduled for January in the matter of the former social service director. Some commissioners questioned why the matter was taking so long to be heard, and whether or not the state's attorney's office has been preparing for the hearing. Ms. Pfau stated that she and States Attorney Bopp have been working on the case and will continue to prepare for it.

Donna Eklund thanked the commissioners for the opportunity to sit in on the commission meetings for the last few months. She stated that she has really learned a lot about the job and about county government; and thanked the commissioners for their service. Commissioner Anderson thanked Mrs. Eklund for her interest in the position, and commented on the civil and clean campaigns that are being conducted by all of the candidates for county office in 2016.

Brian Tayer, Milnor Ambulance Squad Coordinator for the Sargent County Ambulance Service, met with the commission to report on Milnor Ambulance Squad activity. He stated that there will be a EMR/EMT course held in Wyndmere for anyone interested in taking the course. Peter Christiansen has been hired as Assistant Coordinator for the Milnor Squad and has been working out very well. Marwood Klein, Forman Ambulance Squad Coordinator for the Sargent County Ambulance Service, also met with the commission, to report on Forman Ambulance Squad activity. He stated that he has been working on Transport Plans, as the patients need to go the facility certified to handle the care required. The hospitals have to be certified as stroke or cardiac ready facilities, and some are certified for both, but some are not. He also reported that the courthouse does have a new AED machine and that he will schedule another training for the employees to be certified in its use. The commissioners thanked Brian and Marwood for their report, and commended them and the members of both squads for their work on behalf of the people of Sargent County.

Travis Paeper, Sargent County Sheriff, arrived at the meeting. He had received notification regarding the recommended new grade for the sheriff's office deputy matron and has contacted Dorothy Person with Public Employment HR Consulting with some questions.

Sandra Hanson, Tax Director/911 Coordinator/Emergency Manager; Alison Toepke, Treasurer/Recorder/Clerk of Court; Darci Weber, Social Services Social Worker; and Melissa Seykora, NDSU Extension Ag and Natural Resources (ANR) Agent; arrived at the meeting and joined Sheriff Travis Paeper to discuss designating the Friday after Thanksgiving as a holiday for all County employees, staff and officials. It was pointed out that most courthouses in the state are closed on that Friday as an additional paid holiday for the employees. Currently, Sargent County policy allows a

skeleton crew in each office on the Friday after Thanksgiving, as determined by the department head. The excused employee(s) do not have vacation, sick leave or personal leave deducted. There are few phone calls or foot traffic in the courthouse on that Friday. Current County policy provides that County holidays will be those designated "by the President or Governor," and, Columbus Day has been designated as a holiday by the President for many years, but has not been included on the County's list of approved holidays. After much discussion and debate, motion to grant the Friday after Thanksgiving as a paid holiday, in lieu of the Columbus Day holiday which is currently a Federal, but not a State, holiday, for all county employees, with the understanding that Columbus Day will not become a County holiday unless the Friday after Thanksgiving reverts to a workday. (Anderson/Walstead) Roll Call Vote: Yes – Waswick, Anderson and Walstead. No: Hosford & Jacobson. Motion carried.

Sheriff Paeper reported that Sargent County has been denied the COPS grant that had been requested. He had planned to advertise for a deputy to replace Deputy Rick Bryant upon his deployment with the North Dakota National Guard in 2017, but there is now a possibility that Deputy Bryant will not be deployed. He will advertise for the position when he gets the final determination regarding Deputy Bryant's deployment status. However, he would still like to add another deputy to his staff. He has talked to the three schools in the county and they have verbally committed to help pay for another deputy who would also serve as a school resource officer. The commission would need to know the source of revenues which would fund the position, including the financial commitment from the schools, before making a decision on the matter.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

JERRY WASWICK – CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

PAM MALONEY – COUNTY AUDITOR