

Forman, North Dakota
November 25, 2009

A Special meeting was held, at the call of the Chairman, at 9:00 a.m. with the following present: Steve Wyum, Jerry Waswick, Maurice Orn, Bill Anderson and Mike Walstead. Absent: none. Also present: Lyle Bopp, States Attorney, Gina Hillestad, Treasurer, Travis Paeper, Sheriff, Rick Bryant, Deputy Sheriff, Ted Lee, Cayuga, and Holly Jessen, The Sargent County Teller.

The agenda for the meeting included: discuss the vacancy in County Recorder's Office and 2) consider an appointment of temporary County Recorder from now until December 31, 2009.

Chairman Steve Wyum commented that the commissioners received an email from Joan Lee informing them that as of 4:30 on November 24, 2009 she was resigning her position as Sargent County Recorder/Clerk of Court.

Bill Anderson moved that Sargent County accept the resignation of Joan Lee from the office of County Recorder and ex-officio Clerk of Court, with regret/seconded by Maurice Orn. Discussion.

Jerry Waswick commented that he has never heard anything bad about Joan's work and when Ms. Lee made it known to the commission that she planned to retire at the end of 2009, that was, in part what the timetable for the county restructuring plan was based upon. In recent months he had heard some talk about Ms. Lee feeling she was being forced out the door, and that was never the intent of the commission.

Bill Anderson commented that, in his profession, he has dealt with a number of County Recorder offices in North and South Dakota and Minnesota, and the Sargent County Recorder's Office, particularly in the Recorder's side, was running a top notch operation and handled documents with the utmost attention to detail. Joan Lee did a good job for the people of Sargent County. She also had the duties of the Clerk of Court, and that office, to, was run very well during her tenure.

Motion carried, unanimously.

The vacancy in the County Recorder's office was discussed next. Steve Wyum reported that he had talked with Rod Olson, Court Administrator regarding Joan Lee's resignation. Mr. Olson endorsed appointing County Treasurer Gina Hillestad as temporary Recorder/Clerk of Court, and awaits the Sargent County Commission decision. The Commission had previously combined the offices of Treasurer and Recorder, effective at the end of the current Recorder's term of office, and had previously appointed Gina Hillestad to serve as County Recorder, effective on January 1, 2010, pursuant to Ms. Lee's previous letter of resignation, which was effective as of December 31, 2009. Upon the appointment, Mr. Olson will immediately provide access to information for the court system to the new appointee.

Jerry Waswick moved to appoint Gina Hillestad to the temporary/interim County Recorder/Clerk of Court position/seconded by Mike Walstead. Discussion.

Bill Anderson commented that this is the logical thing to do because this Board has already appointed Gina Hillestad to this position effective January 1, 2010. Mike Walstead said he first thought appointing Lacey Wyum, Deputy Recorder/Clerk of Court would be the thing to do, but she has also tendered her resignation effective December 31, 2009.

Bill Anderson emphasized that in the Recorder's Office accuracy, precision and getting it completed right trump speed every time—don't get worried about a back log of documents—do them correctly. Make sure that all documents are done properly to ensure reliability in the years to come for everyone who uses, and must rely on, the information in the Recorder's Office.

Motion carried unanimously.

For the record, it was noted that Lacey Wyum, Deputy Recorder/Clerk of Court, will return to her work on Monday, November 30th.

Sherry Hosford, Auditor asked about conducting an audit of the Recorder's and Clerk of Court's Office and also a severance package for Joan Lee. The Chairman directed the Auditor to place these items on the December 1 agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 9:19 a.m.

STEVEN R WYUM – CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

SHERRY HOSFORD – COUNTY AUDITOR