

Forman, North Dakota  
November 5, 2019

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioner's Room with the following members present: Jason Arth; Lyle Bopp; Richard Ruch; and, Jerry Waswick. Absent was Bill Anderson. Also present were: Jayne Pfau, State's Attorney; Mary Engst, Sargent County Teller; and, Pam Maloney, Sargent County Auditor.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approve October 15, 2019 meeting minutes as corrected. (Waswick/Bopp, unanimous)

Commissioner Bopp reported that he had still not heard anything from G & R Controls regarding the courthouse heating system. The auditor will call the company to follow up with them.

Commissioner Arth had talked to Emeric Erickson regarding the email he had received 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. Commissioner Arth requested that Mr. Erickson provide a summary to the commissioners of what was done back in 2013. Also, Commissioner Arth stated that there is no water in the county road's ditch. Motion to send a letter to Mr. Martinson requesting additional information to determine whether this is a water board, county or township problem. (Waswick/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

The hearing on appraisals of property forfeited to the county for delinquent taxes was opened at 9:30 a.m. No interested persons attended the hearing. Motion to accept the minimum sales prices as set at the previous meeting. (Waswick/Ruch) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. The public auction for sale of all properties forfeited to Sargent County for non-payment of taxes is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, November 19, 2019, in the County Commissioner's room, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The list of property to be sold will be posted at the front door of the Courthouse.

The commissioners discussed an office maintenance rotation schedule for improvements needed to the offices within the courthouse. This would include, but not be limited to, painting & carpeting. Denise Ferderer, Tax Director, has already made some notes and has agreed to research further & create a rotation schedule.

Commissioner Waswick brought forth a complaint about the Sargent County Water Resource Board regarding Drain #12. He will contact Luke Siemieniewski, Water Board Chairman, for further information and clarification. The commissioners also discussed if the tile drain pumps should continue to be shut off. Buffalo Lake has crested and the Wild Rice north of Cayuga looks to be down as well, so they agreed that the threat to county roads is minimal at this point.

Commissioner Waswick introduced the following resolution that was drafted by the State's Attorney, Jaye Pfau, and Emergency Manager/911 Coordinator, Wendy Willprecht. Commissioner Ruch seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

## Sargent County, North Dakota Flood Emergency Declaration

WHEREAS, a countywide flood emergency in Sargent County exists as a result of significant late summer and fall rainfall and a historic October blizzard event; and

WHEREAS, record fall precipitation levels continue to saturate soil and cause overtopped roadways as water moves into ditches and waterways, damaging critical transportation and utility infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the collective impact of these record precipitation levels and continued flooding have and will continue to inundate farmlands and cause short- and long-term catastrophic losses for farmers and ranchers, constituting serious economic hardship across the state; and

WHEREAS, the impact of the record precipitation levels and October blizzard event have overwhelmed the response and recovery capabilities of local officials; and

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is projecting higher than average precipitation from December 2019 through February 2020, creating the potential for even greater flood concerns going into spring 2020; and

WHEREAS, the impact of these damages threaten the health, well-being and public safety of Sargent County citizens; and

WHEREAS, the potential damage to public and private property and roads are beyond normal anticipation and budgeted funds; and

WHEREAS, the impact of these damages has required the County, Townships and Cities to expend public works and emergency funds, presenting challenges for financing anticipated flood fight operations.

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of Sargent County to assist its citizens in addressing the emergencies, disasters, and the other hardships.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Sargent County Commission declares a flood emergency and orders the activation and utilization of the Sargent County Emergency Operations Plan, its procedures, attachments and appendices to monitor the situation, develop a detailed damage assessment, alleviate hardship, and to limit the hardship and impact of this emergency upon the citizens of Sargent County, North Dakota. Through this declaration the Sargent County Commission does release the use of the Sargent County Emergency Funds for the purpose of use in response and recovery of the public infrastructure in Sargent County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, all local government agencies and departments are directed to provide protection to the citizens of Sargent County during this event and limit where possible the hardships and impact of said emergency.

DATED at Forman, North Dakota this 5<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2019.

The Sargent County Park Board will be meeting with the Sargent County Water Resource Board on Thursday, November 21 at 9:00 a.m. regarding the Silver Lake Dam.

Commissioner Arth has checked with The Schoolhouse in DeLamere as a venue for the 5-County Meeting Sargent County will be hosting on January 9, 2020. They are willing to allow the use of the premises for a 10:00 a.m. meeting and will provide a lunch following the meeting.

Motion to approve an Application for a permit to conduct public dances for a period of 12 months in the Green Lantern Hall at the Geneseo Bar & Grill under the condition that all activities contemplated in the application complies with all applicable provisions of state law. (Bopp/Waswick) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

The commissioners moved upstairs to the conference room to meet with Don Ronsberg, Protective Security Advisor, U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Also present was Alison Toepke, Treasurer/Recorder/Clerk of Court; Wendy Willprecht, Emergency Manager/911 Coordinator; and, Sheriff Travis Paeper. Mr. Ronsberg proceeded to share his security assessment report with those present and explained the online tool that could be used to determine what and where security enhancements could best benefit Sargent County. He also stated that this report is protected under state law and that the county is not obligated to do anything that comes out of the assessment.

Bill Anderson phoned into the commission meeting from his vacation in Arizona for the rest of the meeting.

After Mr. Ronsberg's presentation, the group moved back down the commissioner's room. Ms. Willprecht and Sheriff Paeper had provided the commissioners with quotes from Dickey Rural Networks for Smoke Alarms and Temp Sensors; and Courthouse Access Control. After much discussion, motion to accept the two quotes at a total cost of \$16,312.69 contingent on the approval of the State Historical Society and NRG. (Bopp/Ruch) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. However, the county

will be applying for a Court Facility Grant for partial reimbursement of these items, so the work will not commence until after the grants are awarded.

Ms. Willprecht inquired about the status of her office. The custodian is using a dehumidifier now to finish drying up the office. She would like the rest of the carpet torn up and the floor cleaned and disinfected so she can move back into her office. There is a lot of paperwork involved with these flood disasters, and she needs the space to spread out while she's working. Commissioner Bopp reported that he has contacted a firm regarding drain tiling around the courthouse, as well.

Ms. Willprecht reported that she had quotes for rope ladders for the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> floors of the courthouse in case of an emergency. Motion to purchase two 25' ladders and two 32' ladders. (Bopp/Ruch) Motion tabled as Ms. Toepke stated that she was planning on adding those to the Court Facility Grant for partial reimbursement.

Brenda Peterson, Health Unit Administrator; & Margie Johnson, State's Attorney Office Assistant; arrived at the meeting as representatives of the personnel board. They are requesting a change to Sargent County's Sick Leave Policy and want to implement a Shared Leave Bank Policy. The purpose of the Shared Leave Bank Policy is to provide additional paid leave for employees who have exhausted their accrued sick and vacation leave benefits as a result of a catastrophic illness or injury. The Bank serves as a depository into which eligible employees may voluntarily contribute leave for allocation to other eligible Sargent County employees. The purpose of the Bank is not to provide unlimited paid sick leave for any medical reason but to alleviate the hardship caused when employees lose compensation or risk termination as the result of a catastrophic illness, injury or other medical condition covered under FMLA or otherwise approved by the Shared Leave Committee. Motion to approve the recommended changes as presented by the personnel board to Sargent County's Sick Leave Policy effective December 1, 2019. (Waswick/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:51 p.m.

---

JASON ARTH - CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

---

PAM MALONEY - AUDITOR