The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present: Mike Walstead, Maurice Orn, Bill Anderson, Steve Wyum, and Jerry Waswick. Absent: none. Holly Jessen, The Sargent County Teller, was also in attendance.

Approve October 16, 2007, minutes as corrected. (Waswick/Walstead, unanimous). The October financial report was presented.

After discussion and input from Norman Preble, Tax Director, and Sandra Hanson, DES/911, on possibility of a future merger of the two positions, they were asked to bring a proposal to the December 4, 2007, meeting for adding Sandy to staff of Tax Director, her certification training, necessity of new job description, and procedure to get the county into compliance with NDCC 57-02-27.2. The components for compliance are the implementation of soil survey method of valuation, approved modifiers, and use consideration. Norm and Sandra left the meeting. Discussed possible combination of Clerk of Court and Treasurer duties. The chairman will contact Joan Lee and Gina Hillestad about the viability of such a merger and request a proposal be presented at January 2008 meeting.

Gina Hillestad, Sargent County Personnel Board, brought issues discussed at their November 5, 2007, meeting. Approve request from Auditor's Office to change the payroll day from the 4th Wednesday to the 4th Friday of each month with the deadline for submission of time cards remaining at Monday noon prior to payroll day. (Walstead/Orn, unanimous). Approve closing the courthouse and giving county employees all day Monday, December 24, 2007, as a holiday in 2007. (Waswick/Wyum, unanimous). Discussed Workers Compensation and Job Application issues.

The hearing on appraisals on property forfeited to the county for delinquent taxes was opened at 10:30 a.m. Approved appraisals as listed as there were no objections, and closed hearing at 10:50 a.m. (Waswick/Wyum, unanimous). The public auction for sale of this property is scheduled on Tuesday, November 20, 2007, at office of County Commission beginning at 1:00 p.m. The list will be posted at the front door of the Courthouse.

Norm Preble, Tax Director, presented an abatement submitted by James A. Juelke, Sauk Center, MN, and recommended no change in valuation. Motion to concur with Verner Township to deny the valuation change on Parcel #20-6131000, Lots 5 and 6, Section 28-131-58. (Orn/Walstead. Aye: Anderson, Wyum, Orn, Walstead. Nay: Waswick.) Approve three Disabled Veterans Tax Exemption applications from Milnor City and Rutland City for 2007 taxes, based on percentage of service-connected disability as pursuant to NDCC 57-02-08(20). (Wyum/Orn. Roll call: Aye: Anderson, Waswick, Wyum, Orn, Walstead. Nay: none). Norm will bring valuation of all apartment type commercial properties after he meets with entities in spring.

Approve 1/3 cost share with Weber Township and Sargent County Water Board of 36" squashed x 65' culvert south of Gary Thornberg's at intersection of sections 14, 13, 23, and 24-129-55, contingent on Water Board approval. (Wyum/Walstead, unanimous). This supersedes request and motion made October 2, 2007.

Brian Tayer, Milnor Ambulance, and Marwood Klein, Forman Ambulance, reported both squads had applied for grant money through Insurance Reserve Fund to be used for personnel funding. Both squads will be billing at Blue Cross rates which will be higher than prior billings. They gave a favorable report but more drivers and EMTs are always needed.

Jerry Waswick will draft a letter of support for a study regarding the State Penitentiary which would include regional facilities being a part of the state correctional system, and Bill Anderson was authorized to sign the letter.

The Chairman of the Commission was instructed to contact the Sherry Hosford, County Auditor, Julie Hassebroek, County Extension Agent and Orville Nelson of the SC Historical Society to request that they serve as the coordinating steering committee for the county's 125th anniversary observance.

Motion to adjourn at 12:05 p.m. (Waswick/Orn, unanimous).

Elaine D. Anderson – Deputy Auditor