

Forman, North Dakota
November 6, 2008

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9:30 a.m. with the following members present: Maurice Orn, Mike Walstead, Steve Wyum and Jerry Waswick. Absent: Bill Anderson. Also present Lisa Fauss, The Sargent County Teller.

Approve October 21, 2008 minutes as corrected. (Wyum/Waswick, unanimous).

Sherry Hosford, County Auditor, provided unofficial results of the General Election and a discussion followed on the Vote by Mail election and voter turnout.

Damon DeVillers, Interstate Engineering, Inc. via conference phone discussed with the Board the possibility of federal stimulus monies that may be awarded the counties. This could amount to \$100,000 additional funds for Sargent County. Commission members reviewed the list of road projects and will make a recommendation prior to the deadline of funding of any change in project dates the commission would like to consider.

A discussion followed on police and ambulance service employees and requirements on where personnel should be located. Jerry Waswick suggested that in the future any person hired for these services be required to live within a specific distance of where the ambulance is housed.

Lyle Bopp arrived at the meeting at 10:15 and provided additional comments on police and ambulance service personnel, section line issues, property foreclosed by the county with special assessments and Home Rule Charter Committee. Mr. Bopp indicated that there is nothing in the North Dakota Century Code that requires per diem payment for this committee. Committee members are submitting travel vouchers for the five meetings which have been held since the committee was appointed.

Approve Maintenance Certification of County Federal Aid Projects and authorize Chairman, Auditor, States Attorney and Highway Supervisor to sign and execute. (Wyum/Walstead, unanimous)

Norm Preble, Tax Director/VSO met with the commission and presented an Application for Abatement and Settlement of Taxes filed by Rutland Railway Properties Inc. The request was to refund the penalty and interest assessed against the back taxes and paid by the applicant in the amount of \$2573.62. The amount paid for the property described as the southerly 175' of the BN and Santa Fe Railway Co's 300' wide Station Ground property in Rutland, being 100' wide on the northerly side and 200' wide on the southerly side of said Railway Company's Main Track centerline (now operated by Red River Valley & Western Railroad), upon, over and across the W1/2SW1/4 -19-130-54 and the E1/2SE1/4-24-130-55, lying between two lines drawn parallel with and distant respectively, 25' and 200' southerly, as measured at right angles from said Main Track centerline, bounded on the East by the East line of said W1/2SW1/4 -19-130-54 and bounded on the West by the West line of said E1/2SE1/4-24-130-55 included 2001-2006 taxes. According to NDCC 57-23-04, abatements must be filed on or before November 1 of the year following the year in which the tax becomes delinquent. On October 3, 2008 the date the applicant filed the abatement the county can only process this abatement for 2005 and 2006. The amount of penalty and interest paid on this property for the two years was \$266.58. Several questions were raised on this request and a decision was tabled until Commission Bill Anderson (Preparer of the abatement request) is present.

Norm Preble and Sandy Hanson, EMS/911 Coordinator met with the commission to discuss Mr. Preble's Notice of Resignation which he submitted to the commission on October 21, 2008. A lengthy discussion followed on transition period, soils study, training and proposed restructuring options. Motion to not accept Norm Preble's letter of resignation. (Wyum/Walstead) Discussion followed. According to Mr. Preble's letter he is open to working with the new Tax Director and/or Veteran's Service Officer following January 1, 2009 as needed. Commissioner Wyum asked for reconsideration and withdrawal of the letter of resignation until the commission has an opportunity to finalize the restructuring plan that is on the table and hope to adopt at the November 18, 2008 commission meeting. Mr. Preble agreed to temporarily withdraw his letter of resignation. Commissioner Wyum withdrew his motion and Commission Walstead withdrew his second to the motion. Following today's meeting Jerry Waswick, Steve Wyum, Norm Preble and Sandy Hanson will meet briefly to discuss issues and concerns.

Sandy Hanson also informed the Board that Dennis Goltz has agreed to work with the 911 GPS system to verify driveway coordinates and also complete a roadway sign inventory for 911. He agreed to accept \$10/hour and will drive a county vehicle when available.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

MAURICE ORN – CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

SHERRY HOSFORD - AUDITOR