

Forman, North Dakota  
February 1, 2000

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. with the following present: Lysle Coleman, Don Wehlander, W.E. Smith, Ray Brockman and Steve Wyum. Absent none.

Approve January 18, 2000 minutes. (Smith/Brockman, unanimous)

The Board conducted a hearing on the abatements filed by Larry and Diane Dahl. Taylor Township approved the abatements for 1999. Concur with township due to parcels being unintentionally overlooked by County Tax Director. (Wyum/Wehlander. Roll call: Aye: All Nay: None. Carried)

The Board conducted a hearing on the abatement filed by Jerry & Carol McNeal. Norm Preble reported a house was moved from this land and value not removed. Dunbar Township approved the abatement for 1999. Concur with township. (Smith/Brockman. Roll call: Aye: All Nay: None. Carried)

W.E. Smith introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the Board of Sargent County Commissioners has received notice from the State Tax Department that agricultural land values in Sargent County be increased, and

WHEREAS, the property owners in Sargent County are overburdened by property tax, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Sargent County Commissioner do not support such increase due to the depressed agricultural economy in Sargent County, and  
WHEREAS, the Board of Sargent County Commissioners is sympathetic to the land owners in Sargent County and its citizens and do not believe that such percentage increase should be placed on agricultural property.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Sargent County will not participate in any increase to agricultural values to property in Sargent County for tax year 2000.

Motion seconded by Wehlander. Roll call: Aye: Smith, Wehlander, Coleman. Nay: Brockman, Wyum. Motion carried and resolution duly declared carried and adopted. A copy of the resolution shall be mailed to the ND State Tax Commissioners and legislators in District 26 & 27.

Sandy Hanson, EMS/911, reported on the course that she attended in Bismarck, January 24-28. She received a manual and information on a flood preparation meeting in Moorhead on March 10. Two workshops are scheduled in February - Annual Workshop & Hazardous Materials course on February 15-18 and Instructional Presentation starting February 29. One commissioner is invited to attend the Annual Workshop. Approve attendance at both workshops. (Brockman/Wehlander, unanimous) Sandy submitted the Emergency Manager Task sheet and asked the Board to review the list of tasks for the first quarter of 2000. Sandy asked for communication from the Board on issues that are decided and not relayed to the affected department.

Adopt policy to provide written notice to the department head if this Board does not approve expenditure submitted for payment. (Wyum/Wehlander, unanimous)

Don Zirnhelt, Danny Zirnhelt & Mike Zirnhelt and Donald A. Nelson met with the Board regarding a hearing on abatements filed for 1999 taxes on inundated lands. Lyle Bopp and Norm Preble also present. Danny Zirnhelt explained his CRP land was not submitted because he was told it was not eligible. The Board discussed the time frame given and need to meet budgetary obligations. Notices were mailed to the name and address listed on each parcel according to the tax statement. Several other late applicants were rejected after the June 1, 1999 deadline. Others present said they understood the reduction applied to pasture land only. The Board discussed several options. A meeting for county commissioners is being conducted in Bismarck February 3 on inundated lands. The Board decided to table their decision until attendance at this meeting.

Approve purchase of new computer workstations for the Auditor and Treasurer's Office as per specifications provided by CPU. (Smith/Wyum, unanimous)

Re-appoint Richard Engst, District No. 2 to the SC Water Resource Board for a three-year term. (Wyum/Brockman, unanimous)

Approve December 31, 1999 financial statement. (Smith/Wyum, unanimous)

Julie Hassebroek, Extension Service discussed upcoming programs. She indicated pesticide certification must be completed before April 1<sup>st</sup> and would like to hire a part-time employee from Ransom County Extension to assist with the re-certification. Authorize up to 10 days part-time clerical at \$8.55/hour. (Smith/Wehlander, unanimous) Julie asked approval for out-of-state travel to attend the 4-H Horse Expo Tour at Minnesota State Fairgrounds on April 28-30. Approve. (Smith/Wehlander, unanimous) Discussed the 2000 budget and monies needed to meet budget. The Board asked Julie to consider a

part-time extension support staff that could work in another area in the courthouse. She will prepare a couple scenarios for the next meeting.

Discussed placing a question on the 2000 Primary election ballot to increase the Extension Service mill levy. Reviewed deficit funding, transfers from General Fund and amount due to NDSU. No action at this time.

Frank Pierce, Pierce Roofing & Sheet Metal met with the Board to discuss restoration of the existing cornice on the courthouse. He reviewed the scope of work and estimate. The Board asked Mr. Pierce to prepare another quote to include repairs to the top flat area only. He will fax the information to the Auditor. Mr. Pierce indicated his company is scheduled to re-roof the original courthouse building the end of March.

Bob Podall, Kadrmas, Lee & Jackson and Sparky Engquist arrived at the meeting. Mr. Podall presented Change Order No. 1 on Bridge 132-10. Said order is an increase of \$10,767.60 for class 2 excavation, mobilization and dewatering. K,L, J is recommending approval of the change order. Approve Change Order No. 1. (Smith/Wyum, unanimous)

Bill Smith reported on the meeting concerning GIS conducted by Interstate Engineering on January 26. The county needs to purchase adequate computer equipment, software; maps and training before the project can begin. The Board will talk to Ransom County commissioners and get information on their mapping project.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

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LYSLE COLEMAN - CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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SHERRY HOSFORD - AUDITOR