

Forman, North Dakota
February 3, 2015

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present: David L Jacobson, Bill Anderson, Sherry Hosford, and Jerry Waswick. Absent: Mike Walstead. Also present was Paige Cary, the Sargent County Teller.

Approve minutes of January 20, 2015 meeting as corrected. (Anderson/Jacobson, unanimous)

Discussion was held on the Sargent County Water Resource Board's contemplated Drain #8 improvement project which includes relocation of the drain from County No. 3 on the west side of Rutland west around the Ronald Narum residence and then under County No. 10 south of the Prindiville family's farm site. The project would involve a ditch with 4:1 slopes and a 10 foot ditch bottom. This project would remove the current, long standing safety hazard from the roadway, as well as improve the grade stability along County No. 10. Due to significant improvement to the stability & safety of County Road #10, motion to approve \$100,000 monetary commitment to the project through the highway fund. This commitment would be \$10,000 a year over a period of 10 years, or earlier if funds become available. (Anderson/Hosford) Roll call vote: Aye: Anderson, Hosford, and Waswick. Nay: Jacobson. Motion carried.

Kent Sundseth, Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge Manager, arrived at the meeting. He invited the commission to attend a field tour to showcase habitat improvement efforts, discuss refuge management, answer questions, & introduce several new employees. The Refuge has several initiatives and management strategies of interest, including prairie restoration, weed control, endangered species, water management, wetland and grassland easement efforts & public use activities. The field tour was set for September 1 in the afternoon. There was also discussion on previously discussed wetlands mitigation acres, & the possibility of obtaining Federal funding for improvements to County Road 12.

Lyle Bopp, States Attorney arrived at this time.

County Road Superintendent Sparky Engquist arrived at the meeting. Discussion was resumed on tabled motion concerning mag chloride application during 2015 from January 6, 2015 meeting. Motion that Sargent County not purchase any mag chloride or other dust control for 2015, so the county can get back to applying dust control in the spring to control the dust in the summer months. Mr. Engquist stated that, in his opinion, applying mag chloride for dust control in July or August works the best, but circumstances don't always allow that to happen. He said mag chloride is applied as a maintenance tool used for safety reasons around curves, intersections, bridges & railroad tracks and also to minimize, and possibly eliminate, washboard areas. As some mag chloride was applied late in 2014, there should be substantial carry-over effect in 2015, although the effectiveness does diminish over time and heavier applications will be required in mid-June/July of 2016 in order to achieve the desired level of dust control at that time. According to Mr. Engquist, Sargent County has been spending approximately \$40,000 for mag chloride applications to County roads each year. Roll call vote on tabled motion: Aye: Jacobson, Hosford & Waswick. Nay: Anderson. Motion carried.

Discussion resumed on the second tabled motion from January 6, 2015 meeting. A motion had been made that all county road department licensed vehicles (pickups and trucks) be parked at the county road shop at the fairgrounds in Forman every night unless road department personnel are attending meetings or school which require them to be away from home overnight. An Amendment to the original motion was offered: All county road department licensed vehicles (pickups and trucks) shall be parked at the county road shop at the fairgrounds in Forman every night unless road department personnel are attending meetings or school which require them to be away from home overnight; or, unless the Road Commissioner authorized overnight retention or use of a vehicle at a different location by road department personnel for road department purposes. (Anderson/Motion to amend died for lack of second) Roll call vote on tabled motion: Aye: Jacobson & Hosford. Nay: Anderson & Waswick. Question deferred to February 17, 2015 meeting pursuant to NDCC statute 11-11-07.

Mr. Engquist reported to the board that several new county highway signs that had been put up within the last year have been vandalized or stolen. He estimated about 25-30% of them have been stolen or shot at so they are not legible. Replacement cost of the signs & posts are about \$250/each. The value of the shot up and stolen signs, excluding the value of posts and labor, is approximately \$3,000.00. The vandalism has been reported to the Sargent County Sheriff's Department.

Brian Tayer & Marwood Klein, Sargent County Ambulance Coordinators, met with the Board to provide an update on ambulance services. They provided a summary of all the ambulance calls and revenue for 2014. Brian has four applicants for the EMT position in Milnor & will be interviewing & hiring soon. Marwood also informed the board that the Forman ambulance is in the shop getting the

engine replaced at an estimated cost of \$17,000, and the squad is using a rig borrowed from the Gwinner First Responders until the ambulance has been repaired and returned.

Sandra Hanson, Tax Director/Emergency Manager/911 Coordinator, met with the board to discuss the revision of soil modifiers. The soils committee had met and recommended a revision to the modifier group "Streams/Waterways/Legal Drains" as they determined that streams & waterways were unlikely to change. Instead of the current formula of 50% reduction per acre on the soil type, it would change to a \$75 valuation per acre on the soil type included within a stream, waterway or legal drain. (Jacobson/Anderson, unanimous)

Seven Applications for Abatement or Refund of 2014 Taxes which had been paid were addressed. The first two abatement applications had been filed by Gerald P & Diana M Bosse; and, by Paul Mathews, Cogswell, on the NE1/4 and the NW1/4 of Section 34, Verner Township, requesting inundated lands adjustments for 2014. County Tax Director Sandra Hanson stated that the lands met the definition of "inundated lands" as defined by statute, and that the same criteria had been used in making the determination as had been applied to other lands designated as "inundated lands" in Sargent County. Verner Township had approved the abatement applications. Concur with the township. (Hosford/Anderson, unanimous) The other abatement applications had been filed by Gerald Ringdahl, on the SE1/4 in Section 21; W1/2 of SE1/4 in Section 22; W1/2 of SW1/4 in Section 26; NE1/4 in Section 33; & NW1/4 except tract in Section 35, all in Verner Township, requesting an inundated lands adjustment for 2014. County Tax Director Sandra Hanson stated that the lands met the requirements of State law and that the determination had been made in the same manner as other "inundated lands" in Sargent County. Verner Township had approved the abatement application. Concur with the township. (Hosford/Anderson, unanimous)

Sandra Hanson also updated the commission regarding the grade & step increase for Brenda Peterson, and its impact on the "911" budget. She has done some calculations, found the dollar impact to be minimal, and decided to leave the percentages as is for 2015. She and the Sheriff will look at it again at budget time for 2016.

Motion to authorize Pam Maloney, Auditor, to apply for a Notary Public certificate and to authorize the county to pay for all expenses incurred, including the Notary's bond and stamp. (Anderson/Jacobson, unanimous)

Meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

GERALD WASWICK – VICE CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

PAM MALONEY - AUDITOR