

Forman, North Dakota
February 5, 2008

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. Other present: Holly Jessen, the Sargent County Teller.

The Board continued discussion on administrative options for Sargent County. The following were present to join in the discussion: Joan Lee, Recorder, Gina Hillestad, Treasurer, Lyle Bopp, States Attorney, Rod Olson, Trial Court Administrator and Chris Iverson, Trial Court Manager. The consideration for Sargent County is whether to combine the offices of Recorder/Clerk of Court/Treasurer, reducing the staff from 4 to 3 and make the combined position an appointed rather than elected position. The Court Administrator was invited to the meeting to discuss whether this combination office would affect the services of the court system. Following a lengthy discussion, the general consensus is that this will work for both the state and county with proper cross training of employees and the understanding that the department head would be available to attend all meetings and conferences. Mr. Olson appreciated the opportunity to be involved with this discussion and the Board encouraged him to keep in touch on any issues that are a concern. The Board requested Lyle Bopp to prepare a draft resolution to combine all three offices and get input from all involved. Mr. Olson reported that a sound system will be installed in the courtroom in the near future. The Board received a letter from the Court Facilities Improvement Advisory Committee that the committee did not approve grant funding for Sargent County as the Committee mistakenly concluded that the project appeared to be the same or very similar to projects for which grants were previously awarded to the county. Mr. Olson offered assistance on future grant applications and suggested that the county provide more details and photos for future grants.

The Board discussed the feasibility of a Home Rule Charter for Sargent County and whether to appoint a five member charter commission. The Board feels at this time the residents of the county need to digest the information that has been provided. Board members would like to proceed with this concept but to proceed slowly. Table further discussion until March 4, 2008. (Waswick/Anderson, unanimous)

Tracey Anderson, Lake Agassiz Regional Council, arrived at the meeting to obtain signatures on the Dakota Micro loan. Ms. Anderson informed the Board that Dakota Micro has totally revamped their financial statements and plan to provide jobs for 16 news employees. The \$100,000 grant which Sargent County is applying for includes money to repair Co. road # 14. This money, if approved, will not be a lump sum payment but paid out as work is completed.

Marwood Klein and Brian Tayer, Sargent County Ambulance service, met with the Board. Both squad leaders presented year end reports for the individual ambulance services including number and location of all runs, receipt of grants for ambulance worker reimbursement, replacement funds for new ambulance and discussed a 1st Responder Unit in Rutland-Cayuga area. The Board commended both Marwood and Brian on the fine job they are doing in coordinating the ambulance service for Sargent County.

Approve January 8, 2008, minutes as corrected. (Waswick/Anderson, unanimous).

The Board recessed at 12:00 for lunch.

The Board reconvened at 1:00 with the following in attendance: Sargent County Water Board members Dan Jacobson, Mark Breker, Roger White, Richard Engst and Jim Bosse and Sparky Engquist, Road Supervisor. Mark Breker, Chairman explained to the Board concerning a culvert located between Section 25 & 36 in Weber Township (known as Bergh-McLaen Waterway) and located on County #7. There is a galvanized culvert under the roadway and this needs to be replaced. The original project did not include installation of a new culvert and it is cemented in on the south end. The cement was poured around the pipe to eliminate eroding and Sparky recommended that the county save the concrete abutment and that the old culvert be removed and replace with a new pipe, pull it together, insert inside the abutment and seal it up. There is water running through this culvert all the time. Jim Bosse talked with a culvert representative and suggested that a ph testing be done to see if the culvert be aluminized on the inside and the outside, which will keep this culvert from deteriorating from the salt and ph in the soil. The size and length of the culvert was not determined but it should be possible to remove and replace the existing culvert. County Commissioners agreed to authorize Sparky to do the work and the cost will be shared with the Water Board. Sparky mentioned another site near Meszaros Slough and County #3 that needs culvert replacement with rip rap to decrease the washing out. No decision on this site.

Discussed a delinquent bill for cutting edges and used tires and instructed the County Auditor to send a bill to the contractor and inform him that Sargent County does not sell direct to private parties. Also reviewed an error on the road department payroll and procedure for repayment.

Motion to adjourn at 2:20 p.m.

MAURICE ORN – CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

SHERRY HOSFORD - AUDITOR