

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present: Bill Anderson, Steve Wyum, David L Jacobson, Mike Walstead and Jerry Waswick. Absent: None. Also present was Paige Cary, the Sargent County Teller.

Approve minutes of January 17, 2012 meeting as corrected. (Waswick/Walstead, unanimous)

Authorize the Chairman to acknowledge receipt and sign the Semi-Annual Progress Report for Dakota Micro, Inc. from Lake Agassiz Regional Council. (Walstead/Waswick, unanimous)

Gina Hillestad, Treasurer/Recorder/COC met with the Board to discuss clerk hire to fill in for Allison Toepke, Deputy while she is on leave for approximately 6 weeks, beginning the end of April. Gina suggested that a contract could be offered to a qualified person in the County, to fill in during this time period at a cost of approximately \$5,000. Chairman Anderson suggested that Gina confer with Lyle Bopp, States Attorney regarding the legal provisions of such a contract, and Commissioner Jacobson noted that he is a little nervous about complying with IRS regulations concerning a contract of this nature. According to Gina, there are possibly some funds currently budgeted in the Document Preservation account that could be applied to cover this need. Gina will confer with Lyle Bopp about the provisions of a contract and will review funding options, and will provide her recommendations for consideration at the next commission meeting.

Sparky Engquist, Road Supt. and Lysle Coleman and Andy Seyer, Verner Township Officers, arrived at the meeting to discuss the road situation between Section 19/30 and 20/29 in Verner Township. The township had the roadway graveled at a total cost of \$9706.33. The existing agreement is that the county and the township cost share the gravel 50/50. The bill will be audited and presented for payment at the February 21 meeting. According to the Township Supervisors, this should keep this road in good shape for at least 2, and possibly more, years.

Discussion followed on the stockpiling of gravel by the County Road Department, and the reasons that justify the practice. The gravel is mined, crushed, blended to the proper class and stockpiled ahead of time, when the contractor's crusher and other equipment are working in the various pits in the area. Once the stockpiling is done, the Road Department can have the gravel hauled from the stockpile to the sites in need of gravel when the need arises and trucks are available. The concern is that, when the gravel is paid for ahead of time, the county is acting as the bank for the gravel supplier. According to Road Superintendent Sparky Engquist, the stockpiled gravel is normally used in the spring when commercial contractors are not available to provide gravel. Another concern about the wisdom of stockpiling is whether the stockpiled gravel is all being used on county roads, and how the volume of gravel is monitored when it is removed from the stockpile. There is also concern about the class of gravel that has been provided by some contractors.

Brian Tayer, Sargent County Ambulance, Milnor Squad, met with the Board to provide an update on ambulance services. There is currently a shortage of personnel for the Milnor Squad's day staff, and it is difficult for Brian to get away. Brian provided a summary of all the ambulance calls and revenue for 2011. He also indicated that the 1998 ambulance has 84,000 miles, and the squad is actively considering replacing that ambulance in 2012. Brian will work on ambulance specifications for the bid letting. There are also some state funding options available for ambulance services, and it would have to be determined how the monies would be distributed among the County's squads. The members of the Board expressed their thanks to Brian for the excellent report, and for the outstanding service provided to the people of Sargent County by the members of the Sargent County Ambulance Service.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

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BILL ANDERSON – CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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SHERRY HOSFORD - AUDITOR