

Forman, North Dakota
October 1, 2024

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, October 1st at 9 a.m.. Commissioners present were Wade Anderson, Mark Breker, Jason Arth, Lyle Bopp and Chairman, Scott Johnson. Also in attendance were Tia Bopp, Auditor and Duane Peterson, Human Resources Director.

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion to accept the agenda as amended. (Anderson/Arth). Motion carried.

Motion to approve the September 17, 2024 minutes. (Bopp/Anderson) Motion carried.

Motion to approve the signing of the Sargent County Local Emergency Operation Plan. (Breker/Bopp). Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Proposed amendments to the NDACO's Constitution and Bylaws were shared with the Board. Motion to accept the amended constitution and bylaws as presented. (Breker/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. LaJuana Hayen, will be the delegate for Sargent County at this year's convention.

Amber Mathison, NDSU Extension Support Staff, submitted a 4H Week Proclamation for consideration and adoption at the board meeting. Motion to adopt the following resolution. (Bopp/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. Resolution duly declared adopted.

Sargent County Proclamation

WHEREAS, since 1902, America's 4-H program has served all youth ages 5-18; and

WHEREAS, the mission of 4-H is to create supportive learning environments for youth and adults to reach their full potential as capable, confident, caring citizens of good character, compassion and integrity; and

WHEREAS, 4-H strives to identify and provide hands-on projects, activities, educational events, and community service opportunities for youth to be fully engaged with head, heart, hands, and health, to learn by doing, acquire knowledge, develop life skills and form attitudes that will enable them to become self-directed, productive, contributing members of society; and

WHEREAS, adult volunteers and family members play an integral part in the success of 4-H youth development experiences; and

WHEREAS, 4-H is the youth development program of North Dakota State University, and is implemented locally by Sargent County Extension along with the help of 4-H volunteers, who are outstanding men and women in their communities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sargent County Board of Commissioners hereby recognizes and celebrates October 6-12, 2024, as National 4-H Week in Sargent County, and, encourages all Sargent County citizens to recognize 4-H for the significant impact it has made and continue to make by empowering youth with the skills they need to lead for a lifetime.

Resolution adopted at the regular meeting of the Sargent County Commission at the Courthouse in Forman, North Dakota, on this 1st day of October, 2024.

The 5 county meeting has been postponed to December 12th.

Motion to approve the application of Jaimie Gavin to the JDA. (Arth/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Breker indicated he would like to have the JDA attend the next meeting and provide the Commission with an update of recent activity.

Discussion regarding a response to the ND DOT letter regarding rail highway crossing safety issues.

Motion to approve two county deeds to Hal Moore for two properties in Cogswell pending direction from Jayne Pfau, State's Attorney. (Arth/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to authorize the Chairman of the Commission to sign the NDSU Extension Financial Partnership between the County and the State. (Bopp/Anderson). Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve the paying of an invoice owed to J & M Printing in the amount of \$151.77. (Bopp/Anderson.) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Custodian Neil Weaving arrived at the meeting.

Mr. Weaving updated the commission on projects he is working on in and around the courthouse. Commissioner Bopp stated someone has been here to look at the window upstairs that needs replacing.

A short recess was taken at 9:44 a.m..

The meeting reconvened at 9:58 a.m.. Commissioner Bopp left the meeting at that time. Wendy Willprecht, 911 Coordinator/Emergency Manager and Trent Mahler, Ambulance Coordinator, arrived at the meeting.

Duane Peterson, Human Resources Director, spoke to the Commission about reimbursement for the Gwinner First Responders. There has been no compensation up to this point. This is being proposed to help with the recruitment and retention. The Commission questioned if this had been budgeted and wondered where the funds would come from. The topic was tabled.

Kaia Mahrer has expressed interest in a part-time Assistant Coordinator position. She would essentially be getting one-half of the salary a full-time coordinator would get and if a person came forward seeking full-time, she would step down from this position. The topic was tabled.

Ambulance billing for the three entities was discussed and ironed out.

Discussion moved to the repayment of the money that was loaned to the Forman Ambulance for the purchase of the latest ambulance. The Commission requested that the Ambulance Coordinator come up with a number he feels he needs to maintain for business and future purchases and any surplus money should be given back to the county.

At 10:30, Brian Orn, Garrison Conservancy District; Jeff Breker, Southeast Water; Jay Anderson, Southeast Water and Garrison Conservancy District; and Shawn Gaddie, Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.; arrived at the meeting and were attending to answer questions in regard to the Memorandum of Commitment that was provided to the County in regard to the Red River Valley Water Supply Project. The goal of the group is to get as many organizations signed on by mid November, however, next summer would be the final chance to get included in the project. Whether the County would sign up now or wait until next summer, the cost is going to be the same. It would be trued up at the time of signing on. Commissioner Arth requested the decision be tabled until next meeting.

Wendy Willprecht, 911 Coordinator/Emergency Manager arrived back at the meeting with the Silver Lake storm shelter extension that required a signature. Motion to approve the signing of the extension which gives a new deadline of October 2025. (Anderson/Breker) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Willprecht also informed the Commission about a public meeting to discuss the roundabout at the intersections of Highways 13 and 32 had been set.

The Commission stood in recess until 6 p.m. for the final budget hearing.

The Commission reconvened at 6:02 p.m. for the final budget hearing. Those in attendance were Commissioners Anderson, Breker, Arth, Bopp and Johnson. Also in attendance was LaJuana Hayen, Tax Director, Travis Paeper, Sheriff, Tia Bopp, Auditor and Jerry Waswick, Gwinner resident.

Commissioner Johnson read through all the levied funds and stated whether there was a request for an increase or decrease from the last year.

Discussion was held regarding the water resource district. Motion to limit the water board budget to 5 mills. (Bopp/Anderson). Further discussion was held. Roll call vote was taken. Voting yes were: Breker, Anderson, and Bopp. Voting no were: Arth and Johnson. Motion carried.

Sheriff Paeper mentioned that about \$190,000 from his budget goes back into the general fund with the different agreements he has with the schools and cities.

Motion to accept the 2025 final budget with the amended change to the water resource district. (Breker/Bopp) Roll call vote was taken. Voting yes were: Bopp, Breker and Johnson. Voting no were: Anderson and Arth. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m..

SCOTT JOHNSON – CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

TIA BOPP – COUNTY AUDITOR