

Forman, North Dakota
May 6, 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. Others present: Holly Jessen, the Sargent County Teller.

Approve April 15, 2008 minutes as corrected. (Waswick/Wyum, unanimous)

Board members received a copy of the 2006 and 2007 audit for Sargent County and a letter from Rath and Mehrer, Certified Public Accountants, Bismarck commending the county, particularly Sherry Hosford, Auditor and Gina Hillestad, Treasurer, their staffs, and all other county offices for maintaining the general financial records of the county in overall good form. The financial records maintained, accurately account for all activity of the county and provide the governing board with all the information necessary to make important financial decisions. Additionally, the auditing firm acknowledged all of the assistance and many courtesies extended to them by the personnel of the county during their audit. Acknowledge receipt of the letter and inclusion in minutes of this meeting. (Anderson/Wyum, unanimous)

Dan Stenvold, Mayor, Park River, ND stopped at the meeting to greet the commissioners.

The Board discussed the Home Rule Charter Committee. Nominees/applicants are being pursued for this committee. May 20 is the deadline for submission of names and June 1, 2008 is the deadline for appointment of the committee.

Delores Lysne, Rutland, Homemaker with Sargent County Social Services and other staff members with the Sargent County Social Services arrived at the Commission meeting. Chairman Orn read a resolution that was adopted by the Social Services Board on May 1 to commend Mrs. Lysne for her more than 25 years of service to the people of Sargent County. She has assisted hundreds of Sargent County residents with housekeeping and homemaking tasks, enabling those persons to remain independent, living in their own homes when they might otherwise have been forced into nursing home care at public expense. Delores Lysne, by her service to the people of Sargent County, has improved the quality of life for hundreds of citizens and has helped save hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars by assisting people to live independent lives in their own homes. Thanks and appreciation to Delores Lysne for her more than 25 years of service and a job well done.

Norm Preble updated the Board on the soils study progress – Bowen and Brampton townships are near completion. Norm Preble and Sandy Hanson are willing to help Pam Maloney, Auditor's Office work on the forms. Norm talked to the Mr. Dagley, Secure Software Solutions (SSS) and he informed Norm that if deeds for highway right of way cannot be located, the area can be marked on the quarter section and SSS will complete the info from their aerial photos. Discussion followed on the soils committee composition and apartment valuations. An Application for Abatement and Settlement of Taxes from Delphine Mund for a mobile home located in Herman Township was presented for the Board's consideration. Herman Township indicated that Norm Preble, Tax Director settled the matter. Mr. Preble explained that the incorrect measurements were used to calculate the value. He recommended reducing the value from \$27,217 to \$22,000. Concur with Tax Director recommendation. (Wyum/Anderson, unanimous)

Orville Nelson, Sargent County Historical Society, presented the Society's 2007 financial statement for the Board to review. Orville said the society is hoping to put up another building if land can be acquired. Orville also informed the Board that the Historical Society will not charge admission for touring the museum during this year. Board members asked Orville about plans for the Sargent County 125th anniversary observance. Mr. Nelson indicated that the Historical Society voted to not actively participate in the county Quasquicentennial; however, Mr. Nelson, Julie Hassebroek and Casy Bopp had previously been appointed by the Board of Commissioners to serve as a committee to recommend 125th Anniversary plans. Mr. Nelson will contact other committee members. Jerry Waswick said the Fair Board is willing to combine the county's Quasquicentennial observance into the 2008 fair. A motion to accept the 2007 financial statement of the Sargent County Historical Society. (Anderson/Walstead, unanimous)

Marwood Klein and Brian Tayer (via conference call) SC Ambulance Coordinators met with the Board. Brian gave a report on Milnor ambulance calls, patient income, and reporting service. Mr. Tayer also voiced his concern about the numbers of responders/volunteers. A discussion followed on whether now is the time to employ another person to serve as a floater for both ambulance services. It is the opinion of the ambulance coordinators that this position should be at minimum an EMT for primary care givers. Marwood Klein said currently Forman has 10-11 EMT's but that number could change quickly. Bill Anderson commented that the Board will take the coordinators recommendations

for the ambulance service seriously, but asked for a more detailed plan on how it is going to work and how it will be paid for before county commission makes a decision. Marwood is of the opinion that paying more will not increase the volunteers – if you are in it for the money, you are in for the wrong reasons - but this may free up more time for current volunteers to take vacations and have additional time off. Marwood Klein recommended that an Automated Electronic Defibrillator (AED) be purchased to be located in Cayuga for the First Responders. Other AED's were purchased with grant monies and the Board suggested that the coordinators visit with Sandy Hanson, Emergency Management Services to see if grant monies are available. Mr. Klein stated that he found one on line for \$1750, similar to the systems that are being placed in the schools. Ambulance coordinators Brian Tayer & Marwood Klein; County EMS Director Sandy Hanson; and, Commissioner Anderson will meet prior to the June 3 Commission meeting to discuss ambulance service personnel and funding issues and proposals for dealing with the same.

Lysle Coleman, Crete met with the Board to discuss roads, elections and other issues. He is concerned about the county roads in Verner Township and also about the impact pipeline construction will have on County and Township roads. He inquired about repairs to County Road #2 and Commissioner Wyum informed him that it is part of the 2008 plan for Base One application. Mr. Coleman expressed his concern about the roadways and load restrictions. Board members discussed the uniform load restriction policies adopted by the 5 Southeastern counties with Mr. Coleman, but agreed that the policies are tough to enforce. Discussed Vote by Mail Primary Election with Mr. Coleman, and Sherry Hosford, County Auditor stated that she mailed 2084 post card applications on April 28 and as of today, May 6 395 have been returned for ballots. The total votes cast in the 2006 Primary Election were 830 so it appears this system may increase the voter turnout.

The Board recessed for lunch at 12:00.

The Board reconvened at 2:00 p.m. following the Park Board meeting.

Joan Lee met with the Board to inform them that all records for the Clerk of Courts Office have been placed in the new filing system in the vault. There are 2 old file cabinets that are empty and the museum expressed an interest in acquiring them. Permission granted. Pipeline easements – many have been filed. Fax machine problems in the office – the present one uses excessive ink and it should be replaced with a new one. There is a circuit board that could provide FAX capability to the copy machine located in the Recorder's office for \$600 but the copier is 5 years old. A new fax machine would cost \$800. The State Court Administrator will not provide cost sharing for the purchase of a new FAX machine because other courthouse offices in addition to the Clerk of Court use the fax machine. Mrs. Lee was advised to get further estimates and coordinate with Sherry Hosford, County Auditor to make a selection on a fax machine. Funding for the purchase is available in the technology budget.

Approve Gaming Site Authorizations to El Zagal Viking Patrol Inc. for Stir 'Um Up Bar and Grill, Stirum, ND and Bison Booster Club, Milnor, ND for North 40, Inc., DeLamere, ND beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009. (Waswick/Wyum, unanimous)

Central Power Electric Cooperative, Inc., Minot, ND is requesting Environmental Compliance approval for an 115kV transmission line construction project and an 115kV – 4.16kV substation construction project. The transmission line project corridor and the substation site, both located entirely in Sargent County, ND are for the Keystone Oil Pipeline Project. A map and description of the project was provided for the Board's information. No concerns were noted by this Board.

Tewaukon Refuge sent a letter to the Board regarding the installation of a tile on the SE1/4-24-130-55 to help with road flooding along the west side of said quarter. Wetlands on this quarter are protected by US Fish and Wildlife Service easements. The water flows through an 18 inch culvert under County Road # 3 on to the refuge. USFW has a baseline elevation for this culvert and it is their expectation that any replacement of this culvert would be at the current elevation.

Steve Wyum reported on the April 18 bid letting of Sargent County Federal Aid Project SC-4111(065) – county road from 3 miles south of ND 13, north – bituminous overlay and incidentals – 2.998 miles. Three bids were received – high bid from Central Specialties for \$443,500 and low bid from Bituminous Paving, Inc. for \$394,416. The following resolution was introduced:

WHEREAS, the bid in the amount of \$394,416 from Bituminous Paving, Inc. received in the bid opening of April 18, 2008 for Project SC-4111(065) was the low bid received.

WHEREAS, the bid is considered reasonable.

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved by the Board of County Commissions of Sargent County to award to Bituminous Paving, Inc. the contract for said project and hereby authorized the Chairman of the Board to sign said contract.

It is further understood that the County shall reimburse the North Dakota Department of Transportation for any payments made under this contract, which are not collectible from the Federal Highway Administration.

Steve Wyum moved for adoption of the foregoing resolution and a request that federal aid matching funds be applied to construction engineering. Bill Anderson seconded the motion and all members voted in favor. The resolution was duly declared carried and adopted.

Discussed pay step increases for county employees at step 8 and below. Tabled until budget time.

Hank Baker, Dickey Rural Networks met with the Board to request a road permit for a complete overbuild with fiber to the home technology which affects seventeen (17) townships in Sargent County. The project will replace all existing copper facilities with new fiber to the home technology. DRN will follow existing easements and facilities as close as possible; however, there are some areas they will be asking for permission to be on county road right-of-way. DRN is under the assumption that the county road right-of-ways are 33 feet from the center line of each side of road. All main line facilities are to be buried at a depth of 42 inches and the service drops buried at 18-24 inches once on private property. DRN plans to reduce the number of above ground structures to junction and serving point only and will be placed along the right-of-way at fence and/or pole line if available. Included with this application are a list of crossings and right-of-way access for each township on this project and a map of the complete project. A motion to approve a Sargent County Road Permit to Dickey Rural Communications, Inc. for the above described project. (Walstead/Wyum, unanimous)

Travis Paeper, Sheriff met with the Board to discuss the Gwinner Police Contract. He is waiting for the final contract from States Attorney Bopp. The committee completed the interview process of 5 potential deputies. They made a selection and a background check was conducted and John Holub, Verona is ready to start work. Travis indicated there may be approximately a \$2,000 shortage in the 2008 budget but is still working on the numbers. The Milnor City Contract is also being revised to include additional hours and reimbursement to the county for Deputy Bryant. A motion to enter into a Police Service Contract with Gwinner City and a revised contract with Milnor City upon approval by both Gwinner and Milnor City of the Police Service Contract and amend the 2008 Sheriff's budget to reflect additional revenue and expenditures and approve Sheriff Paeper's recommendation for hiring another deputy at Grade 11/Step 1. (Waswick/Wyum, unanimous)

Approve Intergovernmental Service Agreement between Cass County and Sargent County for correction facility use at a rate of \$85 per day. (Anderson/Walstead, unanimous)

Adjourn at 3:50 p.m.

MAURICE ORN – CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

SHERRY HOSFORD - AUDITOR