

Forman, North Dakota
May 12, 2020

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 10:02 a.m. in the Conference Room with the following members present: Jason Arth, Lyle Bopp, Richard Ruch, and, Jerry Waswick. Also present were Jayne Pfau, State's Attorney; Travis Paeper, Sheriff; Wendy Willprecht, Emergency Manager; Merrill Engquist, Road Supervisor; & Vanessa Bayger, Deputy Matron; & Pam Maloney, Sargent County Auditor. Present via technology were: Bill Anderson, Commissioner; Briana Spellerberg, Health Unit; Joyce Chapin, Health Unit; Brenda Peterson, Health Unit Administrator; Cindy Klapperich, Extension; Alison Toepke, Treasurer/Recorder/Clerk of Court; Brian Tayer, Sargent County Ambulance-Milnor Squad; Margie Johnson, State's Attorney Legal Assistant; Dennis Flihs, Taylor Township representative; Dawn Hoeke, North Sargent School Superintendent & Mary Engst, Sargent County Teller.

Ms. Maloney had set up a GoToMeeting for those unable to attend in person.

Dennis Flihs called in to talk about the repairs that need to be done in Taylor Township. The county removed 3 outdated metal culverts that had been washed out of the Township road from the Wild Rice River channel. The alternatives discussed last summer had been to either replace the metal culverts with a larger, concrete box culvert, if possible, or with new corrugated metal culverts if resources for the concrete box culvert are not available. with the work to be done when water flows in the Wild Rice River decrease to manageable levels” There is also another area where the culverts need to be replaced between Section 2 & 11. Damon DeVillers, Interstate Engineering, called into the meeting & stated that he had done a hydraulic study on the site, so he will do some further research and discuss with Mr. Engquist the best and most cost effective way to repair these areas. Decision tabled until the May 19th meeting. Mr. Flihs also brought up 3 outdated culverts in a downstream section line crossing that are failing and causing the water to overtop the section line, preventing access to fields by local farmers.

Commissioner Arth and Road Supervisor Engquist provided a spreadsheet of gravel costs for the 2020 graveling. The costs came in at approximately \$620,000. The plan includes assignment of specific stretches of gravel roads to the various contractors who bid to provide gravel and hauling services to the county earlier this spring. Motion to accept the graveling plans as presented and forward the information to the state's attorney to prepare graveling contracts. (Arth/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Alison Toepke, Treasurer/Recorder/Clerk of Court, provided the commissioners with District Court Social Distancing Rules for In-Person Proceedings from Judge Brad Cruff. The commissioners reviewed the rules as presented and see no problem with them. Sneezeguard barriers were also discussed at this time for the courthouse offices. Ms. Toepke had received information from her court administrator about some that Newman Signs produce. Commissioner Bopp will do some research to have these in place before the courthouse plans to re-open to the public.

Brenda Peterson reported that there were 3 positive results from the mass testing event held on May 3rd with two of the cases in Sargent County and one in Ransom County. Sargent County is ranked 4th in the state of percent population tested – 10.44% completed. There were travel changes made May 8th: The amendment to the state health officer order allows people to travel freely within the United States and releases requirements for everyone except international travelers. Anyone traveling from another country, who is not merely passing through the state, must quarantine immediately upon entry to North Dakota for a period of 14 days or for the duration of the person's presence in North Dakota, whichever period is shorter.

There was some discussion on a change to the county's COVID-19 policy as the state has amended their travel policy. The CDC has amended their travel policy, as well, however, they are still recommending that travel be limited to essential travel. Motion to eliminate Sargent County's COVID-19 policy. (Bopp/Arth) More discussion was held, as travel is not the only item addressed in the policy. Motion amended to eliminate the COVID-19 policy except for where it refers to the courthouse lockdown and procedures to enter the courthouse. (Bopp/Arth) Upon further discussion, the vote was tabled to next week, so all commissioners can review the current policy before making any decision.

Meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

ATTEST:

PAM MALONEY- AUDITOR