

Forman, North Dakota
May 4, 2021

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9:03 a.m. with the following members present: Lyle Bopp, Mark Breker, Richard Ruch, and Jerry Waswick. Jason Arth was absent. Also present was Sue Seelye, Park Manager; Jill Mulder, Human Resources Director; Mary Engst, the Sargent County Teller; and, Pam Maloney, Sargent County Auditor. Present through technology were Jim Peterson and Julie Colemer, Park Board Members.

Chairman Lyle Bopp called the meeting to order.

Discussion was held on the park assistant position. As Ms. Seelye has received two applications, it was decided to pull the pending ad from the newspaper & the two applicants will be interviewed. Ms. Seelye proposed to hire both applicants, as one of them is a school teacher & will not be available for the entire season. As long as the payroll figure doesn't go over the budgeted amount, the board agreed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Ms. Mulder presented a policy change for 718 Drug Testing. The commissioners suggested further revision, so the policy will be adopted after the final revisions requested.

Approve April 20, 2021 minutes as presented. (Waswick/Breker) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve the agenda as amended. (Breker/Ruch) Motion carried unanimously.

The county has received two applications for coroner & one application for assistant coroner. Commissioner Waswick will talk with Sheriff Paeper to set up interviews with the prospective applicants.

Motion to increase the coroner's hourly rate to \$40/hour effective immediately. (Waswick/Ruch) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to set the assistant coroner hourly rate at \$25/hour when assisting the coroner, but pay the assistant coroner at the coroner rate of \$40 when working alone without the coroner present. (Waswick/Breker) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Some discussion was held regarding the Sargent County Water Resource Board purchasing land for the Drain #11 channel, when there are already easements in place.

Motion to approve an Application for Drainage Work Within County Road Right-of-Way received from Ron Greenmyer, Stirum ND to replace an existing culvert on the west side of 15-132-57 – Vivian Township along County Road #4. (Waswick/Ruch) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve an Application for Drainage Work Within County road Right-of-Way received from Rough Rider Crane Service, Fullerton, ND to install a culvert from the south side of the railroad tracks going to the north side of the driveway going into the north yard along County Road #2 in the Village of Crete – Denver Township. This permit only includes county road right-of-way & does not include the railroad tracks. (Ruch/Breker) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was held on implementing a loan program for governmental entities with some of the Covid funds received. This will be discussed further once we know if more money will be coming & how that money will be expended to the counties.

Wendy Willprecht, Emergency Manager, arrived at the meeting. Brenda Peterson, Health Unit Administrator, joined the meeting through technology. Ms. Peterson stated that there are currently 9 active Covid cases in the county. Vaccinations have slowed down, but they are still holding clinics.

Ms. Willprecht reported that the rapid tests are still being conducted in Gwinner through May.

Governor Burgum has lifted the state-wide Covid-19 emergency declaration as of April 30th, but the county will make no change to its mask mandate or its Emergency Paid Sick Leave for Covid related reasons.

Ms. Willprecht stated that she has applied for a grant through the Department of Homeland Security for lighting for the extension of the parking lot. The preliminary estimate for lighting was

approximately \$33,600. However, the county will not know if they have been awarded the grant until the fall.

Pat Olofson, Sargent County Historical Society/Museum Curator; arrived at the meeting. She had provided a 2020 financial statement to the board. She stated that they had received a \$2,425 grant for salaries. They conducted a tool drive in 2020 & now have the tools on hand to work with, rather than volunteers bringing in their own tools. She stated that they receive visitors from many states and, also, other countries. Due to Covid, they had to use money from savings to operate last year. Whereas the Sargent County Historical Society is a county entity and as they were financially impacted by Covid & is mostly operated by volunteers, motion to transfer \$15,500 from the Cares Act Funding to the Historical Society for use in the museum. (Waswick/Ruch) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to appoint Kyla Temple, Rutland, to the Sargent County Health Board – term ending April 19, 2026. (Waswick/Ruch) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Brian Tayer, Sargent County Ambulance-Milnor Squad, arrived at the meeting through technology. He stated that they had 44 runs the first quarter of 2021. He stated that he had two crew members with 40 plus years of active service. One of these members will be moving at the end of the school year. He has been working on the specs for the new ambulance, so the bid process can move forward. He will email those specs to the auditor's office & they will work with him during this process. More discussion was also held regarding an agreement between Gwinner First Responders and the Sargent County Ambulance-Milnor Squad. State's Attorney Pfau will continue to work on this agreement, but will need input from Mr. Tayer.

Discussion was held regarding burning during the county-wide burn ban. The commissioners asked for clarification regarding how charges are filed and if charges are filed for all those burning during the ban. Sheriff Paeper and State's Attorney Pfau stated that charges are filed if they are notified of the offense & a sheriff's report is filed. The sheriff's office does not actively seek out those offenses, but will typically go out when a fire department has been called out.

Tim Faber, Road Supervisor; and Brian from Barga, Inc.; arrived at the meeting.

The Barga, Inc. representative stated that crack sealing should be completed before a chipseal project is done. He has been in contact with Damon DeVillers, Interstate Engineering, to get a map of the chipseal project slated to begin this summer and will go check out these routes to see how much crack sealing needs to be done.

Mr. Faber stated that he and Isaac Swanson had gone over the job description for the assistant road supervisor and Mr. Swanson understood the additional work and responsibility that were involved with the position. Motion to accept the recommendation of the road supervisor and to promote Isaac Swanson to assistant road supervisor effective May 16, 2021. (Waswick/Breker) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Faber requested overtime authorization for the road crew for the next two weeks. Permission granted.

Commissioner Ruch left the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Motion to approve an Application for Drainage Work Within County Road Right-of-Way received from Alfred Neiber, Geneseo ND to clean a ditch on the west side of Sargent County Road #14 of SE1/4 11-130-53 – Kingston Township. (Waswick/Breker) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

The auditor was instructed to use a 2.7% cola increase for budgeting purposes, based on the average of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the Employment Cost Index (ECI).

Meeting adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

LYLE BOPP– CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

PAM MALONEY – COUNTY AUDITOR