

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. in the 2nd floor conference room of the courthouse for a non-agenda employee meeting, with all Commissioners and twenty-two county employees present. Topics of discussion included: electronic communications device usage policy; outdoor lighting at the sheriff's entrance; picnic area for employees to eat lunch; new trees to be planted on the courthouse lawn; repairs to the parking lot & back entrance; emergency lighting/generator and procedures to follow in case of fire or tornado. Also, congratulations were given to Tom Manley for being elected Vice-Commander of the 10th District, Department of North Dakota of the American Legion; and to Jayne Lewandowski and Melissa Blawat on their upcoming marriages. Following the non-agenda employee meeting, the Sargent County Board of Commissioners convened at 9:45 a.m. with the following members present: Bill Anderson, Sherry Hosford, David L Jacobson, Mike Walstead and Jerry Waswick. Absent: None. Paige Cary, the Sargent County Teller and Jayne Lewandowski, Assistant States Attorney, were also present.

Approve minutes of April 21, 2015 meeting as corrected. (Hosford/Anderson, unanimous)

Commissioner Walstead had contacted R & A Contracting and obtained a signed contract committing them to make the repairs to the rubber roof on the Sargent County Highway Shop this summer for the quoted price of \$13,000.00.

Sandra Hanson, Sargent County Tax Director; Dan Olson & Ken Astrup, Dakota Plains Cooperative; and, Dennis Novacek, Dakota Ag Cooperative; arrived at the meeting for the hearing to consider the application of CHS Inc., dba Dakota Plains Cooperative; and Dakota Ag Cooperative; for property tax incentives for the applicant's construction of new grain terminal & dry fertilizer facilities in Willey Township. The incentives apply to the new construction, only, but not to the real estate upon which they are constructed. The application requests that they will make a payment in lieu of taxes (PILT) equal to 40% of full taxable valuation for year 2016; full property tax exemption for years 2017 & 2018; PILT equal to 25% of full taxable valuation for year 2019; 35% for year 2020; 45% for year 2021; 55% for year 2022; 65% for year 2023; 75% for year 2024; 85% for year 2025; and will pay property taxes in the same manner as other properties in Sargent County of a similar nature and similarly situated from 2026 forward. The Tax Director and the Assistant States Attorney verified that the application had been properly completed and that the application was in compliance with the applicable requirements of State Law. After noting that all parties required by law to be notified of the application and of the hearing had been notified; that notice of the application and hearing had been published in the official newspaper of Sargent County as required by law; that no objections to the incentives applied for had been filed; that no one had appeared at the hearing to object to the granting of the property tax incentives applied for; and, that all legal requirements have been met; motion to approve the application for property tax exemption and Payment In Lieu of Taxes as presented with the exception that the exemption and PILT be strictly based upon percentages of the true & full value for the years included in the incentive package, not a dollar amount. (Waswick/Jacobson) Roll call vote: Yes – Jacobson, Waswick, Anderson, Walstead. No – Hosford. Motion carried.

Scott Mund, Hall Township Supervisor; Jesse Sedler & Tyler Birchem, Interstate Engineering; attended the meeting to further discuss the proposed grade raise and replacement of Bridges #135-05.0 & 135-05.1 between Sections 25 & 26 over the Wild Rice River in Hall Township, and also the removal of Bridges #136-05.1 on the east side of Section 25; #135-05.2 in Section 26; & #135-06.0 between Section 35 in Hall Township & Section 2 in Herman Township. Interstate Engineering presented three alternatives to the original proposal. Alternative B1 consists of 2 lines of 12' x 11' reinforced concrete box culverts (Bridge 135-05.1) and 1 line of 12' x 11' reinforced concrete box culvert (Bridge 135-05.0) at an estimated cost of \$1,350,000. Alternative B2 consists of 1 line of 18' x 11' reinforced concrete box culvert (Bridge 135-05.1) and 1 line of 18' x 11' reinforced concrete box culvert (Bridge 135-05.0) at an estimated cost of \$1,350,000. Alternative B3 consists of an 88' single-span bridge with 45' box beams and an 8' concrete deck (Bridge 135-05.1) and 2 lines of 60" diameter reinforced concrete pipe (Bridge 135-05.0) at an estimated cost of 1,600,000. All 3 alternatives include a grade raise of 5 feet as requested by the township supervisors. Motion to proceed with the planning for Alternative B2. (Anderson/Waswick, unanimous) The township supervisor present approved of the action taken.

Motion to authorize chairman to sign Notice of Award to Mark Sand & Gravel for Full Depth Reclamation, Aggregate Base, Milling, Hot Bituminous Surfacing and Incidentals for Sargent County Roads 2, 10 & 14, Projects CNOB-4103(060), CNOB-4125(067) & CNOB-4135(056) for the amount of \$2,697,602.64. (Anderson/Hosford, unanimous)

Brian Tayer, Milnor Ambulance Coordinator, met with the commission to report on Milnor Ambulance Squad activity. Brian has done several CPR/First Aid courses throughout the county. He stated that

the new employee, Michael Werner, has been working out well and that things have been going well with the squad. At present, the Milnor Ambulance Squad is adequately staffed and equipped to perform its duties. The Commissioners thanked Brian for the good report, and commended him and the members of the Milnor Ambulance Squad for their work on behalf of the people of Sargent County.

Sandra Hanson, Tax Director/911 Coordinator/Emergency Manager, met with the commission to present 29 applications for properties to be classified as “inundated lands” in accordance with State Law. The inundated acres had been calculated using the same system, information and procedures as has been used on these and other similarly situated parcels in the past. The Tax Director stated that all applications had been reviewed and that all parcels appeared to be eligible for classification as inundated lands. Motion to approve the 29 applications for classification as inundated land that had been reviewed and approved by the tax director. (Anderson/Waswick, unanimous)

Discussion held regarding a burn ban policy in Sargent County. The governor’s executive order will expire at midnight on Friday, May 8th. County Emergency Manager Sandy Hanson had polled the 7 Fire Protection Districts that have land in Sargent County within their areas of operation, and found that 2 Districts, Forman-Havana and Rutland-Cayuga, favored a County proclamation; 1 District, Gwinner, did not favor a County proclamation; one District, Milnor, had mixed feelings; and 3 Districts, Cogswell, Oakes & Lidgerwood, did not respond. Motion to institute a fire emergency proclamation to become effective May 9, 2015. (Anderson, Waswick) Roll Call Vote: Yes – Waswick, Anderson, Hosford, & Walstead. No – Jacobson. (Proclamation approved attached to official minutes)

Motion to appoint Robert Ptacek to the Job Development Board to fulfill the term of Steven Anderson, who had resigned. Term ending December 31, 2016. (Anderson/Hosford, unanimous)

Motion to appoint Roxanne Johnson of Gwinner to the Health Board to replace Pat Orn, whose term has been fulfilled. Term ending April 19, 2020. (Hosford/Jacobson, unanimous)

Highway equipment rental rates were reviewed. Sargent County does not rent equipment to private individuals or contractors, nor does the County do custom work for private parties. The rental rates are used when applying for reimbursement from FEMA, Federal Highway Administration, North Dakota DOT and other agencies for use of equipment to do emergency repair work on a temporary basis. Motion to increase all rates 20% effective immediately. (Waswick/Anderson, unanimous)

Approve Gaming Site Authorization for El Zagal Viking Patrol, Inc., of Gwinner, for a site in Dilly’s Bar & Grill in Stirum, ND, from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. (Anderson/Jacobson, unanimous)

Information has been received from Jon Hanna, VSO, regarding a transportation grant that would provide 8 ADA compliant vans for 36 “Highly Rural Counties”. These vans might be assigned directly to the counties which would mean there would have to be Memorandum of Understandings set up between the counties and the state. The initial suggestion would provide one van for Sargent, Lamoure and Dickey Counties, with the possible inclusion of Logan and McIntosh Counties in the group. Board members would like more information before making any decisions on whether or not Sargent County would be able to assist with housing the van, providing drivers or helping support the cost of operation.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

MIKE WALSTEAD - CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

PAM MALONEY - AUDITOR