

Forman, North Dakota  
May 5, 2020

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9:07 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Sargent County Courthouse with the following members present: Bill Anderson, Jason Arth, Lyle Bopp, Richard Ruch, and, Jerry Waswick. Also present was Pam Maloney, Sargent County Auditor. Also present through technology were: Jayne Pfau, State's Attorney; Joyce Chapin, District Health Unit, Brian Tayer, Sargent County Ambulance-Milnor Squad; & Margie Johnson, State's Attorney Legal Assistant.

Ms. Maloney had set up a GoToMeeting for those who wish to attend electronically.

Approve April 21 & April 28, 2020 meeting minutes as corrected. (Bopp/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Wendy Willprecht, Emergency Manager, arrived at the meeting at 9:15. Also arriving via technology were Mary Engst, Sargent County Teller and Dawn Hoeke, North Sargent School Superintendent.

Another discussion was held on the James Martinson complaint of a culvert obstruction in Section 9 of Hall Township. Commissioner Arth reported that Merrill Engquist, Road Supervisor, had met with Mr. Martinson at the site and that it appears that this is a township issue. However, Mr. Engquist will contact Interstate Engineering to come out and look at it to give a final opinion and make sure that it isn't a culvert obstruction creating the problem.

Brenda Peterson, Health Unit Administrator, arrived at the meeting. She reported on the mass testing event held in Gwinner on the previous Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Health Unit partnered with the ND National Guard to conduct this testing event. 500 tests were available and 454 tests were completed in 5 hours. She reported that 5 county departments, 2 Gwinner City Emergency Responder organizations and 10 local public health units with a total of 43 support personnel assisted the National Guard. The Salvation Army was also onsite to provide a lunch. The drive through testing was held in the Northwest Doosan Bobcat parking lot. She has since received word that the testing results will be delayed due to a breakdown in lab equipment, but she is hopeful she will have results before the end of the week.

Alison Toepke, Treasurer/Recorder/Clerk of Court; and Briana Spellerberg, Health Unit; arrived at the meeting through technology.

Ms. Willprecht reported that some expenses for the mass testing event will have to be initially paid by the county, but those expenses will be reimbursed. She also stated that she submitted March and April COVID-19 related expenses to the state and the amount totaled \$4,131.91. The total reported for the 45 counties who had submitted expenses amounted to \$1,041,617.33. Schools are finishing out the year with distance learning, and it is still unknown whether or not graduations will be held. She also stated that North Dakota State Parks will open May 9 with camping to start May 21.

Discussion was held regarding continuing with the weekly COVID-19 update meetings. Ms. Willprecht and Ms. Peterson recommended to have next week's meeting as we have results by then from the mass testing event. It will be decided at that time whether weekly meetings will be necessary from that point forward.

Some discussion was held on a "Benefit Budget" for those employees who do not take the health insurance benefit, as they have coverage through their spouse. The auditor had surveyed several other counties and only 3 of the 25 provide the benefit. The auditor was instructed to check with NDPERS to see if it is an allowable benefit.

The commissioners reviewed a maintenance contract with G & R Controls for the courthouse heating system. Motion to approve the maintenance contract with G & R Controls. (Bopp/Anderson) After some discussion, the board requested Commissioner Bopp contact Doug Straus, Account Engineer, for clarification on whether this agreement included the air conditioner/heating units mini-splits installed in the building. Vote tabled until May 19 meeting.

Motion to approve Application for Drainage Work Within County Road Right-of-Way submitted by Harlan Hogness, Milnor. He is proposing to drain tile 40 acres on the west side of the quarter. The water outlet would be on the NE corner of the quarter and dump into County Road ditch and then run north to creek. Location is along the NE side of Section 28-132-53 in Hall Township. Commissioner

Arth reported that Road Supervisor Engquist had reviewed the application and it had met with his approval. (Arth/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Approve Gaming Site Authorization for the American Legion Bullis Post #84, Lidgerwood, for adding electronic pull-tabs to their site at Geneseo Bar, Geneseo, from May 1, 2020, through June 30, 2020, and approve Gaming Site Authorization for the American Legion Bullis Post #84, Lidgerwood for Pull Tab Dispensing Device, Electronic Pull Tab Device, and Prize Board Dispensing Device at their site at the Geneseo Bar, Geneseo, from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. (Anderson/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to authorize the chairman to sign the Funding Agreement for Clerk of Court Services based on .57 fulltime equivalent. (Arth/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Pat Olofson, Sargent County Historical Society, arrived at the meeting via technology. She had provided a written financial report and narrative for the commissioners to review. The Historical Society has concerns due to the COVID-19 pandemic about opening the museum and different events they hope to schedule throughout the summer, as well as loss of revenue. They have also lost two long-time members and huge contributors of time and talents – Orville Nelson and Ronald Narum – and are concerned about replacing them. The board thanked Ms. Olofson for her report and commended the Historical Society for the excellent job they are doing preserving the history of Sargent County.

Motion to authorize the chairman to sign the State Radio Memorandum of Agreement for fees for the 2021-2023 Biennium. (Anderson/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Marwood Klein, Sargent County Ambulance-Forman Squad, joined the meeting via technology. He reported that the Forman Squad has had 26 calls this year – none of them COVID-19 related. The apartment has been working well for office space & living space for ambulance personnel. They are looking for a washer & dryer so linens can be washed there instead of having to take them home to be washed. He express thanks to Wendy Willprecht, Emergency Manager, for sending information on the county's roads during this wet season. He also stated that they are still looking at grants with the Forman Fire Department to build a building to house both Forman Fire Equipment and the ambulance.

Brian Tayer, Sargent County Ambulance-Milnor Squad, reported that they have had 47 runs this year – none of them COVID-19 related. He stated that they have plenty of PPE & supplies on hand if needed. There is potential of new personnel once testing can be completed. The Milnor Squad is looking to purchase a new ambulance in the next year or so & he is hopeful the old rig could be used by Gwinner First Responders.

Discussion was held on the purchase of laptops for the commission. The auditor had received information from NRG regarding pricing & availability of the machines. There were questions on whether the laptops available would be compliant with assistive technology. The auditor will contact NRG with the concern. Decision tabled until May 19 meeting.

Commissioner Arth reported that he approved the purchase of a box scraper for use by the road department at a cost of approximately \$2,500. They have been having issues with the rain and frost boils & it was a needed expense.

Meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m. Next meeting Tuesday, May 12 at 10:00 a.m.

---

JERRY WASWICK - CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

---

PAM MALONEY - AUDITOR