

Forman, North Dakota
May 7, 2024

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9:00 with the following members present: Wade Anderson, Jason Arth, Lyle Bopp, Mark Breker, and Scott Johnson. Also present was Tim Faber, Road Supervisor; Duane Peterson, Human Resources Director; Jayne Pfau, State's Attorney; James and Tammy Martinson & Rodney & Chris Mathias, county residents; Tia Bopp, Auditor's Office and Pam Maloney, County Auditor.

Chairman Scott Johnson called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion to accept the agenda as amended. (Breker/Anderson) Motion carried.

Motion to approve the April 16, 2024 meeting minutes. (Anderson/Arth) Motion carried.

Rodney & Chris Mathias were present to discuss water drainage across some land that they farm. This water issue is due to the project done last fall to help with water drainage issues in Stirum. The commissioners will look at the site and assess what should be done and will continue the discussion at the next commissioner meeting on May 21st, at which time a decision will be made as to the correct resolution of the problem.

James and Tammy Martinson were present to discuss the Application for Drainage Work Within County Road Right-of-Way that their son, Tanner Martinson, has submitted. Motion to approve the Application for Drainage Work Within County Road Right-of-Way from Tanner Martinson, Milnor, to clean the ditch bottom on County Road #14 on the east side of Section 8-132-53 – Hall Township, keeping the slopes 4:1, the same as before the work started. If any engineering work is needed, the cost will be incurred by the applicant. (Arth/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve an Application for Drainage Work Within County Road Right-of-Way from Derek Martinson, Wyndmere, to clean ditch by contractor with excavator along the west side of Section 15-132-53 – Hall Township, following the specifications and requirements of said permit. (Anderson/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Authorize the County Auditor to request another permit from the ND Game and Fish Dept. authorizing the shooting or trapping of muskrats out of season to protect roadways experiencing road damage resulting from muskrats undermining roadbeds. (Arth/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. Only twelve muskrat control agents are allowed per county.

Motion to approve a Gaming Site Authorization for the El Zagal Viking Patrol, Inc at Dilly's Bar & Grill, 101 Main St N, Stirum, ND for the activities of pull tab dispensing device and electronic pull tab device, from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. (Bopp/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to authorize the chairman to sign the Funding Agreement for Clerk of District Court Services for the term of July 1, 2025 through June 20, 2027. (Bopp/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve Omitted Property adjustments for Parcel 26-8815000 - \$3,045.90 increase; and Parcel 26-8814000 - \$264.05 increase. (Breker/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Neil Weaving, Custodian, arrived at the meeting. Mr. Weaving reported that he has been moving furniture in anticipation of the carpeting project to be done the end of this week in the courtroom and other court related offices; the lawn seed he had purchased has been applied to the courthouse lawn; and that there are some water issues at the Health Department building. He has been unable to seal up the trouble area, however, with the constant rain. He is hoping to get it done yet today. Discussion was held regarding some surplus historical furniture items. As we have many historical items already on display in the public spaces, there really isn't room for more. It was suggested to check with all the departments to see if some of the bookcases could be utilized in office spaces.

Brian Tayer, Milnor Ambulance Squad; and Wendy Willprecht, Emergency Manager/911 Coordinator; arrived at the meeting. Mr. Tayer stated that the Milnor Squad has had 48 runs so far in 2024. He has been on 38 of them, with Peter Christianson on 21 of them. He has been working on getting the ambulance funds moved over to the county, but it has been a difficult process getting direct deposits changed over from some of the insurance companies.

Discussion was held on hiring additional staff for the ambulance squads. Mr. Tayer verbally resigned as ambulance coordinator at the meeting today, but has elected to stay on as an assistant coordinator. He will, however, continue to serve as an interim coordinator until a replacement has been hired. Motion to accept Mr. Tayer's resignation and re-assignment to assistant, acting as interim coordinator until a replacement is hired. (Arth/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Pat Olofson, Sargent County Historical Society, arrived at the meeting. She provided the commissioners with the 2023 annual financial report. She also provided updates and information regarding the rebuild project. She has applied for a few grants and will receive notification yet this month, if they have been awarded. The board is also wanting to know if the county will continue paying the insurance premium for the museum, as there was discussion last fall regarding this. The county will continue to pay the insurance premiums on the museum and the auditor will forward the building coverage/premium information on the board each year, so they are aware of what the coverage is.

The commissioners advised the auditor to use a 4% COLA for 2025 budget purposes.

Commissioner Anderson stated that there are several areas in the county where landowners are farming into the county road right-of-way. Options were discussed, with the first option being talking to the farmer.

Authorize the Chairman and the Auditor to sign the county deed for Lots 7 & 8, Block 12, Milwaukee Addition, City of Cogswell to Jeremiah & Brook Berlin H/W JT, 106 S Woodcrest Drive N, Fargo ND 58102 for a purchase price of \$3,200. (Anderson/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to authorize the Chairman and the Auditor to sign the Airport Authority Contracts for Milnor and Gwinner Airports. (Arth/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Tim Faber, Road Supervisor; arrived back at the meeting, along with Todd Stein, Sargent County Water Resource Board.

Motion to accept Barga, Inc. quote for Mastic Crack Repair on County Road #7 from NDSH#32 east to County Road #10 for an estimated cost of \$218,751.75. (Anderson/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to call for sealed bids for seal coat and patching on County Road #14 from NDSH#11 south five miles for an approximate cost of \$467,022.10 (Anderson/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Further discussion was held regarding the Drain #11 crossings obligation to the Sargent County Water Resource Board. Commissioner Bopp stated that he had contacted NDIRF regarding the issue.

Motion to move into executive session pursuant to NDCC 44-04-19.1(5) and NDCC 44-04-17.1(4) at 11:08 a.m. for an approximately time period of 10 minutes. State's Attorney Pfau will record the session. (Arth/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Executive session closed at 11:16 a.m. and the board continued with their regular meeting.

Discussion was held on the obligation of the remaining \$357,882.78 in ARPA funds. These funds need to be obligated and reported by December 31, 2024. \$50,000 has been earmarked for improvements within the courthouse. Commissioner Johnson suggested using these funds for the courthouse parking lot, but additional funds will be needed as well. More discussion will be held after the project has been bid out.

Commissioner Anderson left at 11:28 a.m.

Motion to accept the gravel plans as presented by Mr. Faber and Commissioner Johnson for an estimated cost of \$290,150. (Arth/Breker) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. The State's Attorney will prepare the gravel contracts.

Motion to allow for two part-time road department employees from May 1st through September 30th. (Arth/Breker) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to trade the 2020 ABU big trailer that was purchased for the old excavator for a Soil Conditioner, 72-in Hydraulic Angle and Depth and 80" Brushcat (Bobcat attachments). (Bopp/Breker) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

SCOTT JOHNSON – CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

PAM MALONEY – COUNTY AUDITOR