

Forman, North Dakota  
June 1, 2021

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 8:07 a.m. with the following members present: Lyle Bopp, Mark Breker, Richard Ruch, and Jerry Waswick. Jason Arth was absent. Also present was Mary Engst, the Sargent County Teller; and, Pam Maloney, Sargent County Auditor.

Chairman Lyle Bopp called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Approve May 4 & May 18, 2021 minutes as corrected. (Breker/Waswick) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Tim Faber, Road Supervisor, arrived at the meeting. He reported that the road crew had tried to make the repairs to the County Road #1 Drainage Project area last week, but it was still too wet & the operator got stuck. Brian Vculek pulled out the tractor & then proceeded to make the necessary repairs with a track machine.

The board discussed the Weber Township request from the last meeting. Commissioner Waswick had checked out the township roads in question. He had also checked on the area where the culvert has been plugged & therefore, gravel being lost from the township road, and, ultimately, creating damage to County Road #7. Motion to send a letter to the Marshall County State's Attorney regarding the plugging of this culvert and the damage it is causing on the North Dakota side. (Waswick/Breker) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Dave Jacobson, county resident, arrived at the meeting.

The commissioners also discussed the mag chloride application. It was decided to leave the policy the same as previous years, but to attend the Township Officer's Meeting in the fall & again, in the spring, to notify county residents, that starting in 2022, the county is considering changing its policy to only be applying mag chloride to intersections, curves, railroad crossings, unless requested and paid for by the landowner.

Jill Mulder, Human Resources Director, arrived at the meeting. Discussion was held regarding safety equipment for the road department. It was brought to the attention of the board that proper safety foot attire is not being worn. Ms. Mulder brought forth an email she had sent earlier to Mr. Faber and some members of the commission regarding proper PPE for the road department. Motion to require the road department to wear proper safety shoes/boots and to reimburse each employee up to \$200 per year for such safety equipment, effective July 1, 2021. (Ruch/Breker) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Jacobson left the meeting.

Ms. Mulder also reported to the commission on the WSI CEG discounts that the county received. A total of \$4,445.13 was received through LMS Participants, Premium Safety Discount and Premium Dividend Credit Refund.

Denise Ferderer, Tax Director, arrived at the meeting. The Board of Review and Equalization proceeded to organize for 2021 at 10:30 a.m.

Ms. Ferderer stated that all townships & cities had met and approved all the values recommended by the tax director. Ms. Ferderer also presented a list of residential increases that they became aware of after the township/city equalization meetings. Notice of increases were sent to: 01-1611001 – Rosedale Farms, LLP - \$108,900; 08-2835000 – Jill Kratcha - \$54,800; 10-3339000 – Patty Moyer Trust - \$23,300; 19-5711000 – Joseph Breker - \$77,500 – 05-2112000 – Brandon Hanson - \$108,900; 22-6569000 – Rodney Nelson - \$49,500; 22-6472001 – Cody & Hannah Guleson - \$61,700; 23-7126000 – Dennis & Lynnae Decker - \$50,400; 28-8682000 – Jason & Elizabeth Wolf - \$67,600; 12-4071000 – Paul Ruby - \$231,800; 01-1163000 – William & Janelle Beaver - \$90,800; 18-5365000 – Dennis Flihs - \$59,600; 18-5380000 – Chadwick Wittich - \$64,000; 02-1234000 – Milo Naffziger - \$32,300; 07-2578001 – Robert & Bonnie Ptacek - \$68,200. Motion to accept the tax director's recommended additions. (Waswick/Ruch) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Ferderer recommends increasing the valuation of residential lots & buildings countywide 4%. This would fall within the 10% tolerance at 93.9%.

Ms. Ferderer recommends increasing all commercial lots and buildings countywide 2%. This would fall within the 10% tolerance at 93%.

Ms. Ferderer provided information regarding the value of agricultural land in Sargent County and is recommending no change to agriculture values. 2021 Sargent County's average value per acre as determined by North Dakota State University (NDSU) is \$1,058.99 and this average per acre value has been set by the ND Tax Commissioner's Office. The 2020 county average value per acre was \$1023 which is 96.6% of the 2021 state determined value.

Motion to concur with all recommendations of the tax director. (Waswick/Breker) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

The Board of Review and Equalization adjourned "SINE DIE" at 10.25 a.m. (Waswick/Breker) Motion carried unanimously.

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 3 active Covid cases in the county. They are still vaccinating weekly and the county currently has a 56.5% vaccination rate.

Ms. Willprecht reported that there will be no more rapid testing in Gwinner.

Ms. Peterson also requested that the overtime Covid pay be extended for the health department employees. Motion to extend the overtime Covid pay through the Federal declaration period for health department employees. (Waswick/Ruch) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Peterson also informed the commissioners that the health unit has been awarded a grant which starts today, June 1, 2021 & will extend through June 30, 2023. This is a great funding opportunity for the county and Ms. Peterson is requesting to hire one full time & one part time employee through this grant. Motion to approve the hiring of the equivalent of 1.5 FTE for the health department through the grant period of 6-1-21 through 6-30-2023 and that further employment is contingent on continued grant funding. (Waswick/Ruch) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to sign the following resolution (Waswick/Breker):

WHEREAS, the bid in the amount of \$1,081,076.10 from Morris Sealcoat & Trucking, Inc received in the bid opening of May 14, 2021 for Project SC-CVD-4100(021) was the low bid received,

WHEREAS, this bid is considered reasonable,

NOT THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Sargent County will aware to Morris Sealcoat & Trucking, Inc, the contract for Project SC-CVD-4100(021) and hereby authorizes the Chairman of the Board to sign said contract.

It is further understood that the County shall reimburse the North Dakota Department of Transportation for any payments made under this contract, which are not collectible from the Federal Highway Administration.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Bopp, Breker, Ruch and Waswick. No – None. Absent & not voting: Arth. Motion carried unanimously.

The sale for surplus road equipment was discussed. The auditor and the road supervisor will set a date for the sale.

Jayne Pfau, State's Attorney, arrived at the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

Some discussion was held regarding the Federal ARPA funds and what items would qualify. The commissioners would like it added to the Five County Meeting agenda to be held in July.

The commissioners discussed the email received from Damon DeVillers, Interstate Engineering, regarding the FLAP project. Commissioner Ruch will call Mr. DeVillers & visit with him regarding the questions he had. Ms. Willprecht provided the commission with a phone number to a Marboe Township Supervisor that might be able to answer some of the questions posed by Mr. DeVillers.

Motion to authorize the chairman to oversee cutting down two evergreens in the courthouse lawn that are dying. (Waswick/Breker) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Jill Mulder, Human Resources Director; & Travis Paeper, Sheriff; arrived at the meeting. They informed the commissioners that they have sent a conditional job offer to Vicki Berreth for the Coroner position, and also have sent a conditional job offer to Morgan Blair for the Assistant Coroner position. Both job offers are contingent on commission and the state medical examiner approval. Ms. Mulder will draft a letter of support to be sent to the state medical examiner for these two applicants. There will be on-line training for Certified Death Investigators that they will be required to take. Upon the recommendation of Ms. Mulder and Sheriff Paeper, motion to appoint Vicki Berreth as Coroner, and Morgan Blair as Assistant Coroner, contingent upon approval of the state medical examiner. (Ruch/Breker) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

There was discussion regarding the burn ban resolution that the county is currently under. There is concern that the state doesn't always have the right conditions for this area of the state, and that there were a few fires that should not have been lit. One suggestion was that the resolution be amended to state that those planning to burn must contact the sheriff or the fire chief to request permission. No decision was made.

Meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

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LYLE BOPP– CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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PAM MALONEY – COUNTY AUDITOR