

Forman, North Dakota
June 19, 2018

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at the Sargent County Courthouse at 10:00 a.m., following the park board meeting, with the following members present: Bill Anderson; Jason Arth; Sherry Hosford; Dave Jacobson; and, Mike Walstead. Also present were Lyle Bopp, State's Attorney; Jayne Pfau, Assistant State's Attorney; Tibby Hinderlie, Sargent County Teller; and, Pam Maloney, Sargent County Auditor.

Denise Ferderer, Tax Director; and, Grover Riebe & Jerry Waswick, Gwinner City residents; arrived at the meeting. The board reconvened as the Board of Equalization. Ms. Ferderer provided information regarding the value of agricultural land in Sargent County and is recommending a 4% increase. 2018 Sargent County's average value per acre as determined by North Dakota State University (NDSU) is \$977.94 and this average per acre value has been set by the ND Tax Commissioner's Office. The 2017 county average value per acre was \$898.29 which is 91.8% of the 2018 state determined value. This means that Sargent County is at the low end of the tolerance range. A 4% increase across the board would put the value per acre at \$934.22 which is 95.8%, and would put Sargent County a little above the mid-level of the tolerance range allowed for 2018 value. Motion to concur with the recommendation of the tax director and increase agriculture values across the county 4%. (Hosford/Jacobson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Ferderer informed the Board that spread sheet calculations indicate that a 9% increase in residential valuations is called for, but there are still questions about the 35% increase in the valuation of Rutland City's residential properties mandated by the State Board of Equalization last fall. Ms. Ferderer and County auditor Pam Maloney will call the state Tax Department and confer with the State's property tax expert, Linda Leadbetter, to try to get a better understanding of this matter.

Based on calculations performed in accordance with State rules and regulations, and after consultation with the Property Tax Division at the State Tax Department, Ms. Ferderer is still recommending no change for commercial property, which is within the tolerance range at 97%. Mr. Riebe provided the commissioners with a 2017 Sales Ratio Study that he had prepared. He is questioning the ND Administrative Rules regarding sales that can be included in the sales ratio study. The board stated that the County Tax Director and the County Board of Equalization have to abide by the rules and the laws of North Dakota unless and until they are modified or overturned by Attorney General's opinion, Court decision or Legislative action, and that it would be appropriate to contact the state legislators for this Legislative District to request the changes sought.

The Board of Equalization recessed until Monday, June 25 at 9:00 a.m. to try to get further information from the state before finalizing residential and commercial values.

Approve June 5, 2018 meeting minutes as corrected. (Hosford/Arth, unanimous)

Motion to authorize the commission chairman, with the advice of the States Attorney, to execute such documents as may be necessary and required to effect the lease finance agreement with SCB Public Finance for the acquisition of the 2018 John Deere Motor Grader and the trade in of the 1991 Cat Motor Grader; and to authorize the commission chairman, county auditor and county treasurer, with the advice of the state's attorney, to make such arrangements with SCB Public Finance for the payment to John Deere of the purchase price for the motor grader as are in the best interests of Sargent County; and to authorize an initial payment of \$30,000 to SCB Public Finance and a 5-year lease term with an annual payment of \$30,000, with payment dates to be set at such times as may be convenient and practical for Sargent County and SCB Public Finance, and funds to be appropriated from road department funds. (Anderson/Arth) Upon roll call vote, Commissioners Arth, Anderson, Hosford and Walstead voted "Yes." Commissioner Jacobson voted "No." motion carried.

Motion to appoint Michael Wyum to the Sargent County Water Resource Board to fulfill the remainder of the term of Corey Martinson, resigned, which expires February 20, 2019. (Anderson, Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Jon Hanna, Veteran's Service Officer, arrived at the meeting. He provided a 2017 VSO report for Sargent County that included statistics on the number of veterans served, contacts with the Department of Veterans Affairs on behalf of veterans and spouses, and veterans benefits secured for Sargent County veterans, along with additional information pertaining to the performance of his duties. A copy of the report is available from the Sargent County VSO's office. The commission thanked Mr. Hanna for his service to veterans in Sargent County and commended him on a job well done.

More discussion was held on repairs to the main street building where the Sargent County Health Unit is located. The hole in one wall of the exam room has been repaired and the bill has been submitted for

consideration at today's meeting. Motion to replace the flooring in the exam room this year at an approximate cost of \$1,230.39 and to budget for replacement of the remainder of the floor coverings in the rest of the building in 2019. (Hosford/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Merrill Engquist, Road Supervisor; & John Quandt, representing Lovell Improvement Project LLC; arrived at the meeting. Lovell Improvement Project LLC has filed an Application for Drainage Work Within County Road Right-of-Way. The description of the work is to build the Lovell Improvement Project ditch on the north side of County Road #5 through Section 6-129-58 Southwest Township; and install 2 42" X 120' culverts through County #5 on the county line and 1 36" X 60' culvert through 115th Ave and 1 36" X 60' through County Road #5 at the intersection of 115th Ave and County Road #5. Mr. Quandt stated, and Road Supervisor Engquist confirmed, that the plan provides that all work within the right-of-way is to be done to County road specifications. Lovell Improvement Project LLC is also requesting cost share for the culverts at a cost to Sargent County for its share of \$2,588. Mr. Quandt stated that Lovell Improvement Project LLC will be requesting 1/3 cost share for the culverts in Sargent County from the Sargent County Water Resource Board, 1/3 from Sargent County Road Department, with 1/3 to be paid by Lovell Improvement Project LLC. The Counties' share of cost for the 2 42" by 120' culverts through County #5 is to be split between Dickey County and Sargent County, with each County's Road Department and WRB paying for 1/3 of 1/2 of the culverts, providing all agree. Motion to grant the permit and the 1/3 cost share request up to a maximum of \$2,588. (Anderson/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Engquist also stated that the graveling projects will be started soon. He was authorized to advertise for a part-time person to help out at the road department at a rate of \$15/hour. He had information for the Bobcat trade-in from Berube's in Lisbon, but was instructed to also contact Lillegard's in Wahpeton for a quote.

Vacancies on the County School Re-organization Board were discussed. The state's attorney will do some research on the necessity of maintaining this board to bring back to the next meeting.

Motion to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the Court Services Contracts with the District Court Administrator, Milnor City and Forman City. (Anderson/Hosford) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

The board recessed for lunch at 12:10 p.m.

The board reconvened at 1:15 p.m. with Commissioner Hosford absent.

Motion to appoint Brenda Peterson to the Sargent County Social Service Board, to replace Teresa Brummond who declined to accept re-appointment after serving for 7 terms, 21 years, on the Board. (Anderson/Arth, unanimous) On behalf of Sargent County, the Commission extended a sincere "Thank You" to Ms. Brummond for her valuable service, and for a job well done.

Motion to approve the Agreement between Ransom County and Sargent County for Sharing Sargent County Social Service Board Employee (Wrap Around Case Manager). (Arth/Jacobson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve and authorize the chairman and the auditor to sign the Agreement to Provide Professional Services between Sargent County and Computer Professionals Unlimited, Inc. (Anderson/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve Sargent County Road Permit for Montana-Dakota Utilities Company for a 12" HDPE gas pipeline to be installed along County Road #8. This crossing will be in the ND DOT right-of-way when crossing County Road #8. The purpose of the pipeline is to carry natural gas to Gwinner, at this time, with the possibility that service may be extended to other communities in the County in the future. (Jacobson/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve Sargent County Road Permits for Southeast Water Users for the installation of rural water pipelines in two locations: Kingston Township Sections 1-2 130-53 – County Road #14; & Milnor Township Sections 4-5 132-54 – County Road #10. (Arth/Jacobson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

There are four applications for [the position of Sargent County] Emergency Manager/911 Coordinator. Bill Anderson, Emergency Manager Portfolio Commissioner; Mike Walstead, Commission Chairman; & Lyle Bopp or Jayne Pfau, State's Attorney's Office will conduct interviews and make a recommendation to the Commission as soon as possible.

Motion to authorize the Chairman to execute a letter of support for the North Dakota Department of Transportation's (ND DOT) application for a BUILD Grant from the U. S. DOT for the inspection and possible repair or replacement of bridges within the State. NDDOT will only be submitting one application, and that application is intended to help LPA's (Counties) load test bridges that may be able to carry a higher load than originally calculated and also replace certain load deficient (posted) bridges with innovative construction methods that will allow the bridges to safely carry heavier loads. (Anderson/Jacobson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

The commission reviewed a request from inmyarea.com to attach a link to the county's website for a housing and relocation resource for veterans. The commissioners requested that Jon Hanna, Veteran's Service Officer, review the request before making a decision.

Approve June payroll in the sum of \$203,470.82 (Nos. 15001-15068 & 77082-77094) and the following bills: (Jacobson/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

77000-77003		Weed Control Expenses	471.35
77004	Ottertail Power Company	JDA Milnor Spec Home	15.65
77005-77008		Weed Control; Expenses	533.93
77017-77028		Health Unit Expenses	2,146.52
77029	Forman City	Water/Sewer/Garbage	166.31
77030	Ottertail Power Company	Electricity	1,366.02
77031	Ransom County	VSO Salary/Benefits	899.73
77034	Ottertail Power Company	JDA Milnor Spec. Home	12.39
77035-77050		Health Unit Expenses	8,613.70
77068-77081		Human Services Expenses	1,990.31
77095	Ameripride Linen	Cleaning Services	137.69
77096	AMS-Alcohol Monitoring	GPS Rental Fee	100.00
77097	Avid Hawk, LLC	Web Services	45.00
77098	B & K Electric	Health Dept. Bldg. Repair	146.56
77099	Black Gold Suites III	T/R/ COC Travel	255.00
77100	Bopp Law Office	Rent/Telephone	450.00
77101	Bryant, Rick	Prisoner Transport	104.90
77102	Burleigh County Sheriff	Delinquent Tax Service	39.00
77103	Cass County Sheriff	Delinquent Tax Service	157.00
77104	Cenex Fleet Card	T/R/CoC Gas Purchases	37.73
77105	Computer Prof. Unlimited	Data processing	1,255.58
77106	Crossroads Electric	Air Conditioners	9,081.72
77107	Dacotah Paper Company	Copier Paper	618.60
77108	CHS-Dakota Plains	Gas Purchases	1,159.00
77109	Dakota Water Solutions	Water Jugs	62.00
77110	Dickey Rural Networks	Telephone	1,016.18
77111	DS Solutions	Primary Election Test Deck	175.00
77112	Election System & Software	Primary Election Supplies	4,279.35
77113	Galls	Sheriff Equipment	300.91
77114	Gordy's Grill & Fill	Sheriff Car Washes	308.00
77115	Gwinner One-Stop	Sheriff Gas Purchases	608.24
77116	Hanson, Trace	Election Canvas Board	51.09
77117	Hardware Hank	Courthouse Supplies	64.80
77118	Information Tech. Dept.	Wan Access/Netmotion	1,480.20
77119	Johnson, Bryan	Sheriff Travel/Training	220.86
77120	Kirk's Ag Repair	Wheel Bearings Repaired	25.90
77121	Lanelle's Reporting Service	Deposition Copies	239.25
77122	Liberty Business Systems	Postage Meter Cartridge	208.80
77123	Lisbon Area Health	Blood Alcohol Draw	44.00
77124	Maloney, Pam	Election Expenses	87.00
77125	ND County Auditor Assoc.	2018 Annual Dues	200.00
77126	ND State Radio	LETS License Renewal	180.00
77127	Nelson Home Center	Supplies	110.97
77128	Office of Attorney General	SCRAM/Savin Fees	1,733.00
77129	Peterson, Brenda	Coroner Travel	27.25
77130	Pharmchem, Inc.	Sweat Patch Analysis	199.85
77131	Quill.com	Election/Office Supplies	173.89
77132	Richland County Corrections	Prisoner Board	2,640.00
77133	Sargent County Sheriff Office	Delinquent Tax Service	2,050.00
77134	Sargent County Teller	Printing/Publishing	946.74
77135	Shopko	Extension AC/Plants	200.07
77136	Sirchie	Fingerprint Pad	56.77

77137	Staybridge Suites	Sheriff Travel	83.70
77138	Teal's Market	Election Expense	55.24
77139	Tougas, Tanner	Sheriff Travel/Training	465.29
77140	Uniform Center	Sheriff Uniform	273.15
77141	Vanguard Appraisals	Network Service Fees	1,600.00
77142	Verizon Wireless	Sheriff MIFI Cards	200.05
77143	Walstead, Mike	Election Canvass Travel	6.54
77144	Wild Rice Soil Conservation	Trees	3.00
77145	Wyum, Sheila	Election Canvas Board	60.90
77146-77153		Weed Control Expenses	4,644.59
77154	CHS-Dakota Plains	Road Fuel Purchases	4,136.36
77155	Ekstrom Repair	03 GMC/86 INT. Repair	1,983.28
77156	Enderson Construction	Gravel Stockpile	102,000.00
77157	Interstate Engineering	Gravel Testing/HSIP	2,996.98
77158	John Deere Financial	JD 6130ML Tractor Lease	4,354.30
77159	Lee's Service Station	Tires Chevy 2500	1,063.50
77160	Nelson's Bulk Oil	Road Fuel	4,519.22
77161	Rutland Oil Company	Road Gasoline	1,912.50
77162	Southside Automotive	Oil Filter	4.99
77163	Visto's Carquest	Road Shop Supplies	97.89
77164	Welton's Tire Service	Tires-2440	1,620.00
77165	Christianson, Kylie	Extension Cooking Camp	78.48
77166	Dickey Rural Network	911 Trunks	231.00
77167	Forman Market	Ext Ag Safety Day Meal	105.97
77168	Fyre, Amber	Ext STEM Camp Supplies	330.20
77169	Klapperich, Cindy	Extension FCS Travel	298.78
77170	Lake Agassiz Regional Council	2018 Pledge	1,500.00
77171	NDACO	911 Wireless	480.99
77172	SC Treasurer	Extension Postage	169.25
77173	The Keg	Ext STEM Camp Gifts	48.00
77174	VISA	Extension Supplies	447.72

The state's attorney brought an item to the commissioner's attention. There is a class action lawsuit for counties that received a PILT payment in FY 2015, 2016 and/or 2017, due to the Congress's failure to appropriate the funds directed in Federal Law. The notice explains that to participate in the class action lawsuit, and collect the amounts due to them through the class action lawsuit, each underpaid PILT recipient must complete and submit a form "opting into" the lawsuit. Motion: to "opt in" to the class action lawsuit; for the state's attorney to notify plaintiff's counsel of the County's decision to opt in; and, to authorize the state's attorney to act on behalf of Sargent County in the proceedings. (Anderson/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hosford arrived back at the meeting.

Alison Toepke, Sargent County Treasurer/Recorder/Clerk of Court, arrived at the meeting. She updated the commissioners on the salary market survey. There have been 6 survey questionnaires returned out of the 17 requested by the County's pay plan consultant. The consultant is sending out reminders to those entities that have not yet responded to the initial request for information.

Commissioner Walstead gave a report on the Hostile Work Environment Complaint, and of progress in the counseling sessions in which the employee who had been found to have created the hostile work environment has been required to participate. Counseling is ongoing.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

MIKE WALSTEAD – CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

PAM MALONEY – COUNTY AUDITOR