

June 2, 2020
Forman, North Dakota

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room with the following members present: Lyle Bopp, Richard Ruch, and Jerry Waswick. Also present were Jayne Pfau, State's Attorney and Sharon Halmrast, Chief Deputy Auditor. Present through technology were: Commissioner Bill Anderson and Mary Engst, Sargent County Teller.

Chairman Waswick called the meeting to order.

Motion to approve May 19 & May 26 minutes as presented (Ruch/Bopp). Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Approve License renewal for the El Zagal Viking Patrol, Gwinner, for gaming activities conducted at Dilly's Bar 'N' Grill, Stirum (Bopp/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Property owned by the county in the city of Forman parcel #26-8046000 located in original townsite-S1/2 lot 3; all lots 4-5; & N20' lot 6, Block 7 in which the building was removed has been deemed a hazardous site.

Motion to hire clean-up and fill in basement hole of county owned parcel #26-8046000 in the city of Forman. (Ruch/Bopp). Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Lyle Bopp reported that the crew from General Roofing was back to finish the sandblasting and painting of the courthouse dome and to replace the windows in the dome.

Wendy Willprecht, Emergency Manager, arrived at meeting for the COVID-19 update. Also arriving through technology, Brenda Peterson and Brianna Spellerberg, Sargent County Health Department, and Alison Toepke, Treasurer/Recorder/Clerk of Court.

Willprecht had brought to the commission information and a recommendation that the county invest in a countywide emergency notification system which alerts the public by text, e-mail or mobile phone app relating to missing persons, weather alerts and such use as the county sees fit to notify public. She explained the benefits and contract specifications of the CodeRED emergency notification system at a cost of \$2500.00 per year. Willprecht also stated that 75% of the cost could be paid with the Hazardous Mitigation funds available leaving an annual payment of \$625.00 out of county funding. As emergency manager she would be in charge of gathering a public database and implementing this system.

Motion to approve recommendation to use Hazardous Mitigation funding to subscribe to CodeRED emergency notification system for one year.(Bopp/Anderson) Roll Call Vote: Yes-Anderson, Waswick, & Bopp. No-Ruch. Motion carried.

Willprecht also presented eligibility certification under the Cares Act Coronavirus Relief Fund to be signed. This certification allows the county to request financial assistance payments to cover any necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency and governor's disaster declaration on March 13, 2020 in respect to COVID-19 that were not accounted for in the 2020 county budget and that were incurred during the period that began March 1, 2020 and ends December 30, 2020.

Motion to have Chairman Waswick sign eligibility certification under the Cares Act Coronavirus Relief Fund (Anderson/Bopp). Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Willprecht informed commission there is a county Multi-Hazard Mitigation meeting scheduled on June 17th here at the courthouse. Suggestion to use courtroom as it allows for better social distancing was given and all attending will be required to wear face covering while in the courthouse as per Sargent County COVID-19 policy.

Commissioners had previously been meeting every Tuesday since March, the onset of the Coronavirus Pandemic. It was decided weekly meetings are no longer needed and updates will be given at regular monthly commission meetings. Updates to COVID-19 policies were next topic reviewed.

Motion to have employees that were formerly working off-site return to their courthouse offices on June 15th. (Bopp/Ruch). Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Brenda Peterson, Department Head of County Health Department reported that Doosan Bobcat had denied her request for open communication about COVID-19 cases at the Gwinner factory citing worker privacy concerns. She will contact the Steelworker's Union for any information they can provide. She also stated Four Seasons Healthcare Center and the Villa in Forman are taking the next steps needed to open those facilities to the public. In answer to question asked about antibody testing in the county. None is available as of yet.

Commissioner Jason Arth arrived at the meeting.

Motion was made to amend the Sargent County COVID-19 policy regarding employee entry to courthouse to read: Employees are no longer required to enter through the Sheriff's office door. You may use any door you choose, but make sure the door is locked behind you. (Bopp/Ruch). Roll Call Vote: Yes – Arth, Bopp, Ruch & Waswick. No – Anderson. Motion carried.

Denise Ferderer, Sargent County Tax Director, arrived at the meeting.

Chairman Waswick called to recess the regular session of the commission meeting.

County Board of Equalization Meeting convened at 10:30 AM. with the following present: Commissioners Jerry Waswick, Jason Arth, Lyle Bopp, Richard Ruch. Also present were Denise Ferderer, Tax Director, Merrill Engquist, County Road Supervisor, Margie Johnson, State's Attorney Legal Assistant, and Sharon Halmrast, Chief Deputy Auditor. Present through technology were: Commissioner Bill Anderson and Mary Engst, Sargent County Teller.

Denise Ferderer, Sargent County Tax Director reported that her department had mailed out 365 farm residence exemption applications to farmers in the county, 105 of those had not replied in the given time allowed. Exemption forms were due in the Tax Department office by the end of February and that deadline was extended into March and then extended once again. Ferderer also stated that two additional reminders were sent to those farmers not replying by the extended deadline.

Motion made to place those farm exemptions that were not received in the Tax Director's office by the deadline on the tax roll and those will not be available for abatement. (Arth/Anderson). Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve inundated land as recommended by the Tax Director. (Anderson/Arth). Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Ferderer also recommended an increase of 7% for agricultural lands, an 8% increase in residential and a 3% in commercial property values. She explained the process for value increases and questions from the commission led to a call to recess and to reconvene equalization meeting at next commission meeting, June 16th at 10:30 a.m. after Ferderer contacts the state for their guidance on determining property values.

Chairman Waswick reconvened regular commission meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Merrill Engquist, Road Supervisor, reported on the need for a Walk-n-Roll packer/roller and information he had received to purchase one.

Motion to purchase the Walk-n-Roll packer/roller as recommended by Engquist, Road Supervisor, in amount of \$23,500.00 financed over 4 years through SCB Finance.(Arth/Anderson). Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Information was presented on the upcoming Primary Election and action needed by the commission.

Motion to appoint Sharon Halmrast, Chief Deputy Auditor and in the absence of Pam Maloney, County Auditor, acting Auditor, as Election Administrator and to appoint April Bladow, temporary Deputy Auditor as Election Inspector for the upcoming primary election to be held on June 9th, 2020. (Anderson/Bopp). Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05

JERRY WASWICK – CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

SHARON HALMRAST– CHIEF DEPUTY AUDITOR