

Forman, North Dakota  
June 5, 2001

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present: Don Wehlander, W.E. Smith, Ray Brockman, Karen Anderson and Steve Wyum. Absent none.

Approve May 15, 2001 minutes as corrected. (Wyum/Brockman, unanimous)

Karen Anderson was contacted about using the courthouse lawn for activities during Forman Car Fest Days on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Approve use of the lawn and various activities.

Approve County Deed to Lester L. Larson, Sioux Falls, SD for Lot 9, Block 1, Camp's Addition, Cogswell City. (Wyum/Brockman, unanimous)

Approve County Deed to Louis and Valerie Anderson, Cogswell, ND for E1/2 of Lots 1-2, Block 2, Camp's Addition, Cogswell City. (Smith/Anderson, unanimous)

Wiley Township requested cost share on a 48-inch culvert located between Section 7 and 18 to replace an existing culvert. Approve 1/3 cost share. (Brockman/Smith, unanimous)

Re-appoint Rick Hoistad, District 3 to the Sargent County Planning Commission for a term of four years. (Brockman/Anderson, unanimous)

Discussed a request from Job Corps Program to do a presentation on June 14. Refer letter to Wendy Jacobson, Director, Sargent County Social Services for coordination.

Received bridge inventory and appraisal sheets and reviewed remarks.

The Board of Equalization proceeded to organize for 2001. Those present were Norm Preble, Tax Director, Dave Finley, H. Lawrence Strouse, William Rust, Gordon Phillips, Dennis Mitchell, Orville Gehring. A discussion on land values and inundated applications followed and the Board instructed Norm Preble to review the requests and make a recommendation at the June 19 meeting. The Board recessed until 6-19-01.

The Board proceeded to participate in a pre-construction conference for the seal coat project at various locations through Sargent County for a total of 28 miles.

Dale Fuhrman and Glenn Dorr, City of Milnor and Interstate Engineering, Inc. met with the Board to discuss widening Main Street in Milnor. The city is not large enough to sponsor the project, which entails a walkway/bike path for school children to use so they can get off the roadway. The walkway would solve this problem but for stalled vehicles there is no place for them to pull over. The city feels widening the street would be the best solution. The county has 80 feet right-of-way (40-feet on each side of the centerline). This project would be coordinated with the NDDOT for transportation enhancement but there would be additional easements needed before it can start. The county could agree to sponsor the project and work on the details after the plan is prepared. Approve as acting agent on behalf of the city of Milnor to conduct a preliminary engineering report, with the cost to be paid by the city of Milnor. (Smith/Brockman, unanimous)

Cindy Leinen and Brian Tayer, ambulance coordinators met with the Board to update them on ambulance activities.

Stan Melroe met with the Board to discuss valuation of land. Norm Preble was also present. Mr. Melroe is concerned about the increase value in his land, which is the re-instatement of value on land that was inundated and was not eligible in 2001. He feels the land value has changed substantially in the past years due to the wet conditions. Mr. Melroe could apply in the future for inundated reduction on some of the land that does not receive any other payments.

Chuck Gates met with the Board regarding the letters of resignation from Deputy Paeper and Deputy Buckhouse. Accept Scott Buckhouse resignation. (Brockman/Wyum, unanimous) Deputy Paeper has requested that his resignation be withdrawn and continue employment in Sargent County. Mr. Paeper continues to serve as a deputy in Sargent County. Chuck provided some numbers on beginning salary amounts for a new deputy. The Sargent County pay plan allows hiring at a step 4 without Board approval. Approve a range of Grade 6 Step 4-8 for another deputy based on qualifications. (Wyum/Smith, unanimous)

Sandy Hanson, DEM was contacted by Cogswell City who is experiencing problem with their lift station and have declared an emergency in the city. When the lift station was started last fall it was dry and now it is wet. They need \$40,000 to pump the water to continue with the lift station project. Other entities have contacted Sandy regarding water problems but the dollars are minimal. Cogswell cannot apply for emergency/disaster status unless the county declares.

Commissioner Wyum moved to declare a state of emergency situation in Sargent County, seconded by Karen Anderson, carried. The following Declaration was adopted, and signed by Sandra Hanson, Emergency Manager and Donald Wehlander, Chairman.

**DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, Sargent County has suffered damages to the public transportation system, farmlands, homes, culverts, and drainage systems being caused by the continued excessive ground water and

WHEREAS, the impact of these damages are a threat to the health, well-being, and public safety of the citizens and traveling public in Sargent County;

WHEREAS, the costs of repairs, replacements, and safety measures of such areas within Sargent County are exceeding the available resources of local townships, residents, and county resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners declare an emergency and orders the activation and utilization of the County Emergency operation plan and its procedures to monitor the situation, develop a detailed damage assessment, and continue to alleviate hardship, and initiate appropriate relief actions and mitigation measures by departments and agencies of local government to limit the impact of this emergency upon the affected citizens of Sargent County.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

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DONALD WEHLANDER - CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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SHERRY HOSFORD - AUDITOR