

Forman, North Dakota
June 5, 2007

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9 a.m. with the following members present: Mike Walstead, Steve Wyum, Bill Anderson, and Jerry Waswick. Absent: Maurice Orn, who is attending a MRI Garrison Diversion committee meeting.

Approve May 16, 2007 minutes as corrected. (Wyum/Waswick, unanimous).

Sandy Hanson, EMS/911 coordinator and Sparky Engquist, road supervisor met with the Board to discuss areas that sustained damage following the heavy rainfall June 1 & 2. Sparky reviewed problem areas on the county road system. Sandy contacted the cities and was informed that most had similar problems with seepage into their homes but most infrastructures did not sustain any serious damage. The criteria for individual and family assistance was discussed and discussion on an Emergency Declaration. Adopt and declare the following resolution: (Wyum/Walstead, unanimous)

Sargent County Emergency Declaration

WHEREAS, County, Township and City Roads, drainage systems, and related infrastructure in Sargent County have suffered damage caused by spring rains, high water tables, and ground saturation, occurring in May and June of 2007, and continuing.

WHEREAS, these damages have caused a serious threat to Public Safety, endangering citizens who are dependent on this infrastructure for safe travel, economic needs, and emergency response needs in the county.

WHEREAS, the high water tables and ground saturation have also caused damages to residential structures within the County, resulting in water seepage, mold, mildew and other conditions which threaten the health and well being of the residents of Sargent County.

WHEREAS, the cost of the response to this disaster, and the cost of the repair and replacement of such damaged property exceeds the resources available to citizens and local County, Township and City governments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners declares an emergency and orders the activation of Emergency operations to monitor the situation, alleviate hardship and initiate appropriate relief actions and mitigation measures by departments and agencies of local government to limit the hardships and impact of this emergency upon the citizens of Sargent County.

DATED at Forman, North Dakota, this 5th Day of June, 2007.

Bill Anderson, Chairperson
Sargent County Board of Commissioners

Sparky also recommended that the county put the new job description for shop foreman/head mechanic in place and approve Martin Bommersbach for this position at a Grade 7/Step 9 effective June 1, 2007. Approve recommendation based on an employee with excellent qualifications who justifies an increase. (Wyum/Walstead, unanimous)

The Board proceeded to review proposals for an insurance agent to handle the county insurance policy through North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund. Present at the meeting were Lynette Elijah, Wallock-Johnson Insurance, Inc. and Barbara Enderson and Paula Tayer, Sargent County Insurance & Real Estate. Tabled a decision until June 19 at 9:00 a.m.

Gina Hillestad, Risk Manager met with the Board to discuss a problem with reporting issues to Work Force Safety. She reviewed the procedure including the time frame for reporting injuries, follow-up and a discount program on reporting within 24 hours. There are some problems with the road department not reporting injuries and Gina advised the Board of the additional assessments charged to the county for failing to make these reports. The Board decided that a mandatory safety meeting be called to visit with employees about injuries and stress the importance of the safety program. Chairman Anderson and Commissioner Wyum will attend the meeting.

The Board of Review and Equalization proceeded to organize for 2007. Norm Preble, Tax Director and Mike Campbell, Sargent Central Supt. arrived at the meeting. Mr. Preble presented the proposed changes by the townships and cities for 2007 and also the proposed changes at the county level. The Board reviewed the changes and discussed recommendations. The Board of Review and Equalization recessed until June 19, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.

Sherry Hosford, County Auditor, proceeded to review legislative changes with the Commission. The state travel reimbursement rate will increase on August 1, 2007 from 37.5 cents to 45 cents per mile. A motion made that based on state mileage reimbursement rate increasing from 37.5 to 45 cents on August 1, 2007, and continuing rising gas prices that Sargent County increase to 45 cents effective July 1, 2007. (Waswick/Anderson Roll call: Aye: Anderson and Waswick. Nay: Walstead and Wyum. Absent: Orn. Motion failed for lack of majority) Currently Sargent County pays mileage reimbursement at 87.5% of the federal rate or the state rate, whichever is greater. Lodging rates will also increase to \$55 on August 1.

Other legislative changes included the 5 year delinquent tax notice. HB1332 reduces the amount of time that a property tax obligation can go without payment from 57 months to 33 months and provides an implementation schedule and waiver of penalties and interest to cushion the effect on taxpayers. The new legislative property tax break is based on the 2006 property taxes of which 10% can be claimed as credit for the 2007 income tax – however the 2006 tax must be “paid” to claim the credit.

Voting legislative changes include the option to utilize “vote centers”, which allows counties to transfer voter records to one another through the Central Voter File, consistent start date of the first of the month for all elected offices, allows counties to conduct all elections by mail, allows the use of electronic (computerized) poll books in the polling sites and removes the responsibility of appointing clerks for polling sites from the political parties and allows counties to hire clerks based on ability.

Discussed the purchasing card program, implementation of detailed or general soils data in the assessment of agricultural land, the homestead tax credit for disabled American veterans and consolidating mill levies.

The Board recessed at 12:15 for lunch.

The Board reconvened at 3:45 p.m. following Sargent County Park Board meeting and coffee honoring Sherry Hosford, County Auditor celebrating 30 years of service to Sargent County.

Accept bid from Bernard Mahrer Construction, Inc. for Bituminous Hot Mix (PG58-28) FOB Thorp pit at \$30 per ton (not including oil). (Wyum/Waswick, unanimous)

Jerry Waswick reported on policies to cover police officers who are policing dances. Sheriff Paeper will meet with the Board at the next meeting to discuss these policies.

Reappoint Lance Gulleeson, Rutland, (District No. 1) Bud Heinert, Milnor (District No. 2) and Diane McDaniel, Gwinner (District No. 5) to the Sargent County Planning Commission for a 4-year term. (Walstead/Waswick, unanimous)

Discussed audit services for Sargent County through the State Auditor’s Office versus private CPA’s. A proposal was read from Rath & Mehrer, CPAs, of Bismarck to conduct an audit for the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2007 for a fee not to exceed \$6,200 including travel and out of pocket expenses. If an A-133 audit is required, an additional fee of \$500 will be charged and a review fee of approximately \$165 by the State Auditor’s Office. Currently Sargent County is being audited each year for a fee of approximately \$6000 per year. Approve proposal from Rath and Mehrer for a bi-annual audit and a savings of \$6000 to the county. (Walstead/Wyum, unanimous)

Weber Township Board of Supervisors requested cost share on 2 36” culverts located between Section 26 & 27 and in an approach on the NW1/4 of Section 24. They also were seeking assistance on a 48” culvert on the state line road that need rip rap and gravel to repair the hole in the road. Approve 1/3 cost share of the culvert between Section 26 and 27 and deny cost share on the other culvert and road repairs. (Wyum/Waswick, unanimous)

Approve Special Permit to serve Alcoholic Beverages to Stir'Um Up Bar and Grill on July 27 and 28 for the Stirum Celebration Street Dance and Parade at the Stirum Hall and on August 25 for the 13th Annual Hair Bear Run Honoring Jerry Anderson for Diabetes Foundation outside across the street from the Stir'Um Up Bar and Grill. (Waswick/Walstead, unanimous)

Approve Games of Chance SC2007-04 to Stirum Community Club for a raffle on July 28 at the Stirum Hall. (Waswick/Walstead, unanimous)

Damon DeVillers, Interstate Engineering, Inc. met with the Board to discuss bridges located in Hall Township. He inspected the sites and will continue with a written report to both the commission and the water board.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

BILL ANDERSON – CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

SHERRY HOSFORD - AUDITOR