

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present: Jerry Waswick, David Jacobson, Sherry Hosford, and Bill Anderson. Absent: Mike Walstead. Also present was Paige Cary, The Sargent County Teller; and Pam Maloney, Sargent County Auditor.

Mark Gainor, Milnor Airport Authority, met with the commission to inquire as to whether it might be possible to raise the county airport authority mill levy to obtain more funds for improvements at the Milnor Airport. He updated the board on improvements to facilities and equipment at the Milnor Airport, and grant monies received to purchase a Bobcat with snow blower and snow bucket for the removal of snow from the runway. The board will review the current airport authority contracts between Sargent County and the cities of Milnor and Gwinner and will consider the Milnor Airport Authority's additional mill request at budget time. The board commended Mr. Gainor on the work done at the airport to retain and improve it as a viable and vital asset of the Sargent County community.

Approve minutes of the May 17, 2016, commission meeting as corrected. (Hosford/Anderson, unanimous)

Commissioner Anderson reported that he had circulated a draft of a possible new Electronic Communications Device (ECD) plan for review, input & comments from Department Heads, employees and commissioners. The goal of the plan is to have a uniform, coherent & consistent reimbursement plan for those employees who use cellular phones/smart phones in the performance of their duties, and for the conduct of county business. A final draft of the ECD Plan will be presented for consideration by the Commission at the June 21, 2016, Commission meeting.

Jayne Pfau, Assistant State's Attorney, arrived at 10:05 a.m.

The auditor was instructed to advertise for two positions on the Planning Commission. Geneva Waswick has resigned from the board, & another position which has been vacant since 2011 will need to be filled, as the board has business before it and is active again.

More discussion was held regarding the ND PERS retirement plan. The Auditor reported that a majority of County employees have expressed the desire to enroll in the ND PERS Retirement Plan. It will be discussed further at a later date.

Donna Eklund, county resident, arrived at the meeting.

Sandy Hanson, Tax Director arrived at the meeting. The Board of Review and Equalization proceeded to organize for 2016.

Sandy next presented 2016 county average value per all cropland/agricultural acreage as set by the ND State Tax Commissioners Office. The State Board of Equalization has made the decision to allow a 10% tolerance on agricultural lands from the 100% value as set by the State Tax Commissioner. Ms. Hanson recommends a 1% increase which would put the county average for Sargent County at an average of \$898.29 per acre or 95.5% of the 2016 value as determined by the State of North Dakota. Motion to approve the County Tax Director's recommendation of a 1% increase on all agricultural lands in Sargent County. (Anderson/Hosford) Roll call vote: Yes – Waswick, Anderson, Hosford, & Jacobson. Absent: Walstead. Motion carried.

The tax director recommended no changes to the commercial values at this time, as Sargent County's commercial sales ratio is in compliance, and the County will be doing a complete re-valuation starting in the fall of 2016, to be in place for the 2017 equalization. Motion to approve the recommendation of no changes to commercial properties within the cities and townships, pursuant to the recommendation of the Tax Director. (Jacobson/Anderson, unanimous)

Motion to approve all changes in residential values including market trend adjustments, as well as non-market adjustments as recommended by the County Tax Director. (Anderson/Jacobson, unanimous)

The Board of Review and Equalization adjourned "SINE DIE". (Hosford/Jacobson, unanimous)

An Application for Abatement of Taxes was received from Tyler & Betsy Speich, Milnor, for abatement of taxes on a residence on the SW1/4 of NW1/4 of SW1/4 2-131-53 that had been previously valued as residential, but which is now a tax exempt farm residence. The Herman

Township Board of Supervisors has approved the abatement application. Motion to concur with Herman Township. (Anderson/Jacobson, unanimous)

Calvin Jacobson, Rutland, arrived at the meeting.

Discussion was held regarding a "Notice of Telephone Hearing Appeal in the Matter of a Claim for Job Insurance Benefits" received regarding Wendy Jacobson, former Social Service Director. Commissioners Jacobson, Hosford, and Anderson plan to be in attendance for the telephone hearing, as well as Lyle Bopp, State's Attorney & Jayne Pfau, Assistant State's Attorney. Said hearing will be Thursday, June 9 at 4:00 p.m.

More discussion was held regarding air conditioning in the extension support staff office. Currently, there is a portable freestanding air conditioner which takes up floor space & is noisier than the wall mounted units in the rest of the Courthouse. Commissioner Waswick will look into alternatives.

Charissa Ruby, Cayuga, arrived at the meeting to discuss County Road #14 road issues. She is wondering when the road will be graveled and when the dust control will be applied. The commissioners informed her that the road is on the priority list to be graveled and dust control has been authorized for 2016. The mag-chloride dust control will not be applied until the graveling has been completed. She stated that there is a soft spot just north of Geneseo that, in her opinion, should be fixed before new gravel goes on. Commissioner Hosford reported that she has spoken with Road Supervisor Engquist about this stretch of road, and he had stated that the road crew is working on pulling in the shoulders on County Road #14. He also is aware of the soft spot and plans to correct that before the new gravel goes on. Ms. Rubey also stated that she is very appreciative of the new signs that were put up, but that the posts were not straightened, and therefore, some of the signs are in the ditch and not seen very well. The matter will be referred to Road Commissioner Walstead and brought to the Road Supervisor's attention.

Motion to authorize the chairman and county auditor to sign the "Notice to Proceed" and all copies of the Construction Agreement between Sargent County and Mark Sand & Gravel for the Surge Funding Project, Mine and Blend, Aggregate Base, Hot Bituminous Surfacing and Incidentals for Sargent County #14 from Sargent County #5 south to the North Dakota/South Dakota border. (Jacobson/Anderson, unanimous)

Discussion on the permit renewal application that has been submitted to the State of North Dakota by Big Dipper Enterprises for a solid waste management facility near Gwinner. At this time, the commission has no comments concerning the application for permit renewal.

Discussion on the request from the Sargent County Sheriff's Office to approve a uniform fee structure with the state of North Dakota for oversize overweight load movement and special mobile equipment single trip permits. Uniformity promotes greater compliance because it simplifies the process for the user. Motion to authorize and approve changing Sargent County fees to the same as those charged by the state of North Dakota so there is a uniform fee structure. (Hosford/Anderson, unanimous)

Meeting recessed for lunch at 12:10 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 1:10 p.m.

Acknowledgement, and acceptance, with regret, of Michael Werner's letter of resignation as Assistant Ambulance Coordinator, Milnor Squad.

Motion to approve renewal of the Sunday Permit for the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages at CDPB, LLC, Coteau des Prairie Lodge, 9953 141st Ave SE, Havana ND, for twelve months. (Jacobson/Anderson, unanimous)

Acknowledgement of letter from Moore Engineering regarding Sargent County Water Resource District Watershed Planning Process for Shortfoot Creek. At this time, the commission has no comments or concerns to furnish towards the study.

The RFP selection committee met on Wednesday, June 1 and interviewed three applicants for the construction engineering of the Hall Township Bridge Project. The applicants were Interstate Engineering, Wahpeton, ND; SRF Consulting Group, Fargo, ND; & Taney Engineering, Minot, ND. The committee recommends hiring Interstate Engineering to perform construction engineering services for BRO-0041(012) (Hall Township Bridge Project). Motion to approve the recommendation of the selection committee and hire Interstate Engineering. (Jacobson/Anderson, unanimous)

Approve Sargent County Road Permit to RC Technologies for digging in fiber optic cable in Marboe Township along County Road #14. (Anderson/Jacobson, unanimous)

Authorize chairman to sign letter of support to Gwinner City regarding proposed sewer system improvements within the city. Sargent County is not aware of any conflict that the proposed project might have with any county comprehensive plan for the area. (Anderson/Hosford, unanimous)

More discussion was held regarding the concrete repair work at the elevator entrance on the west side of the courthouse. Another quote has been received and Commissioner Waswick will visit with both contractors to make sure the quotes are for the same scope of work.

The commissioners had received an email from a concerned citizen regarding a culvert in a field approach that appears to be in the county road right-of-way north of Brampton. County Road #4 in this area is situated on the old Milwaukee Road railway right of way which has a different width than the right of way for most other County roads. The State's Attorney is checking right-of-way in this area to determine if the county has jurisdiction and authority to require the landowner to correct the problem.

Motion to appoint Commission Chairman Jerry Waswick as Chairman of the Primary Election Canvassing Board which will meet Monday, June 20 at 10 a.m. (Hosford/Anderson, unanimous)

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

JERRY WASWICK - CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

PAM MALONEY – COUNTY AUDITOR