

July 23, 2009

A Special meeting was held on 2:00 p.m. with the following present: Steve Wyum, Jerry Waswick, Maurice Orn, Bill Anderson and Mike Walstead. Absent: none. Also present: Lyle Bopp, States Attorney, Sandra Hanson, Emergency Manager, Greg Wilz, Dick Kupitz and Paul Messner, NDEMS and Holly Jessen, The Sargent County Teller.

Steve Wyum opened the meeting with comments on past disaster emergencies and informed those present that Sargent County is perplexed at this point with the process. In the past the NDEMS personnel and FEMA worked well with the emergencies and completing the project worksheets.

Mr. Wilz explained all the events that happened this spring in North Dakota and the need for calling in more assistance from FEMA. There are problems that have arisen and Mr. Wilz assured the Board that he is committed to fix the problems that have occurred in both Sargent and Ransom County. Other discussion followed on the confusion and contradictory actions that were going on including completion of the project worksheets. Mr. Wilz stated that with hiring new inspectors, they were instructed to follow the FEMA inspectors to watch and learn the process. Sandy Hanson needs to know what the plans are and how to get the work accomplished in a timelier manner. Sandy has made arrangements for office space, phone and fax for the inspectors and they have not used this space.

It was noted that townships are experiencing problems due to lack of financial resources and sitting there with the damage and unrepaired sites and waiting for it to be inspected and authorized by FEMA to proceed with the repairs. According to Mr. Wilz, if there is a roadway with life and safety issues, the repairs should be made and FEMA will do their very best to get these through the system quicker.

Discussion followed on the need for all invoices to process and they encourage the townships to work with the Applicant Agent. Sandy would rather have everything through her office as she is the one responsible for answering questions during an audit.

Mr. Wilz will return to Bismarck and he assured the Board that he will hope to get results with those who are working and if not he will replace the team in Sargent County with some other inspectors and hopefully get the reports completed. He will address the documentation of the inspectors – Sandy should have copies of all inspector reports on sites. Mr. Wilz will inform the inspectors that they should not be contacting the contractors and they will deal directly with Sandy Hanson to have the control that she wants. Better maps will be provided and he will get the inspectors back to the county. Another issue is to look at the fabric policy that FEMA is using and see what flexibility the state has with the issue. Mr. Wilz will address why FEMA is renumbering the sites as this is very confusing to the townships and Applicant Agents.

Mr. Wilz assured the Board that he will work to get these issues solved and he encouraged them to contact him if they have any other problems.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

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STEVEN R WYUM – CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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SHERRY HOSFORD - AUDITOR