

Forman, North Dakota
July 6, 2010

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present: Mike Walstead, Maurice Orn, Bill Anderson, Steve Wyum, and Jerry Waswick. Absent: None. Also present David Jacobson, Forman.

Approve June 15, 2010 minutes as corrected. (Waswick/Wyum, unanimous)

Mike Walstead, Courthouse Commissioner, updated the Board on revised information for the new heating system. Discussed other preparation for the system and removal/demolition of the existing boiler, auger, coal bin and approximately 10 ton of coal. Authorize Chairman Walstead, in his capacity as Courthouse Commissioner, to proceed with plans for removal of the old boiler, coal and other structures as he deems necessary. (Waswick/Anderson, unanimous)

Norm Preble met with the Board regarding his claim for unemployment compensation. Following Mr. Preble's filing for unemployment compensation benefits from Job Service of North Dakota, the county informed Job Service that Mr. Preble had voluntarily retired; and, further, that Sargent County had not terminated his employment due to "lack of work". Mr. Preble feels that he was forced to retire and should be eligible for unemployment compensation benefits. The County's position is that no one was forced out of the county employment. The Board has not been notified from Job Service of North Dakota of any further action. Mr. Preble states that he has been informed that he was denied benefits. The Board instructed the County Auditor to contact Job Service to find out why Sargent County has not been notified of this decision.

The Board of Review and Equalization reconvened at 10:00 a.m. with Sandy Hanson, Tax Director; Shannon Jablonsky, Assistant Tax Director; and, Norm Preble, former tax director, now retired; present. Sandy reported that her office had received the Sales Ratio Study for the year 2009 for residential and commercial property from the North Dakota Tax Commissioner, and discussed the relevant sales for 2009. For the current year, the median valuation for commercial property in Sargent County is 105.7% of the median and residential property valuation is 98.9% of the median valuation, according to the sales ratio computations from the State Tax Commissioner's office. State law provides that property tax valuations must be within the range of 95-100% of the median. Motion to have all classifications of property the same median at 96.5 (same as agricultural). (Anderson/Waswick. Roll Call vote. Aye: Anderson, Waswick. Nay: Wyum, Orn Walstead. Motion failed.) Motion to approve commercial and residential at same rate of 98.9% which requires zero change in residential and 6.8% reduction in commercial. (Wyum/Waswick. Roll Call vote. Aye: Wyum, Orn, Waswick, Walstead. Nay: Anderson. Motion carried) Adjourn "SINE DIE" as a Board of Review and Equalization. (Waswick/Anderson, unanimous)

Donald Wehlander, Milnor and Jacque Dotzenrod, The Sargent County Teller arrived at the meeting,

Ned Clooten, Milnor, appeared at the meeting for the hearing on an abatement application for refund of taxes on parcel #25-7907000 located in Milnor City. Mr. Clooten's property should have been exempt from taxation due to being included in the Renaissance Zone in Milnor City. Mr. Clooten requested that his buildings be exempt from taxation for the years of 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 pursuant to approved Renaissance Zone eligibility, and requested a refund of taxes of the 2008 and 2009 property taxes, which had been paid. Milnor City approved the application. Concur with Milnor City. (Orn/Anderson, unanimous)

The Board proceeded to review an application for exemption from property Taxes for Neil Planteen, Forman for a mobile home located in Section 31-130-56. Mr. Planteen has signed the appropriate form stating that he is a beginning farmer and eligible for tax exemption of a farm residence. Forman Township approved the application. Concur with Forman Township. (Anderson/Waswick, unanimous)

EMS/911 Director Sandy Hanson and Commissioner Bill Anderson reported that the EMS committee consisting of themselves, Brian Tayer and Marwood Klein, SC Ambulance coordinators and Mike Sandy, Oakes Ambulance Service Coordinator, had reviewed and revised the 911 service area boundary line on the western side of Sargent County to comply with the requirements of State Law. Several recent changes in state law have required revisions to service area boundary lines and the EMS committee recommended that the following service area boundary between the Sargent County Ambulance Service and the Oakes Ambulance Service be approved: Beginning at the Sargent County/Ransom County border on 123rd Ave SE (Vivian Township Section 3/4) thence south 9 miles along the section lines to the intersection of 87th St SE and 123rd Ave SE (Harlem Township Section 15/16/21/22), thence west 3 miles on the section line to the intersection of 120th Ave SE and 87th St SE

(Harlem Township Section 13/18/19/24), thence south 15 miles to the ND/SD border, running along the township borders of the remaining portion of Verner, all of Jackson and Southwest Township. The area west of this line shall be in the primary service area of the Oakes Ambulance Service and the area east of this line shall be in the primary service area of the Sargent County Ambulance Service. Motion to accept the recommendation of the EMS committee of the new boundary line and direct the 911 Coordinator to implement this recommendation in the state report. (Waswick/Wyum, unanimous) Motion that Oakes Ambulance Service be allocated that portion of the Sargent County EMS (ambulance) levy that would have been derived from the real property within their primary area of responsibility if it were taxed within Dickey County, which mill rate is currently 3.5 mills. (Anderson/Wyum, unanimous)

Maps were reviewed of the primary service area covered by the Milnor Ambulance Service in Ransom County. Motion to send a letter to Ransom County requesting that the EMS mill levy that Ransom County levies on property situated within the Milnor Rural Fire Protection District (which is the area served by the Milnor Ambulance Squad) be remitted to the Sargent County Ambulance Service, pursuant to state law. (Anderson/Wyum, unanimous) Bill Anderson will prepare the letter to Ransom County, and further commented that the Legislative Interim Committee on Transportation and Public Safety is working on draft legislation to correct the vague and confusing legislation that had been adopted during the 2009 session.

Approve Application for Special Permit to Sell Alcoholic Beverages at a Special Event to Galloping Goose Bar, Stirum, ND. The event will be held on July 16 and 17, 2010 for an all class reunion in Stirum. (Waswick/Orn, unanimous)

Accept Job Classifications for Treasurer/Recorder/Clerk of Court; Chief Deputy Treasurer/Recorder/Clerk of Court and Deputy Treasurer/Recorder/Clerk of Court retroactive pay to be included in the July payroll. (Wyum/Orn. Roll call. Aye: Wyum, Orn, Anderson, Waswick. Nay: Walstead. Motion carried)

Travis Paeper, Sheriff informed the Board that one bid had been received, from Steve Olmstead, for the 2006 Durango. The amount of the bid was \$4200. Reject said bid. (Waswick/Orn, unanimous) Authorize the Sheriff to re-advertise the vehicle with a minimum bid of \$8,000. (Wyum/Orn, unanimous)

Motion to send a letter supporting the petition of Ransom County to the North Dakota Supreme Court requesting that Southeast Judicial District Judgeship No. 4 be relocated to Lisbon, ND. (Orn/Anderson, unanimous) Commissioner Anderson will draft the letter of support.

Motion to request the States Attorney to proceed to take action to cancel the Contract for Deed dated May 1, 2001 between Sargent County and Clayton Hoffman, 557 2nd Ave., Cogswell ND, by foreclosure or such other action as the States Attorney deems appropriate. (Anderson/Wyum, unanimous)

Motion that all fulltime employees above a pay grade step 8 receive a step increase if they did not get one on June 1, 2010 to be effective July 1, 2010. (Waswick/Anderson. Roll Call vote. Aye: All. Nay: none. Motion carried)

Motion that all fulltime employees hired prior to October 1, 2009 who are now being paid at pay step 4 or below be increased to Step 5 effective July 1st. (Waswick/Anderson. Roll Call vote: Aye: Anderson, Orn, Waswick, Walstead. Nay: Wyum. Motion carried)

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

MIKE WALSTEAD – CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

SHERRY HOSFORD - AUDITOR