

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9 a.m. with the following members present: Mike Walstead, David L Jacobson, Bill Anderson, Sherry Hosford, and Jerry Waswick. Also present were County Auditor Pam Maloney, Assistant States Attorney Jayne Pfau and Paige Cary, the Sargent County Teller.

Approve minutes of June 16, 2015 meeting as corrected. (Hosford/Waswick, unanimous)

Merrill Engquist, Road Supervisor, met with the board. He reported that there had been interviews conducted for the road department position, but that none of the applicants were hired. He was instructed to re-advertise the position, both locally & state-wide. He also reported that most of the spot graveling had been done, and that some of the contractors had begun working on the different road graveling projects throughout the county. Supervisor Engquist also requested authorization to add 25,000 ton of modified Class 13 gravel to each of the stockpiles in the Storhaug Pit & and the Jorgenson Pit. He figures the Road Department will be short of gravel to complete the scheduled graveling projects for 2015 in both the northeast and northwest quadrants of the County, and with this addition to the current stockpiles, the Road Department will be able to finish out the 2015 projects and should have enough on hand to last throughout 2016, and into 2017 in those quadrants. The stockpiles will be put up with this year's bid prices, but wouldn't be billed to the county until 2016. Motion to add 25,000 ton of modified Class 13 gravel, each, to the stockpiles in the Storhaug Pit and the Jorgenson Pit, to be charged out with 2015 bid prices, but not billed or paid for until 2016. (Waswick/Anderson) Roll Call Vote: Yes – Waswick, Anderson, & Walstead. No – Jacobson & Hosford. Motion carried. There was discussion on a culvert in Jackson Township near Homer Moffett's. Engquist has requested Interstate Engineering to do a hydraulic study in the area and he will be doing further research to determine how to best alleviate the problem of the Moffett's driveway getting washed out each spring. Commissioner Hosford, on behalf of herself and other Commissioners, also requested the login information to JD Link, the GIS program for the John Deere motor graders.

Gina Hillestad, Risk Manager, attended the meeting to update the commissioners on several discounts that the county has received from NDACO. The county received \$4717.33 due to the county employees' participation in the Learning Management System safety program; along with the regular premium safety discount and the premium dividend credit. There was also a refund of \$585 from NDACO Worker's Compensation CEG as the actual due was less than the estimated cost. The county had also received a check from NDRIN for \$2091 for the Document Preservation Fund. This money will be used for digitizing record books in the Recorder's Office.

Melissa Blawat, Extension Agent and Cindy Klapperich, Family and Consumer Science Agent met with the commission to report on the activities of the County's Extension Service office personnel from April through June 2015. A written report was delivered to each Commissioner and to the County Auditor. A copy of the report can be obtained from the Extension Office. The commission commended the County's Extension Service personnel for their excellent programs and outstanding effort on behalf of the people of Sargent County.

Randy Kingsley, Executive Director; & Amber Schaan, Assistant Director, Lake Agassiz Development Group (LADG); attended the meeting to update the commission on projects in Sargent County, and to encourage using LADG as a resource center for community development and other needs in the area. From 2005 to 2015 there were 3 grants awarded in Sargent County in the amount of \$368,800 with total project costs of \$1,044,823. There were also 6 loans approved in that time period.

There is some rock by the elevator entrance on the west side of the courthouse that may be removed when the parking lot improvement cement work is done. Roz Amerman is interested in purchasing the surplus rock as she had gotten some of the same rock at her residence when the material was originally purchased for use at the courthouse. The Courthouse Commissioner, Jerry Waswick, will check with the custodian and with Roz regarding the removal of the rock. Jerry asked for clarification regarding courthouse and grounds expenditures. The board agreed that the same guidelines that are used for the road department could be used at the courthouse – under \$500 will be at the discretion of the courthouse commissioner, over \$500 must have board approval.

Emeric Erickson and Tom Mund arrived at the meeting to discuss their complaints and concerns about the drainage permit policies and billing practices of the Sargent County Water Resource Board. Roger Zetocha, SC Water Resource Board member, also was in attendance. Mr. Erickson went through his list of complaints as outlined in the letter addressed to the Sargent County Commissioners dated June 29, 2015. He is concerned about the acceleration of the costs of the permits and believes the Water Resource Board's billing practices are unethical, and possibly illegal. He questioned the presence of the Water Resource Board's attorney at every water resource board meeting, & questioned why the Board defers all decisions to its attorney. Mr. Zetocha explained that, as a board member, he prefers to have the attorney present, and giving advice, to prevent any legal problems before they arise, rather than after. Three of the five water board members are fairly new to their positions and rely on the expertise of the Water Resource Board's engineer and attorney. The Board's Attorney, Sean Frederick of the Ohnstad-Twichell Law Firm of West Fargo, is a competent attorney well respected within the profession for his expertise in the field of water law. The commissioners suggested that Mr. Erickson & Mr. Mund address the water resource board with their concerns. Other than appointing members to the water resource board, state law allows the commission no other power regarding decisions and/or policies of the water resource board.

The board received information from Paul White regarding the farm exempt status he is seeking for his farm site in Vivian Township. He had appeared at the Sargent County Board of Equalization meeting on June 2, and Mr. White was allowed the opportunity to produce a rental agreement for his renter for 10 acres where the buildings are located, and that then the buildings could qualify for the farm exemption as the tenant is a farmer, as defined by North Dakota State Law, and the buildings are used for agricultural purposes. This should be brought to the Township, first, and could have been considered at the June 16 meeting. However, as this information was not received at that June 16 meeting, and the county board of equalization has adjourned, it is too late for the county board of equalization to act on this request, so it must be reviewed at the state board of equalization on August 11. Mr. White would also have the opportunity to file an abatement with the county if the farm exemption is allowed by the State Board of Equalization.

Motion to re-appoint Shelly Bopp to the School Reorganization Board. Term ending June 30, 2018. (Waswick/Anderson, unanimous)

Mark Sand & Gravel Company has requested an extension on the completion date of the road projects that the company will be working on in Sargent County. The company contracted to have the projects completed by September 15, and has requested that the completion date be extended to October 30. The board did not agree to grant the requested extension, and wants the projects completed by the completion date specified in the Plans and Specifications that Mark Sand & Gravel Company used when it bid on these projects.

Meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

MIKE WALSTEAD - CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

PAM MALONEY - AUDITOR