

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9:45 a.m. following the special park board meeting with the following members present: David Jacobson, Sherry Hosford, Jerry Waswick, Mike Walstead, and Bill Anderson. Also present was Lyle Bopp, State's Attorney; Russ Boutain and Nancy Planteen, county residents; Paige Cary, The Sargent County Teller; and Pam Maloney, Sargent County Auditor.

Motion to adopt the revised Electronic Communications Device Policy resolution as presented, to have a uniform reimbursement policy for the use of personal ECD's for those eligible employees (said resolution being attached to these minutes: (Anderson/Walstead) Motion to amend the resolution to omit the 4 road employees from section 3 and to change the state's attorney reimbursement from 1 full-time to 2 half-time. (Hosford/Jacobson) Discussion on whether or not the road employees should be omitted as they are out in the far corners of the county where the radio system doesn't always work. Motion to divide the vote on the motion to amend, voting first on the omission of the road employees, and then on the state's attorney change. (Anderson/Walstead) Roll Call Vote: Yes – Walstead, Anderson & Waswick. No – Jacobson & Hosford. Motion to divide the vote carried. Roll Call Vote on the omission of the road employees: Yes – Jacobson, Hosford & Waswick. No – Walstead and Anderson. Motion carried. Roll Call Vote on the change in the state's attorney reimbursement: Yes – Jacobson, Walstead, Anderson, Hosford & Waswick. No – None. Motion carried. Roll Call Vote on adopting the revised Electronic Communications Device Policy resolution: Yes – Waswick, Anderson & Walstead. No – Hosford & Jacobson. Motion to adopt resolution carried. The auditor was instructed to change section 9 concerning the projected potential cost of the reimbursement program to reflect the changes in the reimbursements eligibility made by the amendment to the plan. There were no objections to the Auditor making the clerical adjustment.

Jayne Pfau, Assistant State's Attorney, arrived at the meeting.

Donna Eklund, county resident, arrived at the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Approve minutes of the July 19, 2016, commission meeting as corrected. (Walstead/Anderson, unanimous)

A brief discussion on filling the Planning Commission vacancies. Commissioner Anderson stated that Steve Wyum had informed him that he would be willing to accept the position until December, but he has not yet filled out an application. Tabled for the next meeting.

Acknowledgement of Notice of Claim for Job Insurance Benefits for Joan Schwab. Mr. Bopp will respond to Job Service regarding the reason for separation. Ms. Schwab had voluntarily resigned from her former position with Sargent County in order to accept other employment, and she has since left her position with the subsequent employer.

Acknowledgement of Notice of Decision and Order Denying Review of Sargent County's request for a bureau review by Job Service of North Dakota in the matter of the Wendy Jacobson unemployment compensation claim. The next step would be to file a petition requesting a Judge to review the decision in District Court. Assistant State's Attorney Pfau will research the matter to see if it would be worthwhile to pursue.

Mr. Bopp also provided information regarding some complaints that had been received concerning the election signs that have been erected in towns and rural areas around the county. All election signs, if anything more than "Elect" or "Vote For" is written on them, have to have a "Sponsored and Paid For" endorsement on them. They are also not allowed on government property, including road and highway rights of way and street boulevards, except inside of buildings.

Mr. Bopp informed the board that he had done some research on the right-of-way south of Cogswell where a culvert is presenting a potential hazard in a field approach. The right-of-way in this particular area is 75 feet on both sides of the centerline of County Road #4. The problem area will be measured to determine whether it is in the county road right-of-way or on private property.

Brenda Peterson, Coroner, arrived at the meeting. She provided a report on her performance of County Coroner duties from January 1, 2015 until the present, with hours spent on each call. It was suggested that the auditor, Commissioner Hosford and Ms. Peterson confer on how best to fill out Ms. Peterson's time sheet to reflect hours spent working in the sheriff's department and hours spent as coroner. It was suggested that she present an annual report at the July meeting each year. The commission thanked Ms. Peterson for her work as County Coroner and commended her for the great job she is doing in that capacity.

Brian Tayer, Milnor Ambulance Squad Coordinator for the Sargent County Ambulance Service, met with the commission to report on Milnor Ambulance Squad activity. They are still advertising for an EMT to replace Michael Werner who had resigned in May. He also stated that the Milnor Fire Protection District is building a new firehouse, and the ambulance will be housed in the new building. The Milnor Fire Department does not charge the Ambulance Service rent to house the ambulance, but the squad does help out occasionally with electricity and other maintenance costs. According to the States Attorney, the squad cannot legally make a financial contribution to the new building, but can pay for a cost specific to the ambulance, such as paying for the office or any other costs associated with housing the ambulance and training ambulance squad members. Marwood Klein, Forman Ambulance Squad Coordinator for the Sargent County Ambulance Service, also met with the commission, to report on Forman Ambulance Squad activity. He stated that the squad is doing OK with current staff, but that more volunteers could certainly be used. He stated that they would be looking at purchasing a different ambulance in the very near future, as there have been more issues with the engine a Ford 6.1 liter diesel, in the current rig. Other agencies have had similar problems with the same motor. The commissioners thanked Brian and Marwood for their report, and commended them and the members of both squads for their work on behalf of the people of Sargent County.

There was more discussion on some stockpiled gravel that had black dirt/organic material/weeds in it. Commissioner Waswick will call the contractor involved and talk to him about the stockpile.

A leave form for vacation, sick leave, personal time and bereavement leave has been drafted pursuant to the Sargent County personnel policy section 306. Other discussion on whether employees who volunteer their time at the county fair and for other County sponsored activities should have to use vacation time. These issues will be discussed again at the next meeting. The auditor was instructed to contact Chuck Horter, Human Resources Coordinator with the ND Association of Counties, to find out costs involved in updating Sargent County's personnel policy.

Motion to execute and sign the Notice of Award of contract to Mayo Construction Company for the County Road #4 Paving project from County #5 south to the South Dakota border. (Anderson/Jacobson, unanimous)

Motion to re-appoint Nancy Glarum to the Sargent County Weed Board. Term ending August 10, 2020. (Jacobson/Anderson, unanimous)

Motion to approve an Application for Drainage Work within County Road Right-Of-Way for the City of Milnor. Said application is in Section 9-132-54 for a street intersection in the new Peterson Addition in Milnor City. (Anderson/Walstead, unanimous)

Motion to approve an Application for Drainage Work within County Road Right-Of-Way for Derek Martinson. Said application is to install a larger culvert to widen an approach to allow semi-truck access to field along the south side of Section 8-131-53 in Herman Township. Ditch west of the approach is filled in much higher than culvert level and would clean ditch, if possible. (Walstead/Anderson, unanimous)

Some discussion on the handicapped striping in front of the courthouse. Some concerns were voiced that those with wheelchairs might think they could use the front sidewalk to gain access to the courthouse, when, in fact, the elevator entrance is on the west side of the building. The auditor was instructed to see if there is signage available to reflect that wheelchair access is only available at the west entrance to the building.

Action on a tabled motion that had been made by Commissioner Hosford at the July 19 Commission meeting, to affirm to North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System that the Sargent County Sheriff's Department is formed pursuant to N.D.C.C. § 11-10-02 and is neither a non-profit corporation nor a for-profit corporation, to join the NDPERS Law Enforcement Defined Benefit Retirement Plan and offer the plan to all eligible employees of the Sargent County Sheriff's Department. The motion had been seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Confirmation had been received from North Dakota PERS that it is possible to adopt the Law Enforcement Plan even though the county hasn't adopted the Main Plan that would include all eligible County employees in the PERS plan. Some discussion on whether the retiree health credit percentage of 1.14% could be assessed to the employee or if it had to be paid by the employer. Tabled until clarification can be obtained.

Recessed for lunch at 12:00 p.m.

The board reconvened at 1:15 p.m. to receive a report on the activities of the Sargent County Jobs Development Authority (JDA) from JDA Consultant Nathan Berseth. Mark Bopp, Sargent County JDA chairman; Sandra Hanson, Sargent County JDA secretary; Jessica Peterson, board member; and, Nathan Berseth, Crossroads Community Advisors, LLC (CCA); were in attendance. SCJDA is building a spec

house in Milnor, in the new Peterson's Addition, at this time and is looking for other communities to participate in the spec house program. Commissioner Jacobson stated that the FCDC had previously constructed spec houses and a spec apartment house in Forman with good results, and encouraged the communities to continue this. The Commission thanked Mr. Berseth for his report, and for the work being done to encourage job creation and increased housing opportunities in Sargent County.

The commission resumed discussion of the previously tabled motion regarding the NDPERS Law Enforcement Retirement program. After a phone call to NDPERS, it was determined that the county would be responsible for the additional 1.14% contribution required. Therefore, the county share for the law enforcement plan would rise to 9.07%, while the employee's contribution would be set at 5.5% of wages or salary. Roll Call Vote: Yes – Anderson & Hosford. No – Jacobson, Walstead & Waswick. Motion for the Sargent County Sheriff's Department to join the NDPERS Law Enforcement Defined Benefit Retirement Plan failed.

The Board proceeded to work on the 2017 budget, reviewing requests from various departments.

Meeting recessed at 3:30 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 9, with Commissioners Dave Jacobson, Mike Walstead, Sherry Hosford and Jerry Waswick present. Also present was Pam Maloney, Auditor. The board proceeded to review departmental budgets.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

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JERRY WASWICK – CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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PAM MALONEY – COUNTY AUDITOR