

Forman, North Dakota
August 5, 2008

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

Approve July 15, 2008 minutes as corrected. (Waswick/Walstead, unanimous)

Commissioner Bill Anderson reported that the Home Rule Charter Committee met and had their organizational meeting. Mark Bopp was selected Chairman and Colleen Sundquist, Secretary. The committee will meet again on August 12. During the first meeting, the committee reviewed the proposed Traill County Home Rule Charter as a baseline charter and also looked at other charters from other counties.

Steve Wyum and Jerry Waswick presented a draft proposal for county restructuring and explained current staff, classifications, retirements, restructure possibilities and combinations. Also the general fund considerations, staff restructure cost/savings estimates, phase in steps if a plan is adopted and no reductions and possible salary cuts. General Fund status for 2009 and 2010 with transition of staff responsibilities and job reclassifications was proposed to be accomplished by January 2010. A schedule of existing and restructured staff positions and schedule of implementation was also presented to the Board for their consideration. Both Commissioner Wyum and Waswick were commended for the work in preparing this information and Commissioner Anderson suggested that both Wyum and Waswick meet with the department heads to review this proposal. This information will be distributed to the department heads for their review and meetings set up at a later date.

Lyle Bopp arrived at the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Norm Preble, Tax Director reported on the soil study update and that Sargent County is on schedule in revaluation of agriculture land. The next project is to have the soils committee meet to decide on modifiers. Norm suggested waiting for the return of the township information from Secure Software Solutions to decide which modifiers to consider. A meeting may be scheduled to familiarize the committee with their duties.

A motion by Commissioner Anderson for Commissioner Wyum and Commissioner Waswick to proceed with meeting with department heads to discuss the administrative restructuring proposal for Sargent County. Seconded by Commissioner Walstead. Motion carried unanimously.

Marwood Klein and Brian Tayer, SC Ambulance Coordinators met with the Board. Brian reported that there is a need for an additional person for staffing the ambulance. It has not been determined if that person would be fulltime or part time but leaning towards a fulltime to attract a more qualified person for the position. The patient revenue has been increasing so the committee of emergency medical persons is proposing that the \$28,000 that is being distributed to the ambulances from the county mill levy could be used for financing this position. Jerry Waswick proposed the possibility of hiring someone within each squad that could serve as an Assistant Squad leader to fill in when the coordinator is absent. Bill Anderson explained that the problem is finding someone who has another job that would allow them to be absent from that position and be available to fill in for the ambulance coordinator. Marwood Klein said that currently the Forman squad is staffed adequately and feels this new position would improve the Milnor squad. A motion to authorize the Personnel Board to do a job classification of a possible position for the ambulance squad as discussed. Once classification is available the county commission can get a better handle on cost and make a decision. (Anderson/Wyum, unanimous) Marwood also asked about any monies that would be available for a new ambulance. He is estimating a new ambulance at \$120,000-\$130,000 and the ambulance replacement fund currently has \$60,000. Commission members agreed to work with the squad for financial assistance.

Gina Hillestad, President, SC Personnel Board met to make a recommendation for a cost of living adjustment (COLA) raise for 2009. US Dept. of Labor statistics for the twelve month period ending June 30, 2008 2nd were received and reviewed. Consumer Price Index is 5.5% and Employment Cost Index is 3.4% for an average of 4.5%. The Personnel Board is making this request for a COLA for 2009. Gina also informed the Board that complaints have been received regarding the storage room on second floor. Mike Walstead will investigate. A motion to instruct the County Auditor to proceed with preliminary budget computation of salaries for 2009 at 4.5% COLA and submit the budgets to department heads for review. (Wyum/Anderson, unanimous)

Reviewed a request from Central Power Electric Cooperative Inc. to construct a 115kV single pole electric transmission power line in Sargent County from the WAPA substation located south of Forman to the Ludden substation serving the TransCanada Keystone Pipeline. The line crosses several county roads as shown on a map included with the permit request. A motion to approve the permit. (Walstead/Anderson, unanimous)

Sargent County Water Board agreed to pay 50% of the local construction cost of bridge No. 127-20. Steve Wyum will meet with the Water Board to discuss further cost share.

Approve reappointment of Nancy Glarum, Rutland, ND to the Sargent County Weed Board for a four year term. (Anderson/Walstead, unanimous)

Discussed inflatable games purchased by the Sargent County Fair Board. The commissioner's agreed to pay for the Scheduled Property premium and the Fair Board will pay the liability.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

MAURICE ORN – CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

SHERRY HOSFORD - AUDITOR