

Forman, North Dakota
August 6, 2013

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m., with the following members present: David L Jacobson, Mike Walstead, Bill Anderson and Steven Wyum. Absent: Jerry Waswick. Also present was Paige Cary, the Sargent County Teller.

Approve revised draft minutes of the July 16, 2013 commission meeting. (Walstead/Wyum, unanimous)

The Board proceeded to work on the 2014 budget, reviewing request from various departments and making preliminary allocations of county funds.

Lyle Bopp, States Attorney and Jayne Lewandowski, Forman arrived at the meeting. Mr. Bopp introduced Ms. Lewandowski as his new associate with Bopp Law Office. Ms. Lewandowski graduated in May 2012 from UND Law School. She has practiced law in Grand Forks for the past year, specializing in family law. Mr. Bopp asked if the commission would appoint Ms. Lewandowski as the Assistant States Attorney, at no cost to the county, to assist with the performance of the States Attorney's duties in his absence. Motion to approve the appointment. (Wyum/Walstead, unanimous)

At 10:45 a.m. county officials were invited to the commission meeting for the purpose of selecting a delegate to the NDACo Annual Conference. No officials other than the County Auditor and the County Commissioners were present. Motion to appoint David L Jacobson as the delegate. (Walstead/Anderson, unanimous) Motion to appoint Gina Hillestad as the alternate. (Walstead/Anderson, unanimous)

Brian Tayer and Marwood Klein, Ambulance Coordinators for the Sargent County Ambulance service met with the Commission to discuss the following ambulance issues: the possible acquisition of grant funds for which applications have been submitted; the new Milnor ambulance scheduled for delivery the first week of September; Advanced EMT classes that are being attended by three Ambulance Service personnel; and, the possibility of adding up to two full-time employees to the county ambulance service, one each for the Milnor and Forman squads.

Sandy Hanson, Tax Director arrived to explain the necessity for rescinding the approval of an Application for Abatement and Refund of Taxes filed by Gary and Abbi Myers, Gwinner. The application for a Renaissance Zone exemption had been approved in August of 2012 for a 60 month exemption by the State Commerce Department, and it was incorrectly assumed that the exemption applied to the 2012 Tax Year. Based on the information on record from the Gwinner City Renaissance Zone, as approved by the State Commerce Department, the July 16, 2013, approval of the application for abatement of the 2012 taxes on the Myers property is rescinded, and Renaissance Zone approval of the tax exemption shall be taken into account in years moving forward. The Myers property will have a Renaissance Zone reduction in taxable value on the residential structure for the tax years of 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017. (Anderson/Wyum, unanimous)

The Board recessed for lunch.

The Board reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Mike Walstead, Road Commissioner presented a list of projects prepared by Damon DeVillers, Interstate Engineering, Inc. for submission to the Regional Committee by August 16, for consideration for approval for HB 1358 funding. The following projects were reviewed: 1) County 2 from ND 13 South 1.9 miles to Crete; 2) County 10 from ND 13 north 2.5 miles thru Milnor to county line - 2 inch overlay; 3) County 10 from ND 13 north 2.5 miles thru Milnor to county line - patch & micro-surfacing; 4) County 10 from ND 13 north 2.5 miles thru Milnor to county line - patch & chip seal; 5) County 14 from ND 11 South 6.5 miles to County 5; 6) County 14 from County 5 south to SD line; 7) County 14 from ND 11 at Geneseo north to County 1; 8) County 14 from County 1 north to ND 13. It was noted that Projects 3 and 4 were not eligible for HB 1358 funding, as they do not meet the criteria established by the Legislature. The total estimated cost of the six projects was \$19,259,821 and the estimated 10% county share is \$1,925,982. Motion to submit the above list of projects, except Projects 3 and 4, with the addition of another \$400,000 for graveling projects in the county. At the present time, funds are not available for all projects submitted, but getting the approval of the Regional Committee establishes priority of the project when and if the State Legislature appropriates additional funds for the improvement of County roads in the non-oil producing counties of North Dakota (Wyum/Anderson, unanimous) Authorize the Chairman to sign the Non-Oil Producing County Final Project Certification as set forth by NDDOT. (Wyum/Walstead, unanimous)

Emergency Drainage Permit #3523 for the purpose of draining excess surface sheet water from Buffalo Lake issued in 2010 expired in April 2012 and the State Engineers Office is requesting the closing of said drain. Mike Walstead, Road Commissioner will direct Sparky Engquist, Road Supt. to close the drain when the current year's crop has been removed.

Motion to approve the Sheriff's Office renovation project as requested by Sheriff Paeper with funds from the Sheriff's Grant Fund and replacement of carpet for the Sheriff's Dept. Office from the County General Building and Maintenance Fund. (Wyum /Walstead, unanimous)

Approve reappointment of Ron Narum, Rutland and George Bishoff, Cogswell, to the Sargent County Weed Board for 4 year terms. (Anderson/Walstead, unanimous)

Approve request from Willey Township Board of Supervisors to cost share one-third of the cost of a 72 inch culvert located between Section 6 and 7 in said township. (Walstead/Anderson, unanimous)

The Board continued working on the remaining budgets for 2014. Gina Hillestad, representing the Sargent County Personnel Board reported that the Personnel Board made a recommendation of 1.7% Cost Of Living Allowance (COLA) for 2014 based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 2.3% and Employment Cost Index (ECI) of 1.0%. Board members requested that Sherry Hosford, County Auditor prepare budgetary information with four options: 1) 1.7% COLA for all employees; 2) 1.7% COLA plus one step for all eligible employees in 2014; 3) 1.7% COLA plus implementation of the proposed Longevity Plan and 4) an additional 1% retirement for county employees. The Board will consider these proposals at the August 16 meeting.

Chairman David Jacobson reported that he and Ken Forster, Forman had done a pre-cleanup inspection and partial cleanup at the county fairgrounds before the fair and found several county road vehicles that appear to not be in use that he thought should be offered for sale. Mike Walstead, David Jacobson and Sparky Engquist will review the list of proposed vehicles to sell and report at the August 20 meeting.

Meting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

DAVID L JACOBSON – CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

SHERRY HOSFORD - AUDITOR