

Forman, North Dakota
August 6, 2019

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioner's Room with the following members present: Bill Anderson, Jason Arth, Lyle Bopp, Richard Ruch, and, Jerry Waswick. Also present was Jayne Pfau, State's Attorney; Brenda Peterson, Sargent County Health Unit Administrator; Luke Siemieniewski, Sargent County Water Resource Board Chairman; Leon Mallberg, Dickinson, ND Resident & Sargent County property tax payer; and, Pam Maloney, Sargent County Auditor.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Alison Toepke, Sargent County Treasurer/Recorder/Clerk of Court; arrived at the meeting.

County Department Heads and officials eligible to participate in the election of a delegate to the North Dakota Association of Counties (NDACo) met for the purpose of electing a delegate for the next 2 years. Present were: all 5 County Commissioners; Auditor Pam Maloney; Health Unit Administrator Brenda Peterson; Treasurer/Recorder/Clerk of Court Alison Toepke; and States Attorney Jayne Pfau. Motion to appoint Treasurer/Recorder/Clerk of Court Alison Toepke as NDACo Conference Delegate and Commissioner Jerry Waswick as alternate to represent Sargent County at the 2019 and 2020 NDACo Conferences. (Anderson/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Jeanne Sexton-Brown, the Sargent County Teller; arrived at the meeting.

Approve July 16, 2019 meeting minutes as corrected. (Bopp/Ruch, unanimous)

Commissioner Bopp stated that he had no further information on the proposal to share a Human Resource Director between Dickey, Ransom and Sargent Counties. So far, Sargent & Ransom Counties have agreed to proceed with looking into the prospects, but there has been no commitment from Dickey County. It was discussed and determined that a contingency amount of approximately \$30,000 should be placed in the preliminary budget in anticipation of the shared position with Ransom County.

The metal roofing has been removed from the residential property in Forman that had been forfeited to Sargent County for non-payment of taxes, so the derelict house situated on the property can now be knocked down and burned. Commissioner Bopp will take care of this.

Paul Mathews, Sargent County Resident, arrived at the meeting.

Commissioner Bopp reported that all the diseased and terminally damaged trees have been removed from the courthouse lawn. Some discussion was held on the replacements for these trees, and when would be the best time to plant them. The Courthouse Commissioner will coordinate plans with the City of Forman's Tree Committee. No additional decisions made at this time.

Michael Wyum, Sargent County Water Resource Board Member, arrived at the meeting.

Leon Mallberg stated that he would like to see more commissioner involvement with the Sargent County Water Resource Board's activities. He provided a map of the Drain #11 Watershed Area. It includes areas in Sargent, Ransom, and Dickey Counties in North Dakota and Marshall County in South Dakota, yet, since the 1983 reassessment, only the property within Sargent County has been assessed for the improvements to the drain. He believes that the drain should be re-assessed with the benefited properties in other counties paying for their share. Luke Siemieniewski stated that he has contacted the Water Resource Boards in both Ransom and Dickey County about their involvement in the Drain Assessment Area & although Ransom County has indicated no interest in participating in the maintenance and governance of the drain, Dickey County is considering it. Mr. Siemieniewski also stated that there is considerable work that needs to be done all along the drain, as most of it has not been improved since it was constructed back in 1917. Commissioner Bopp commented that the water board might want to consider working on improving its public relations practices. Mr. Siemieniewski agreed and commented that the Board has been working hard to improve those skills. The commission thanked Mr. Mallberg, Mr. Mathews and the 2 Water Resource Board members for coming in for the discussion.

Merrill Engquist, Road Supervisor; and, Damon DeVillers, Interstate Engineering; arrived at the meeting. Mr. DeVillers reported that all bids for the Silver Lake Road Improvement Project (SRF-0041(016) PCN 22143, came in over the engineer's estimate by approximately \$40,000. After discussion, motion to reject all bids and to apply for the SRF grant again in the future. (Bopp/Waswick) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. Mr. DeVillers will contact Pam Wenger at the ND DOT to let her know of the Commission's decision.

Mr. DeVillers also reported that the patching is done on County Roads #4 & #10 in anticipation of the seal coat project.

Mr. Engquist informed the board that the road department can rent a tractor from Green Iron Equipment for 12 months at a cost of \$7996. It would be 110hp with a loader. Motion to authorize the road supervisor to rent a 2019 JD 6110M Tractor w/620R loader from August 7, 2019 to August 6, 2020 utilizing state contract #NDACo_01 at a rate of \$19.99/hour for 400 hours for total of \$7996.00 from Green Iron Equipment. (Anderson/Waswick) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Brian Tayer, Sargent County Ambulance Coordinator-Milnor Squad, arrived at the meeting. Mr. Tayer reported that the Milnor Squad has had 61 runs so far in 2019. He stated that the County's Ambulance Service is running smoothly at the present time, but that both the Milnor and Forman squads are always looking for additional staff. He stated that there will be a few new drivers and one individual interested in taking the EMT course. Brian has recently taken some additional management classes. He stated that he has also sent a request to Ransom County for the Ambulance Service mill levy assessed against that portion of Ransom County that is served by the Sargent County Ambulance-Milnor Squad. The Commission thanked Mr. Tayer for his report, and commended the county's ambulance squad members and first responders for a job well done.

The Commission reviewed the draft Preliminary Budget for 2020, showing a projected mill levy of 97.46 mills. Motion to approve the 2020 preliminary budget in the amount of \$9,182,218. (Waswick/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. A public hearing will be conducted on Tuesday, October 1, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the commissioner's room, Sargent County Courthouse, Forman.

Motion to authorize the auditor and the treasurer to establish a Civil Asset Forfeiture fund pursuant to NDCC Section 19-03.1-36.6 Subsection 2. (Anderson/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. An application process will be established upon receiving further information from Aaron Birst, NDACo Legal Counsel.

Applications were received from Wayne Sebens, Milnor; and Mark Weber, Rutland; for the advertised weed board position. Motion to re-appoint Wayne Sebens, Milnor to the Sargent County Weed Control Board. Term to expire August 10, 2023. (Ruch/Waswick) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was held on the State Local Leadership Meetings with the White House Intergovernmental Agencies that is scheduled to be held in Washington D.C. on September 10th, along with local government officials from the states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington and Wyoming. There was interest from a few commissioners to attend this meeting. Motion to authorize up to \$500 in travel reimbursement per commissioner attending the White House meeting, along with the approved NDACo rate for hotel accommodations, with the funds to be allocated from funds budgeted for 2019 Commissioner travel. (Anderson/Waswick) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Ruch gave a brief report on the 2019 Sargent County Fair.

Denise Ferderer, Tax Director, arrived at the meeting to update the commission on the valuation of commercial property in Sargent County. She is working with the State Tax Department to determine whether there will be any percentage changes in the values applied to commercial property within the County.

Motion to pay an additional 1% of the employee share of Nationwide Retirement, reducing the employee's required contribution share by 1%. New share percentages will be up to 8% for employer, with a 6% match from the employee. This applies only to those county employees who do not

participate in the North Dakota PERS retirement program. (Bopp/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

JASON ARTH - CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

PAM MALONEY - AUDITOR