

Forman, North Dakota
August 7, 2007

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

Approve July 17 and August 2, 2007 minutes. (Waswick/Orn, unanimous)

Diane Brown, Cogswell and Sandy Hanson, Emergency Manager met with the Board. Diane has a concern regarding the standing water on her property in Cogswell. She reported that several properties and streets in Cogswell are inundated and have been for over 90 days. She also stated that citizens have met with the city council but have received no assistance. Diane has also contacted the SC Water Board but is still waiting for their findings. She is asking the county for its assistance. She stated that the water is not moving and has moss, insects and snakes in it. Diane would like the water to be pumped out of this area. Sandy Hanson reported on several efforts that have been made by the City to see if the water is flowing. She agreed that pumping is the best option and reported that the City is looking at getting permission from affected landowners. Sandy indicated that pumping was done by FEMA in prior years due to public infrastructure, such as the City sewer lift station being threatened and thus the expeditiousness of the work. Cogswell City has the authority and responsibility to decide how to correct these issues. The county would have responsibility for property owned by the county but no authority over the water within the City. Sandy suggested determining the elevations and right of way owned and development of a plan to clean up this area. There needs to be a long term plan by the City and affected property owners to provide permanent relief.

Lyle Bopp, States Attorney arrived at the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

Gina Hillestad, Chairperson, SC Personnel Board met to present the recommendation proposed by that Board for 2008 COLA. The proposal is based on the CSI and ECI and recommended at 3.3%. The Board proceeded to discuss the COLA for county employees and how it affects the County Pay Plan.

Colleen Sundquist, representing the Relay for Life committee met with the Board. She reported that the activities will take place in Forman on June 20, 2008 and is asking for permission to have the function on the courthouse lawn. Participants would walk around the courthouse block. Board members feel it is a good idea and moved to grant permission to use the courthouse grounds and facilities for Relay for Life activities. (Orn/Wyum, unanimous)

Chairman Anderson conferred with Colleen Sundquist, Health District Administrator and asked if the water problem in Cogswell City is within the health district jurisdiction. She will talk to Environmental Health personnel who will be visiting Sargent County in the next few days and Colleen will take her to Cogswell to view the standing water problem.

Norm Preble, Tax Director presented the Hurt abatement and commented that he asked Mr. Hurt for documentation of disability and has not received anything at this time. Gwinner City has denied the application. Concur with Gwinner City based on required certification of disability not provided. (Waswick/Walstead, unanimous) Discussed soil survey information dealing with the valuation and assessment of agricultural lands. Norm completed a survey from NDACo and is waiting for more information on implementation. He also indicated he is working on the apartment type commercial properties in the county. Omitted property for 2007 on Lot 8, Klefstad's Subdivision # 1A, Forman City (Forman Hospitality Group, LLC) was discussed. Motion to approve addition of the commercial structure at \$150,000 beginning in 2007. The property has received 5 years of property tax exemption at 100% and will receive payments in lieu of taxes for 2007-2011 at 50% of the annual payments. (Walstead/Waswick, unanimous)

Norm Preble, VSO received and presented information on dollars spent in Sargent County by the Dept. of Veteran's Affairs. There are 326 veterans in the county and a total of \$1,082,000 was paid to the veterans in 2006.

Richard Anderson, SC Weed Control Officer, met with the Board to present a letter regarding TransCanada Keystone Pipeline. The pipeline is suggesting that the counties of Sargent, Ransom, Barnes, Steele, Nelson, Walsh, Pembina and Cavalier come to an agreement in signing a contract to clean equipment before entering a new county and also before they cross the US border and to have the land inspected for Noxious and/or invasive weeds prior to and for a certain time thereafter. All weeds will be mapped with GPS and any new Noxious and/or invasive weeds that appear after will be the responsibility of the Pipeline to control. The Board suggested to Mr. Anderson that all county weed boards involved draw up a uniform agreement.

Lyle Bopp proceeded to conduct the second reading of the Proposed Ordinance Directing Removal of Bales. Discussion followed on the time for removing bales from the right of way. Adopt Ordinance Directing Removal of Bales. (Walstead/Wyum) Motion to table the consideration of Bale Removal Ordinance until August 21 allowing time for public comment. (Waswick/Orn, unanimous)

The Board discussed the COLA for 2008 and reviewed information presented by the Personnel Board. Motion to approve a 2.3% COLA for all employees and an additional 1% retirement if the employee is currently at 7% for the proposed 2008 budget. If the employee is below 7%, the county will match 50/50 the amount of the retirement amount. (Wyum/Orn. Aye: Anderson, Walstead, Orn, Wyum, Waswick. Nay: none. Motion carried)

Wendy Jacobson, Human Service Director and Gina Hillestad, SC Personnel Board reviewed recommendations on the job classification for Wendy's position. Gina reported that Government Management Group recommended based on the market survey results and not on her job description that the pay grade assignment for social services director position be increased from Pay Grade 19 to Pay Grade 21. Currently Wendy is at Grade 19/Step 12 and in reviewing the chart for the grade/steps, it was recommended to place that position at Grade 21/Step 12 effective August 1, 2007. Motion to approve the recommended grade change for the Human Service Director's position. (Wyum/Orn. Aye: Anderson, Wyum and Orn. Nay: Waswick and Walstead. Motion carried)

The Board recessed for lunch.

The Board reconvened at 2:00 p.m. following the SC Park Board meeting.

Approve reappointment of Wayne Sebens, Milnor and Chris Mathias, Stirum to the Sargent County Weed Board for a 4 year term. (Orn/Walstead, unanimous)

Commissioner Walstead introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

Red River Basin Resolution of Support

WHEREAS, we recognize that our actions today impact the legacy we leave the next generation;

WHEREAS, we realize that working together allows us to develop and implement creative solutions to problems that work toward the betterment of the whole basin;

WHEREAS, the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) is a unique organization working across jurisdictional boundaries to foster and facilitate a cooperative approach within the basin and is a well established forum for identifying, developing and implementing solutions to cross boundary issues;

WHEREAS, the RRBC has developed the Red River Basin Natural Resource Framework Plan (RRB-NRFP) through in-depth basin-wide consultation as a guideline to aid in achieving a basin-wide approach to integrated natural resource management;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the SARGENT COUNTY COMMISSION hereby declares support for the RRB-NRFP in principle and will do our part to work toward this common vision by implementing projects, programs, and actions in our area as we are able that will contribute to this shared vision.

Commissioner Orn seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye, no one voted nay and the resolution was duly carried and adopted.

Chairman Anderson called a meeting of elected officials and other appointed officials to elect a county delegate to the NDACo State Council. The meeting is scheduled for August 21 at 11:30 a.m.

The North Dakota Department of Health is mandated with evaluating emergency medical coverage in the state. The State Health Council shall study the minimum requirements of reasonable medical coverage which must take into account the response time for emergency medical services. The board of county commissioners of every county shall conduct an annual review of the EMS

coverage and submit an annual report to the State Health Officer. The Board received maps from Sandy Hanson, 911 coordinator and completed the EMS Coverage Questionnaire and authorized the County Auditor to submit to the state.

June Fritzen and Orville Nelson, representing the SC Historical Society met with the Board to discuss the 125th celebration of Sargent County in 2008. June reported some suggestions were to hold something in conjunction with the county fair. She discussed possibly a county wide picnic and memorabilia from each city during the county fair. Following discussion the Board encouraged June to meet with other civic organizations to receive feedback on ideas for a county celebration.

Department heads and employees were called to the commission meeting to discuss the projected General Fund budget deficit for 2008. Those in attendance were informed that the General Fund budget balance has been declining over several years and each department head was asked to take a look at each line item and cut 20% off the non-salary items. Budgets should be returned to the Auditor's Office no later than August 13th to allow time to prepare the adjustments for the proposed 2008 budget.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

BILL ANDERSON – CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

SHERRY HOSFORD - AUDITOR