

Forman, North Dakota
August 8, 2013

The Sargent County Commissioners met in a special session at 3:00 p.m. with the following members present: David Jacobson, Mike Walstead, Bill Anderson, and Steve Wyum. Absent: Jerry Waswick. Lyle Bopp, States Attorney and Sparky Engquist, Road Supt. were also in attendance. The meeting had been called by Commission Vice-Chairman Wyum for the purpose of discussing potential hazards to public safety caused by some encroachments on county road right of way.

Commissioner Anderson had sent an e-mail to all Commissioners, the Road Superintendent, the Sheriff, the States Attorney and the County Auditor concerning a complaint he had received from a motorist who had driven on County # 1 and # 6 the previous evening and reported that corn was planted through the ditch and right up to the edge of the driving lane at various locations for the entire distance from ND Highway #32 to Gwinner, obstructing visibility at the intersections and providing cover for deer right up to the point where they can jump out in front of a vehicle. Discussion followed on what other commissioners had observed on this roadway and other county roads and how many feet from the center of the roadway the County's obligation to maintain the right of way free of obstructions extended. The States Attorney reiterated an opinion that he had e-mailed to all Commissioners, the Road Supervisor, the Sheriff and the Auditor advising that the failure to remove obstructions to visibility from the right of way could increase the County's liability exposure for property damage, injuries or deaths which may occur as a result of obstructed visibility.

Sparky Engquist stated that at all county road intersections there is either a stop sign or a yield sign and there are many dangerous county and township road intersections depending on what crop is planted there this year. The Road Dept. has the authority to remove the obstructions. Sparky stated that he would seek placement of an article in the official County paper with a picture of an intersection with obstructions and ask the farmers and landowners to remove any obstructions that obscure or impair visibility.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

DAVID L JACOBSON – CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

SHERRY HOSFORD-AUDITOR