

September 1, 2020
Forman, North Dakota

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9:02 a.m. in the Conference Room with the following members present: Bill Anderson, Jason Arth, Lyle Bopp, Richard Ruch, and Jerry Waswick. Also present were Jayne Pfau, State's Attorney; Mary Engst, Sargent County Teller; and Pam Maloney, County Auditor.

Chairman Waswick called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Motion to approve August 18th minutes as corrected. (Anderson/Bopp). Motion carried.

Commissioner Anderson reported that the Job Development Authority will be hiring their own counsel for JDA purposes.

The commission discussed moving the mailboxes further. It was decided to keep the mailboxes where they are currently located and when the new security doors are installed, the mail carrier will be given a card/fob to enter the north door.

There is still a vacancy on the Sargent County Weed Board. The auditor will re-advertise for the position.

Coroner's staff mileage was discussed further. It was decided to pay mileage from their home to the scene or to the county fleet vehicle, and they would be paid their hourly rate beginning when they arrived on scene or the county fleet vehicle.

The auditor reported that she had called Digital Guru in Wahpeton to check on teleconferencing equipment and was waiting for a call back.

More discussion was held on the Sargent County Water Board's non-use of teleconferencing equipment for public use. There have been complaints made that the public does not have remote public access to their meetings. Motion made to request the state's attorney to send a letter to the SCWB reminding them that all their meetings should have remote public access; that Sargent County has provided GoTo Meeting for all county boards to use, and they may use that or any other teleconferencing means they choose for the public to access their meetings. (Anderson/Arth) Upon advice from the State's Attorney that the current county policy, based on CDC guidelines, recommends, but does not require, electronic remote public access for all meetings of county committees and boards, the motion was withdrawn. It was decided to revise the county policy to require all county boards to provide remote public access to all their public meetings. Ms. Pfau will work on that before the next meeting.

Discussion was held on whether to move the county's health insurance provider from ND PERS to NDPHIT. Motion to enroll in NDPHIT with the first payment made in December 2020 with coverage to begin January 1, 2021. (Anderson/Bopp) Roll Call Vote: Yes – Anderson, Arth & Bopp. No – Ruch and Waswick. Motion carried.

The auditor has received several applications for the road supervisor position. Motion to appoint the Jerry Waswick, Chairman; Jason Arth, Road Commissioner; and Jayne Pfau, State's Attorney; to a committee to interview applicants and make a recommendation to the board. (Anderson/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve an Application for Special Permit to Sell Alcoholic Beverages at a Special Event at Designated Premises from The Schoolhouse Bar in DeLamere. They are having an outdoor musician on September 11, 2020. (Ruch/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was held on the CARES Act reimbursement to the county and whether or not it should be shared with those cities that the county has police contracts. It was decided at this time not to allocate any of these funds to those cities unless directed otherwise by the state.

Alison Toepke, Treasurer/Recorder/Clerk of Court, arrived at the meeting. Brenda Peterson, SC Health Unit Administrator joined via technology. Ms. Toepke questioned whether the courthouse would be closing to the public again, due to the fact that COVID cases are rising. Ms. Peterson reported that the county's cases are still relatively low with 7 active cases at this time. COVID testing is still available at the health department on Wednesday mornings for the public. Wendy Willprecht, Emergency Manager, had provided a written report regarding school instruction and extracurricular activities. The commissioners thanked all the department heads & stated that they have the authority to do what they feel works best for their department. Working remotely is an option, as long as the job can be done remotely.

Vanessa Bayger, Sargent County Fair Board Member, arrived at the meeting. As the 2020 Sargent County Fair was cancelled, there was no report on that. She stated that the 2021 fair would be held July 22-25, 2021. The fair board has voted to tear down the auditorium, due to the many issues with the structure. There was discussion on whether the fair board would hire someone and pay for the demolition or if the county would pay for the demolition. If the county was responsible for the demolition, the road crew would do the work, but in either case, the building will need to be checked for asbestos before the demolition. Ms. Bayger also stated that they are currently working on updating the lighting in the exhibit building and doing maintenance on the horse arena.

Merrill Engquist, Road Supervisor, arrived at the meeting. He reported on graveling projects and that the box culvert installation for Taylor Township is still scheduled for the middle of September. He also stated that he, Commissioner Ruch and Damon DeVillers, Interstate Engineering, had surveyed the problem area on the west end of County Road #1. He will be meeting with State's Attorney Pfau to draw up some easements to install drain tile. He has checked with the NRSCS & will continue to work with Mr. DeVillers until the project is completed.

The commissioners reviewed an Application for Drainage Work Within Road Right-of-Way received from Montana-Dakota Utilities, Bismarck, ND. The request is for an approach/driveway addition along the west side of Section 9-132-54 in Milnor Township. Motion to approve the application. (Anderson/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Engquist was also reminded about the Bridges with Alert Code 3 that need critical repairs and require attention as soon as possible. There are two bridges which are: Bridge 41-114-20.1 3 miles east of Brampton; and Bridge 41-117-22.0 1 mile north and 2 miles west of Havana.

Brenda Peterson, Health Unit Administrator, rejoined the meeting through technology. She stated that Joyce Chapin, Director of Nursing, has resigned her position effective September 18, 2020. She is planning on promoting Briana Spellerberg, Nurse, to the Director of Nursing position, and advertising for the Footcare Nurse position. She has also advertised for a temporary nurse to fill in while Ms. Spellerberg is off for maternity leave. The temporary employee would receive the pay rates as designated by the state for COVID events.

Discussion was held on the elevator door entrance. The automatic door hasn't worked for some time and needs to be repaired. Commissioner Bopp has received a quote from House of Glass. Motion to accept the quote and the approve the repair, and for the House of Glass to be in contact with Dickey Rural Networks to coordinate the new security system installation, as well. (Ruch/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Travis Paeper, Sheriff, arrived at the meeting to discuss the CARES Act reimbursement received by the county. He stated that he has had a request from one city for an allocation due to the police contract they have with the county. More discussion followed and Commissioner Waswick would like to get more information before making a decision. Discussion was also held on designating a portion of these funds to purchase the replacement radios needed for the Sheriff's Department, Ambulance Personnel and First Responders, for the SIRN project. Sheriff Paeper will get quotes for the radios needed for his department.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

JERRY WASWICK – CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:
