

Forman, North Dakota
September 2, 2003

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present: Karen Anderson, Don Wehlander, Mike Walstead, Steve Wyum and Ray Brockman. Absent None.

Harris L. Anderson, Havana, met with the Board to express his concern on County Road No. 7 west of his farm. An existing culvert has been removed and he is wondering why the culvert was lowered and whose land is being drained. Steve Wyum said the old culvert was plugged with silt and Sparky Engquist replaced the culvert to drain the excess water using the road right-of-way. He is trying to get the sheet water off the western terrain. Harris said the landowners should have been contacted and permission received before the drainage could continue. He feels the Board should look at it and the culvert should be raised and his ditch filled in. Steve stated that Sparky is a department head and he has the authority to do normal work without formal approval from the Board. The Board will inspect the site over the noon hour.

Julie Hassebroek, Extension Agent requested out-of-state travel to attend the Galaxy II "Exceeding Expectation Through Teamwork" conference at Salt Lake City, Utah September 21-25, 2003. There will be no travel cost to the county. Approve. (Brockman/Wyum, unanimous)

Approve a Sunday Alcoholic Beverage Permit to Geneseo Bar for 12 months. (Wehlander/Walstead, unanimous)

Travis Paeper, Sheriff, discussed the 2004 budget. He wrote a grant for \$10,000 for a video camera, ballistic vests, new side arms and phasers. The grant is for officer safety and he is optimistic that Sargent County will receive some monies. Travis discussed the evaluation he conducted with Deputy Todd Hardy. Deputy Rick Carney resigned his position effective September 1, 2003 and has accepted employment in Minnesota. Sheriff Paeper asked permission to offer Scott Buckhouse the position as he was next on the list from the last interview process. Buckhouse is still stationed in Iraq and is not known at this time when he will return. In the meantime Travis would like to use some off-duty officers to assist with patrolling and work harder with scheduling. He also commended the work of Deputy Matron Brenda Peterson.

Norm Preble met with the Board to discuss that the ND State Board of Equalization reviewed assessments for Sargent County and found agricultural land at 99%, commercial values at 97.4% and residential at 96%, which are all within tolerance. On inundated land he would like to take some time this fall and check the acreage's to compare with what is submitted in the spring. The Board approved and encouraged good documentation. He also presented a report on rural residential sales in the county in the past three years. He feels that the properties should be re-valued for 2004. Norm will also work on this information.

Steve Wyum reported that the bid letting for County No. 2 has been changed to October 1, 2003 instead of September 9th. This will allow completion of the project into 2004. The paving projects are completed except for some shoulder work.

Lysle Coleman, Oakes met with the Board to discuss county roads and his concern with Verner Township roadways. He provided history from the exchange of the roadway with ND State, the township and the county. Verner Township does not have the monies to take care of the increased traffic. He is asking that the Board reconsiders and provides at least one-half of the gravel for the two miles between Section 7/18 and 8/17. The Board informed Mr. Coleman that the tax levy in Verner Township is less than surrounding townships and more money could be generated by increasing the local tax levy. He is also concerned about the dust from the gravel roads. There is an area that should be redone with the chloride treatment. There is the safety factor due to the heavy dust. The Board will visit with Sparky Engquist.

Sparky Engquist arrived at the meeting to inform the Board of the reason that the work was done on County No. 7 west of Harris L. Anderson's. He will accompany the Board to inspect the site at noon.

Approve disposal of the following county property: #1758-HP fax machine and #2001-Motorola bag phone. (Wehlander/Walstead, unanimous)

Approve Beer and Liquor License to Milnor Hillside C-Store & Motel for the year ending 12/31/03 and approved by the Milnor Township Board. (Wehlander/Wyum, unanimous)

Carey Peuser, Michael J. Burns, Architects and Stephen Roberts, A.J. Spanjers, met with the Board to update on the courthouse tuckpointing project. Completion of the work on cleaning should be done by end of September. Pierce Roofing, is sub-contracted to do the cornice modeling and dome repairs and is short on manpower. This work will take a month once they arrive. Mr. Peuser is hopeful that the weather will hold out and get the work and painting completed before freeze-up.

The front steps will be replaced this year. There was 815 additional brick that needed replacement and another area that didn't need the extensive work so there will be no additional cost. Discussed painting the dome and different colors to accentuate. Additional cost for time to paint the accents would be approximately \$5,000 to \$9,000. Carey will prepare some drawings of our courthouse and get a firmer estimate on the painting.

Lyle Bopp arrived at the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

The Board reviewed the listing of properties appearing in the Notice of Expiration of Period of Redemption. Discussed the property located in Cayuga leased by Rutland-Havana Farmers Co-Op Elevator Company. Motion to direct the auditor not to proceed with tax deed for Lease Site No. 545,144 (42,120 Sq. ft) #30-9267000 (Brockman/Walstead, unanimous)

Damon DeVillers, Interstate Engineering, Inc. met with the Board to update on the paving projects, which are all completed. A couple spots need fixing and the contractor will make repairs. Shoulders, approaches and slope flatteners are also being installed and the center line stripers will be here soon. The bridge guardrail is scheduled to be installed. He also discussed County No. 2 safety project and the change of bid date. Damon is preparing estimates for the upcoming overlay projects that are eligible for FAS funding.

Sandy Hanson met and informed the Board that she and Norman Preble switched offices after the cleaning was completed. She also inquired about the 2004 911 Landline Budget and 911 Wireless Budget. The Board agreed to reinstate the \$10,000 to mapping and \$11,000 to 911 contracts on the 911-landline budget. She reported on the cell phone proposal with the Sheriff's Dept. A separate plan was acquired for \$45/month with 300 minutes, which is a smaller plan than she originally had and was setup for a 24-month plan. Sandy asked about the Technology Team and the intent of the team. She was also encouraged to attend the Arc View classes in Mandan this month.

Approve appointment of the following to the County Technology Team and request a meeting with the county commissioners on September 16 at 11:00 a.m.: Lyle Bopp, Sparky Engquist, Julie Hassebroek, Gina Hillestad and Sandy Hanson. (Wyum/Wehlander, unanimous)

Approve August 19, 2003 minutes. (Wehlander/Walstead, unanimous)

Lyle Bopp researched ditches to drain highways (NDCC-24-06-26). Highways are set aside for highway use unless the county purchases the land. Landowners own to the center of the roadway and there are proceedings to establish according to said section. If the right to construct and maintain a ditch is not given voluntarily by the person owning the land, it shall cause proceedings to be instituted.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

KAREN ANDERSON - CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

SHERRY HOSFORD - AUDITOR