

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9:05 a.m. with the following members present: David Jacobson, Sherry Hosford, Jerry Waswick, Mike Walstead, and Bill Anderson. Also present was Jeanne Sexton-Brown & Tibby Hinderlie, The Sargent County Teller; and Pam Maloney, Sargent County Auditor.

Approve minutes of the August 16, 2016, commission meeting as corrected. (Hosford/Walstead, unanimous)

Lyle Bopp, State's Attorney; Jayne Pfau, Assistant State's Attorney; & Donna Eklund, county resident; arrived at the meeting.

Mr. Bopp informed the board that the State's Attorney's contingency fund line item, which had been cut at an earlier budget meeting, is required to be at \$500 according to the North Dakota Century Code, whether or not it is ever used. The \$500 contingency fund line item in the States Attorney's 2017 budget will be re-instated as required by State statute.

Mr. Bopp informed the commissioners that the States Attorney's office had been without internet service for approximately a day & a half during the previous week as Dickey Rural Networks had removed a pedestal which housed the copper wire line from the courthouse to his office. DRN had not communicated that the service would be terminated or disrupted, so Mr. Bopp enlisted the help of NRG Technology Services to find out what the problem was. Once it had been determined that DRN had disconnected the line, Mr. Bopp requested that the line be reconnected. DRN informed Mr. Bopp that it could not reconnect the old copper line, and that it now has in place a new fiber optic line which will be faster, but will also cost considerably more money. The commissioners advised Mr. Bopp to draft a letter to Dickey Rural Networks informing the company that Sargent County finds the fact that there was no prior communication regarding this change in equipment and service, and the subsequent disruption of service, to be unacceptable. Mr. Bopp was further requested to inform DRN that, as Sargent County was not consulted about the change in equipment or service, there should be no increase in the fee charged for the same. It was also requested that a representative of DRN should be invited to meet with the County Commission concerning this matter.

Terry Dusek, Milnor City Council President; Kent Thoreson & Damon DeVillers, Interstate Engineering; & LeeAnn Even, Milnor City Attorney; arrived at the meeting. There was much discussion on the creation of the Storm Lake Dam Federal Maintenance District as proposed, and subsequently approved, by the Sargent County Water Resource Board. The Sargent County Water Resource Board has the authority pursuant to State Law to take over the maintenance of the dam if not maintained by federal agencies. However, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has been involved with the channel and regulating the elevation of culverts, so it appears that the Federal Government has been exercising the incidents of ownership of the structure, and has directed water level management and maintenance operations concerning the Storm Lake Dam in recent years. Additionally, there are no recorded instruments or other correspondence in the County's records or files that indicate the Federal Government's intention to divest itself of ownership of the Storm Lake Dam. Motion to table this discussion until the October 18th commissioner meeting and direct the state's attorney to contact the NRSCS and U.S. F & W regarding the ownership of said dam. (Anderson/Walstead, unanimous)

Damon DeVillers also brought a change order for the Hall Township Bridge project. Motion to approve Change Order #1 for the Hall Township Bridge Project BRC-4120(057). (Hosford/Jacobson, unanimous)

Austin McLaen, Sargent County Bank, arrived at the meeting. He distributed pamphlets describing a new lease purchase program for government entities and political subdivisions that the bank has recently started. The program is called SCB Public Finance. Government lease purchases are a financing alternative to traditional loans, bonds and internal funding for public entities. Sargent County currently has lease purchase contracts with John Deere for 3 motor graders. The commission requested that Mr. McLaen work up a refinancing offer for the graders, as SCB Public Finance [appears to have] a lower interest rate.

Motion to instruct the auditor to order two new signs for the front of the courthouse, reading "Accessible Parking and Elevator Entrance at Rear". (Hosford/Anderson, unanimous)

Quotes were received from Hansen Lumber & Hardware; & Nelson Home Center; to replace the two big windows in the Health Department building. Motion to accept the low quote from Hansen Lumber to in-

stall two sliding windows per specs, which include the windows and labor. Work should be done yet this fall. (Hosford/Jacobson, unanimous) Also, Ms. Hosford informed the Commission that Darwin Flieds of Forman Repair has agreed to check the Health Department's emergency generator at the health department building in the spring and fall of each year, and to perform oil changes and other maintenance, as necessary.

Motion to hire Chuck Horter from NDACO to review and update our employee policy handbook at a cost of \$3000 and to continue yearly updates at a cost of \$200/year. (Hosford/Walstead, unanimous)

Motion to approve Sunday Permit for the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages at Geneseo Bar & Grill, 317 Main St, Geneseo ND, for twelve months. (Jacobson/Anderson, unanimous)

A request was made by Travis Paeper, Sargent County Sheriff, to review and/or update the Deputy Matron job description to include 24/7 Coordinator and Community Service Director. Several programs have been implemented since 2010 which has increased job duties and should be reflected in the job description. Motion to send in the job description Sheriff Paeper has prepared for review and possible reclassification. (Hosford/Anderson, unanimous)

Some discussion was held regarding compensation for Social Service Board members/employees who have been putting in extra time in the absence of a director. The auditor was instructed to include this on the next meeting's agenda.

Commissioner Hosford has been approached by several campers inquiring about a monthly rate for camping at Silver Lake Park. The job description for the park manager also needs some updating. The auditor was instructed to include this on the next park meeting agenda.

Meeting recessed at 12:00 p.m. for lunch.

Meeting reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

The Board proceeded to work on the 2017 budget, reviewing requests from the few departments that were not available at the last meeting.

At 1:30 the Board proceeded to meet with department heads on the 2016 budget. Melissa Seykora, NDSU Extension Ag and Natural Resources (ANR) Agent; & Cindy Klapperich, NDSU Extension Family and Consumer Science (FCS) Agent met with the board regarding their Extension budget. They were concerned about the cuts to their travel line items. After some discussion and checking on figures, the FCS agent travel line item was increased, but the other line items that had been cut remained the same.

Motion to approve out-of-state travel for FCS Agent Cindy Klapperich to attend the Annual Conference for the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Science at Big Sky, Montana, during the week of September 11-17. (Walstead/Anderson, unanimous)

Motion to approve the 2017 preliminary budget in the amount of \$8,736,711. (Anderson/Walstead, unanimous) Roll Call Vote: Yes – Jacobson, Anderson, Hosford and Waswick. No – Walstead. Motion carried. A public hearing will be conducted on Tuesday, October 4, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the commissioner's room, Sargent County Courthouse, Forman.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

JERRY WASWICK – CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

PAM MALONEY – COUNTY AUDITOR