

Forman, North Dakota
September 7, 2021

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9:20 a.m. with the following members present: Jason Arth, Lyle Bopp, Mark Breker, Richard Ruch and Jerry Waswick. Also present were Margie Johnson, State's Attorney Legal Assistant; Mary Engst, Sargent County Teller; and Pam Maloney, Sargent County Auditor.

Chairman Lyle Bopp called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Jill Mulder, Human Resource Director, arrived at the meeting to discuss two separate potential policies: Office Pet Policy and Children in the Workplace. She provided two different options for each policy. Motion to accept Policy One (1) for Office Pet Policy with the change in the second and fifth paragraph to exclude "his or her immediate supervisor"; change Commissioner to Commission; and to add that a waiver of liability must be signed by the employee making the request. (Breker/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Children in the Workplace policy was then discussed. Motion that no children should be in the workplace other than for weather related reasons or childcare issues, and that would only be for the remainder for that day. (Ruch/Waswick) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the agenda as amended. (Arth/Breker) Motion carried.

Terry Dusek, Milnor; arrived at the meeting. Bill Anderson, Rutland; and Nathan Berseth, Colfax; were present through technology to discuss the Job Development Authority. Sandy Hanson, JDA Secretary, had provided a brief summary of outstanding loans for the commission. The JDA has been extremely proactive in promoting businesses and also building homes for potential new residents to the county. This is building up the tax base, as the county has the jobs, but is looking to encourage those working in Sargent County, but living somewhere else, to move here.

Wendy Willprecht, Emergency Manager/911 Coordinator; arrived at the meeting. Brenda Peterson, Health Unit Administrator, was present through technology. Ms. Peterson stated that there are eleven active Covid cases in the county presently and the county has had an upswing in testing. She stated that the Health Department is now masking when interacting with the public. She also mentioned that booster shots will likely be available at the end of September. Ms. Willprecht stated that the schools have no restrictions at this time.

Motion to approve the August 17th, 2021 minutes as presented. (Waswick/Arth) Motion carried unanimously.

At this time, Commissioner Waswick asked if the other commissioners knew anything about a potential pipeline coming through the county. This pipeline would be moving carbon dioxide from Minnesota to the oil fields in western North Dakota. At this time, the company is surveying the area for a suitable and feasible route.

Commissioner Breker stated he had received a phone call from a resident living south of Geneseo regarding the traffic speed by her home. Speed limit signs are posted and also "Children at Play" signs are up, but the traffic going north & south are not paying attention, and she is concerned for the safety of her children. The sheriff's office will be notified so more patrolling can be done in that area.

Motion to request the Treasurer's Office to split out the accumulating interest of the ARPA funds received, as even if we have to send the ARPA funds back to the federal government, Sargent County will be able to keep any interest earned. (Arth/Breker) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Jim Wucherpennig arrived at the meeting to request closing two section lines in Forman Township – between Sections 26 & 35; and 35 & 36. He stated that the section line that goes from his farm yard to the west between sections 26 and 35 hasn't been maintained by Forman Township for at least 20 years and for the majority of that time it has been underwater in several places. Dakota Valley Electric is

retiring the power line west of the farm. The lines and poles should be removed later this year. Now he would like to close the section line so that it can be farmed and some of the areas that they haven't been able to get to because of the water. Also, the section line between sections 35 and 36 hasn't been maintained since the 1970s or 80s. The first step will be to contact Forman Township for their input on the matter, after which will come a public hearing, before the commissioners will make a decision. Tim Faber, Road Superintendent, arrived at the meeting. He stated that the temporary culverts have been placed on County Road #12/Drain #7 crossing. The sealcoat project is done, but the paint crew will likely not be here until late September. There is some patchwork that needs to be done on County Roads #2-#4-#10-#12-#14. Mr. Faber was instructed to contact Buck's Paving to do the work, with the cost not to exceed \$60,000.

Motion to approve an Application for Drainage Work Within County Road Right-of-Way from Matthew Bosse, Cogswell, for a driveway installation along the east side of Section 35-130-57 – Sargent Township, County #4 with the stipulation that the work be done just as the application states. (Waswick/Ruch) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

LYLE BOPP– CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

PAM MALONEY – COUNTY AUDITOR