

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SARGENT COUNTY WATER RESOURCE BOARD HELD AT THE RUTLAND CITY HALL, RUTLAND, ND ON MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2016 BEGINNING AT 7:00 P.M.

Members present: Lucas Siemieniewski, Richard Engst and Todd Stein. Also attending: Chris Gross, Moore Engineering, Inc. and Sherry Hosford, Secretary-Treasurer, members of the Rutland City Council and several residents from Rutland City and the surrounding area.

The purpose of the meeting, as called by the City Council of Rutland, was to receive input from the public on the upcoming vote on the Sargent County Drain No. 8 Reconstruction Project. The City of Rutland has 184,665.46 votes on said project and they are seeking input from their residents for this project. The city requested that the water board engineer be present to explain the project, review available funding and the voting process.

Mayor Ron Narum opened the meeting and introduced Engineer Gross. Chris provided a handout which had been used at a separate hearing on February 18, 2016 at the courthouse in Forman. Chris explained how the pool of people was created for the voting process and a mailing sent out to those people. The deadline to vote is 5:00 p.m. on March 21, 2016. A simple majority is required to continue with the project and if that is not received, the project does not continue, however, the maintenance levy for said drain would continue for repairs, etc.

Several residents of the City of Rutland spoke and questioned the project and how the water within the city would be drained into said drain. Some felt that the problem is snow and ice that plugs the drain and prohibits the water from flowing from the city. Chris explained that in prior projects that he has worked on that following a reconstruction project such as this one the problem goes away the next year.

Bill Anderson, county commissioner, explained that the \$100,000 allocated to this project from the county road department is monies from the state oil dollars and was based on the number of road miles in Sargent County. The county commissioners allocated the money as per request of the water board to improve County No. 10. This proposal for the project is to make an improvement to the drain and also a safer roadway.

Other comments followed regarding railroad contribution, township allocation, and a need for maintenance if the project does not pass, trees in the drain, spending some money to make the drain work, a possible joint powers agreement with the city and the water board and who will ultimately be responsible for repairs if this vote does not pass.

Some comments were made in support of the project and one in opposition. The council asked for a show of hands on voting yes and no and the count was about equal.

Bill Anderson again commented that there is no such thing as free money and the State Water Commission and Rutland City have the majority of funding to this project. Improvements are needed in this drain and some areas of the city are unbuildable and if the water does not move out of town that will not change. Now is the time to do the project and if it gets voted down, the money may not be available in the future to do this work and it would cost more. The council must look at what's in the best interest for the community of Rutland.

Mayor Narum stated that he remembers a time when the drain did not work and there was water two feet deep on the city streets.

If the vote does not pass, it is the responsibility of the water board to oversee any maintenance of the drain with funds that are available from the maintenance levy.

The hearing closed at 8:45 p.m.

Sherry Hosford, Secretary-Treasurer

Sargent County Water Resource District