

Forman, North Dakota
July 21, 2026

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met for their regularly scheduled meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 21, 2026. Commissioners present were Wade Anderson, Scott Johnson, Lyle Bopp and Jerry Waswick. Absent was Jason Arth. Also present were Jayne Pfau, State's Attorney; Tia Bopp, Auditor; Floyd Hutch, NextEra Energy Resources; Brian Vculek, Richard Ruch, David Totenhagen, Roger Zetocha, and Mark Gainor.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Waswick and led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion to approve the agenda with additions. (Bopp/Anderson) Motion carried.

Hutch Floyd, NextEra was present to introduce himself and talk about a wind energy project being prospected in the area, mostly in Ransom County and coming into the north western portion of Sargent County. He informed the Commission that they do have land agents in the area. Their company is trying to gauge the temperature of the project and trying to get to know the area and community. He further indicated they haven't identified where the energy will go, although one resident present stated that he was contacted by a representative from NextEra, Taryn Pyke, who was soliciting contracts. Pyke told the resident that once the towers were put in place, there would be a transmission line running to Forman and that the power would be going to Florida. NextEra has had a presence in North Dakota since 2006 and currently have 16 projects in the state. They are also currently working with battery projects in the Bismarck area. Floyd stated they are not looking at a battery project in this area presently. Additional information provided by, or, in response to questions posed included the following: (a) once enough land is identified they will put up some MET towers for studies to determine the amount of towers needed to generate the amount of electricity they are needing; (b) the prospect area is just over 9000 acres; (c) one wind tower will sit on one acre of land plus access roads; (d) the bulk of the project would be in Ransom County; (e) eminent domain has not been affiliated with this project; (f) payment to landowners would be different if you have a tower on your land than if you are participating and don't have a tower; (g) if now is not the right time for this project, than now is not the right time and they will go somewhere else; (h) NextEra currently has the wind towers in the Edgeley area, but Floyd was unaware if they had the tower project at Kulm; (i) NextEra is not providing the boundaries for the project at this time because there are competitors in the area and it is a business decision not to share the boundaries currently; (j) when asked about setbacks and safety for ag pilots, Floyd shared that there would be an operations and maintenance building inside the project and the operation of the project could be shut down from Juno Beach, Florida where the company is based out of; and (k) Floyd expressed interest in being part of any working group to establish zoning or regulations involving wind tower projects. Chairman Waswick thanked Floyd for coming to the meeting. Floyd left business cards for anyone wishing to have one.

Motion to approve the minutes from the July 7, 2026 meeting. (Bopp/Anderson) Motion carried.

Moving into unfinished business, State's Attorney, Pfau stated townships would have to give their zoning authority back to the county in order for the county to pass the moratorium and put any zoning regulations in place. Some townships' zoning ordinances have not been updated since the mid-90s and were done with assistance from Lake Agassiz. Their zoning that they have on paper would have to follow the setbacks that are already set in the zoning. Commissioner Anderson asked Mr. Floyd a question regarding when towers are done, what do they do with them. In the ordinances, the decommissioning of the towers should be included. Towers will have lights if they detect air craft in the area. Floyd will check if the MET towers are lighted as well.

Under new business, a recommendation from the personnel board was made to turn the sick bank administration over to HR and update the policy language accordingly. (Bopp/Anderson) Motion carried.

Sheriff Paeper and Road Supervisor, Tim Faber arrived at the meeting. Sheriff Paeper stated Deputy Case has completed her probation. Paeper is requesting a step increase. Case is progressing within the department. Motion to approve the step increase for Deputy Case from a C43/1 to a C 43/2 effective with the July payroll and move her anniversary date for step increases to July. (Johnson/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Sargent County's Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan has been approved. No press release will be published.

Commissioner Bopp had asked Water Board Member Roger Zetocha about a potential additional cost share project with the water board. Zetocha stated he didn't come to represent the water board and didn't feel it would be fair to speak on behalf of the board. Richard Ruch explained that there was

another location on a township road down by drain 9 that would possibly be another box culvert project. The hope was that the drain would be redone. This is still being looked at and will be discussed in the future, but nothing was being requested at the present time. Zetocha left at 9:44 a.m.

Motion to proceed with the purchase and installation of plank flooring to be installed in the commission room, carpeting in the auditor's office with planking in the public portion of the office, as well as a desk for the auditor. (Anderson/Johnson) Discussion. Commissioner Bopp has concern for the noise of the plank flooring. Voting yes were Anderson, Johnson and Waswick. Voting no was Bopp. Motion carried.

The Commission move on to reviewing bills. There were questions regarding repairs to the 2019 Durango. Both Neil Weaving and Neal Planteen from Southside Automotive took a look at the vehicle before it ultimately had to be towed to Dakota Chrysler to have the melted down battery box replaced.

Tim Faber, Road Supervisor advised that there was an incident this last week with a road grader. A pickup from Otter Tail Power Company took the ditch to pass the grader and caught the moldboard. There was no damage to the grader. The Otter Tail Power Company employee was at fault.

Discussion moved to culvert and bridge repair on County Road 5 near the Darren Hoistad residence. Damon DeViller's first estimate for a box culvert is \$166,000 delivered not installed. A second culvert quote is \$183,000 delivered not installed. An additional \$100-\$150,000 would be needed to install the culverts. Faber indicated that DeVillers agrees with putting in three 60-inch steel culverts and then slowly building the road up. The three steel culverts would cost \$41,473.20 and installation would come to \$32,500.00 which includes removing the bridge between the two existing culverts. Motion to replace the existing culverts with three 60-inch culverts and remove the bridge between two of the culverts with installation being done by Marshall Braaten. Purchase price of culverts is \$41,473.20 and an installation price of \$32,500.00. (Anderson/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. Funding for this project will come from the culvert line item for materials and installation from the road and bridge line item.

In other road department news, the department is continuing to gravel and blade. The newly hired worker is willing to go to full time with the anticipated retirement of Randy Christensen coming at the end of the year. Faber will verify with Christensen his intentions.

Brenda Wyckoff, Sargent County District Health Administrator and Wendy Schmiess, EM/911 Coordinator/Dickey-Sargent Water Resource District Secretary were on hand to answer any questions in relation to their department budgets. Wyckoff summarized her department and the grants and will make some adjustments and resubmit to the Auditor before the preliminary budget is approved. Schmiess reported she is working on a grant for a generator at the courthouse in the event of a power outage. The quote Schmiess had received for the generator was \$345,000.

Motion to pay the July payroll in the amount of \$356,061.42 and the bills presented. (Johnson/Anderson). Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

	American Professional		
90598	Manufacturing, Inc.	Cor-Disaster Pouch Envelopes	2,265.00
90599	Dakota Plains Cooperative	Sher/CH/Election/Health Gas	1,343.14
	Election Systems &		
90600	Software	Audio Setup	2,527.75
90601	NDACO Resources Group	SmartZone	50.00
90603	Verizon Wireless	Sheriff Mifi Cards	240.06
90604-			
90614		Ambulance Squads Expenses	2,266.81
90617	City of Forman	CH/Road Water/Sewer/Garbage	364.84
90618	Ottertail Power Company	Electricity	1,281.80
90619	Ransom County	VSO Salary/Benefits	2,564.50
90621	Ottertail Power Company	JDA Expense	90.66
90622-			
90626		Health Unit Expenses	856.58
90627	Ottertail Power Company	JDA Expense	71.24
90652	Advanced Business Methods	Copier Base Rate/Overage	738.68
90653	Arth, Jason	Election Miles Reimbursement	36.25
90654	Avid Hawk	Web Services	45.00
90655	Berger's Body & Glass	Sheriff Squad Car Tow	517.50
90656	Bjork, Valerie	Election Miles Reimbursement	28.28
90657	Bopp, Tia	Aud Mileage/Supplies	350.50

		Reimbursement	
90658	Buckhouse, Scott	CH Spring Spray	225.00
90659	Cenex Fleet	Health Gas	43.78
90660	Central Grocery	CH/Elections/Road Supplies	82.46
		Aud -Laptops/Monitors, Tech	
90661	Computer Express	Support, Treas-Monitor	6,661.00
90662	Dakota Chrysler Center	Sher Squad Car Repair	2,088.90
90663	Dakota Water Solutions	CH/Road 5 Gal Water Jugs	250.00
90664	Dakota Woodworks	CH Cedar Trellis (2)	50.00
90665	Dickey Rural Networks	Telephone	985.40
	Forman Lumber &		
90666	Fireworks	CH-Lumber/Gloves	95.21
90667	IBBG Lawncare, LLC	Fair-Mowing/Spraying, May-June	2,100.00
		Off Prem	
90668	Information Technology Dept.	Connectivity/WAN/Office/Adobe/NetMotion	1,936.95
		Aud/Elections Toner, Office	
90669	Innovative Office Solutions	Supplies	534.30
		Sher Phone Reimbursement/Heart	
90670	Johnson, Bryan	Screening	225.00
90671	Kirk's Ag Repair	Sher Squad Car Batteries	383.90
90672	Lanelle's Reporting Service	State's Att'y-Deposition Copies	143.50
		Sher Squad Car Oil Change	
90673	Lee's Service Station	(2)/Battery	438.95
90674	Maloney, Pam	Election Miles Reimbursement	43.50
90675	Mund, Amy	Election Miles Reimbursement	95.70
	ND State Radio		
90676	Communications	LETS Terminal Fees Apr-Jun	120.00
90677	Pitney Bowes	Postage Machine Lease/Ink Ctdg	457.07
90678	Quill	T/R/CoC Office Supplies	452.91
90679	Rutland Oil Company	Sher Gas	1,446.00
		Postage/ACH File Fee/Payroll	
90680	Sargent County Treasurer	File Fee	1,056.44
90681	Southside Automotive	CH Premix Fuel	53.94
90682	Streicher's	Sher Glock Magazines	65.98
90683	Sundquist, Colleen	Election Miles Reimbursement	8.70
90684	The Sargent County Teller	Legals/Election Publishing	2,549.38
90685	Tyler Technologies	iTax West Hosting Fee	1,531.54
	Walock-Johnson Insurance		
90686	Inc.	Policy Renewals/Additions	78,271.00
90687	Wild Rice Soil Conservation	Extension Rent July 2026	550.00
90688	Yagow, Jerilyn	T/R/CoC Document Preservation	1,364.00
		Treas-Conferences	
90689	Yagow, Cindy	Reimbursement	602.20
		Rd-#125	
		Tires/Locknuts/Bolts/Exhaust	
90690	A W Diesel	Bushing/Wiper Blades/Tire Repair	1,406.71
		Rd-CR#6, CR#4A, CR#14, CR#1, CR#2 Gravel	
90691	Alexandria Gravel Products		41700.08
	Bernard Mahrer		
90692	Construction	Rd-CR#1, CR#5 Gravel	1425.65
90693	Dakota Chrysler Center	Rd-2026 Dodge Dust Leak Repair	155.15
90694	Dakota Plains Ag	Rd-Propane Prepay	1,870.50
90695	City of Forman	Rd-Fairground Pipe Leak	502.50
	Forman Lumber &		
90696	Fireworks	Rd-Letters/Mineral	
		Spirits/Roller/Brush/Paint Tray	48.90
	General Equipment &		
90697	Supplies	Rd- Grader Edge	1,964.00
90698	Gordy's Grill & Fill	Rd-Propane	18.99
90699	Hansen Lumber & Hardware	Rd-Vehicle Cleaning Supplies	89.91

90700	IBBG Lawncare, LLC	Rd-Shop Mowing	250.00
90701	Jawaski Glass & Repair	Rd-PB Semi Windows/JD 772 Window Deductibles	750.00
90702	JOB Erection & Engineering, Inc.	Rd-Disc Modification	3,947.40
90703	Lee's Service Station	Rd-Gas/Tires	666.81
90704	Napa Auto Parts	Rd-Hyd Hose Fittings /Refrigerant/Radiator Genie	301.83
90705	North Dakota One Call	Rd-2nd Quarter Calls	9.00
90706	Plunkett's Pest Control	Rd-Pest Control	75.11
90707	Rutland Oil Company	Rd-Gas/Fuel	15,613.75
90708	Sign Solutions	Rd-Yield Sign(3)/36" Cross Brace/Chevron Right (4)/Telespars	1,103.42
90709	Southside Automotive	Rd-2026 Dodge Tire Repair/Union Tee/99 Dodge Power Steering Repair	268.34
90710	Vestis	CH/Road Rug Cleaning, Supplies	806.21
90711	Visto's Carquest	Rd-Tire Slime/Hitch pins/Safety Paint/Paint Supplies/Paints/Oil	511.83
90712	Office of the Attorney General	SCRAM 24/7	515.00
90713	Central Grocery	Ext-Office Supplies	14.00
90714	Forman Drug	Ext-Chalk	13.00
90715	ND State Radio Communications	EM-911 Fees-Feb-Apr 2026	21,686.01
90716	Sargent County Treasurer	Ext Postage	370.94
90717- 90721		Ambulance Squads Expenses	845.88
90725	Sargent County Fair Ass'n.	2026 Apportionment	11,000.09
ACH 90726- 90735	JP Morgan	Various Department Expenses	1,401.28
		Health Unit Expenses	755.43

Mark Gainor from the Milnor Airport Authority was present to discuss any questions pertaining to his preliminary budget. He advised his airport budget hasn't increased. The airport runway extension was completed and then the runway was redone the following year. This was covered about 90% by the state. The Airport Authority had borrowed about \$30,000, but that has since been paid off. There is talk about potentially redoing the runway lights as the state is focusing on safety so he is expecting to see that project move forward.

A recess was taken at 10:48 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Upon reconvening LaJuana Hayen, Tax Director arrived at the meeting for her department preliminary hearing. Hayen also asked the Commission if they have considered having a township meeting to see if the townships want to collaborate with the county on zoning efforts.

Budget review continued until noon when a recess was taken from 12 p.m.-1:00 p.m. for lunch. Upon reconvening Sheriff Paeper provided explanations to his budget. Road Supervisor Faber came in at 1:30 p.m. to discuss his preliminary road budget.

The Commission continued to review preliminary budgets until adjourning at 2:32. Further budget discussions will continue at the August 4th meeting prior to the Commission approving the preliminary budget and setting a hearing date for the same.

JERRY WASWICK, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

TIA BOPP –AUDITOR