

Forman, North Dakota
August 4, 2026

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met for their regularly scheduled meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 4, 2026. Commissioners present were Wade Anderson, Lyle Bopp, Jason Arth, and Jerry Waswick. Absent was Scott Johnson. Also present was Tia Bopp, Auditor.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jerry Waswick. Waswick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Motion to approve the minutes from the July 21, 2026 meeting. (Anderson/Arth) Motion carried.

Zoning was the first order of business. Commissioner Bopp likes the McIntosh zoning ordinances that were shared with other counties. Motion to adopt McIntosh ordinances with a first reading at the next commission meeting which will be August 18, 2026. (Anderson/Arth) Discussion. Motion carried.

Lake Agassiz Water Authority (LAWA) was the next topic to be discussion. Auditor Bopp questioned whether to add it in to the budget. Motion to add the LAWA to the county budget and discuss the topic at the 5 County meeting. (Bopp – died for lack of a second.)

North Dakota Association of Counties Convention October 11-13 in Bismarck, ND. All Commissioners plan on attending. Auditor Bopp will handle registration for the Commissioners and line up lodging.

Trent Mahler, Sargent County Ambulance Coordinator, arrived at the meeting.

Motion to pay the bills presented. (Anderson/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to set the budget hearing for Tuesday, September 15th at 6:00 p.m. in the Sargent County Commission Room. (Anderson/Bopp) Motion carried.

Duane Peterson, Human Resources arrived at the meeting at 9:36 a.m. Dental rates for the BCBS Blue Dental plan are: family \$137.80/single \$55.10. Annually the cost for a single policy would be \$24,464.40 for all eligible employees. The recommendation from Human Resources is the county pay for a single dental plan for all eligible employees and a full family dental plan for employees that don't take the health insurance family plan. Motion to pay at least single dental insurance plan for all employees effective January 1, 2027. (Bopp/Arth) Discussion took place. For clarification purposes, if an employee today gets a full county paid dental insurance, they will continue to receive that going forward. This will be added to the benefit summary that HR puts together. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Trent Mahler is present to give his quarterly ambulance report. He provided an update for both the Milnor and Forman squads. A grant has been received that benefited both squads. Milnor has had 110 runs ytd and Forman has had a total of 46 runs. The department is working on a rural healthcare transformation grant for some additional equipment and needs for the current ambulances. Discussion on the ambulance billing. The process of the bill pays from the Auditor's office can be reviewed at the next quarterly review. Mahler left the meeting at 10:08 a.m.

A short recess was taken at 10:09 until 10:18 a.m.

Upon reconvening, the following people arrived at the meeting: Ben Reisenweber, Weber Township; Lucas Siemieniewski, Water Board; Paul Mund, Hall Township and Tim Faber, Road Supervisor.

Reisenweber was present on behalf of Weber Township to discuss a cost share. The township is looking at taking out a bridge and replacing a couple culverts. The water board has approved their one-third cost share. Motion to approve the cost share for Weber township. (Arth/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Siemieniewski, Mund and Faber were present to discuss the removal of a bridge east of county road 12 and roughly ½ south of Highway 13. Additional work being done would be cleaning out approximately one mile of Drain 7. A quote had been received from Marshall Braaten to do the clean out and removal of the bridge for a price of \$15,000.00. There would be approximately one mile of the drain cleaned in addition to the removal of the bridge. Siemieniewski reported the wetland delineation has been completed. All three parties agree with the project, however, Mund stated if there are landowners that aren't in favor of the project within the township then the township will not participate. A hydrology study has been done. Siemieniewski hopes if they get this first mile done,

then hopefully in future years, they can continue cleaning until the ditch has been completely cleaned. It was expressed that the contractor should sign something stating that the price will not exceed the quoted price of \$15,000. Faber will talk with the contractor. Commissioner Anderson feels that what is removed should be trucked out. Commissioner Arth is questioning why this so much cheaper than what Interstate Engineering previously quoted. Motion to participate in the project for a county one-third cost share of the project. (Anderson/Arth). Discussion. Hall Township wants to make sure the county has their back. Arth would like to have Damon DeVillers with Interstate Engineering take a look at this as well before deciding. The machine is already sitting out at the work site. Faber wants to take the bridge out and close the road. The project scope needs to be put in writing. The group will work on getting all the approvals needed from landowners. The County will get with Damon DeVillers at Interstate Engineering. Commissioner Arth would like to see the water board's engineer's comments as well. Tim will proceed with having the bridge removed. The bridge removal is part of the quoted \$15,000. Motion was tabled until more information could be provided.

Discussion on personnel for the road department. Currently there is a part-time employee that would like to move to a full-time status. Chairman Waswick would like to work on the budget numbers more to keep the part-time employee and move the employee to a full-time status. It was agreed the road department may adjust the budget numbers within the department budget to allow for hiring this person full-time.

Motion to approve the Application for Drainage Work Within County Road Right of Way permit submitted by Brian Vculek. (Arth/Anderson) Motion carried.

Faber further reported there are a lot of signs that have gotten shot up. He will need to order about 10 more yield signs. Additionally, he reported the gravel pile is being built currently. The County will need to have Damon from Interstate Engineering do his testing & reporting.

Commissioner Arth shared with Faber a couple of locations where there are holes in the road that will require repair.

Motion to add the LAWA request for funding into the county preliminary budget. (Arth/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to adopt the 2027 preliminary budget. (Arth/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

JERRY WASWICK, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

TIA BOPP –AUDITOR