

Forman, North Dakota
January 2, 2024

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9:00 with the following members present: Wade Anderson, Jason Arth, Lyle Bopp, Mark Breker, and Scott Johnson. Also present was Loy Justesen, County Resident; Jayne Pfau, State's Attorney and Pam Maloney, County Auditor.

Chairman Scott Johnson called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Motion to approve the December 19, 2023 minutes. (Anderson/Arth) Motion carried.

Dennis Flihs, County Resident, arrived at the meeting.

Commissioner Johnson provided some information about portable speed bumps. They are very reasonably priced, so the county will purchase some to use in different areas in the county.

Commissioner Bopp stated that the custodian was inquiring about snow removal around the courthouse. The road department has a Bobcat with snow removal equipment, so it's possible that Mr. Weaving could utilize the road department's equipment.

There was discussion whether placing minimum maintenance road signs would be sufficient for liability purposes if something happens to the traveling public on such a road. Upon further discussion, it was determined that the county can close a bridge temporarily until an inspection can be completed, even though the township does not close the road leading up to the bridge.

Further discussion was held regarding moving the Auditor and the Treasurer/Recorder/Clerk of Court from elected positions to appointed positions. Motion to approve the following resolution:

Final Resolution by Commission Member Lyle Bopp

Who moved for its adoption on the 2nd day of January, 2024:

Be it resolved by the Sargent County Commissioner, to-wit:

WHEREAS, The Sargent County Commission wants to redesignate the elective county offices of Auditor and Treasurer/Recorder/Clerk of Court as appointive and

WHEREAS, NDCC 11-10.2-02(1) provides the board of county commissioners may by resolution adopt a preliminary resolution incorporating a proposed plan for redesignating an elective county office as appointive, subject to the right of referendum and

WHEREAS, the job duties are quite extensive for each office and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the citizens of Sargent County that each office is held by a qualified individual and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the plan is for the offices of Auditor and Treasurer/Recorder/Clerk of Court to become appointive on January 1, 2026, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the duties, functions, qualifications and training, and method of determining compensation of each office shall not change from what is now in place, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each office shall be subject to all employment laws and Sargent County policies as other appointive offices, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that appointment of each office, shall be made by the Sargent County Commission, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the number of support staff for each office shall not change as a resolute of this resolution.

Commission Member Jason Arth seconded the motion for adoption. Roll Call Vote: Yes – Arth, Bopp and Breker. No – Anderson & Johnson. Absent – None. Resolution duly declared adopted.

Motion to change the purchase price on a tax forfeited property in Havana City from \$3,000 to \$300. (Arth/Bopp) Parcel # 28-8644000 being Lot 11, Block 4, Williamson's 2nd Addition. Roll Call Vote: Yes – Arth, Bopp, Breker & Johnson. No – None. Abstaining – Anderson. Motion carried.

Motion to designate Stock Growers Bank as the depository for county funds. (Bopp/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve a Raffle Permit to the Cogswell Gun Club for raffle to be held February 10, 2024. (Anderson/Breker) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to accept Vicki Berreth's resignation as Assistant Coroner. (Anderson/Breker) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the quotes from Nelson Paint N Projects to paint three office spaces and the women's restroom for a labor cost of \$1,646.38. Paint in not included in the quote. (Anderson/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Melissa Seykora, NDSU Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Agent, arrived at the meeting and reported on her activities in the County's Extension Service office from October through December of 2023. A written report was delivered to each commissioner and to the county auditor. A copy of the report can be obtained from the Extension Office. Ms. Seykora had worked with numerous projects including: 4-H Week held October 1-7; 4-H Awards night; & many professional development activities such as Ag Affairs Mentorship Training, NDSU Extension Fall Conference, 4-H Volunteer Project Training, Disability Awareness for 4-H Volunteers Webinar and Tree Training for Extension Agents. She has also participated in 4-H Record Judging, Ag Update on AgNews890, and Fair Board & Soil Conservation Meeting Reports. Moving forward she will be involved in 4-H Crop Judging practices, Advisory Council Meeting, Performance Review, SE Beef Cattle update, 4-H Communications Arts Contest, 4-H Council Meeting, private applicator pesticide trainings & Designing & Delivering Non-formal educational programs. The commission thanked her for her service and dedication to the public.

Tim Faber, Road Supervisor, arrived at the meeting. He stated that the roads are looking good, although there is ice on the gravel roads. They are trying the road groomer on County Road #1 to see if they can get rid of some of the ice.

There was additional discussion about the speeding through towns & villages on county roads & what could be done to alleviate the issue.

Motion to authorize the chairman and auditor to sign the county deeds for the following properties. East 40' of Lot 16, Block 8, Original Townsite, Cogswell City to Joe & Sue Seelye, H/W JT, 328 3rd St, PO Box 81, Cogswell ND 58017; Lots 4 & 5, Block 8, Original Townsite, Milnor City to Charles J & Laura Michels, H/W JT, PO Box 195, Milnor ND 58060; S1/2 of NW1/4 13-131-57 to Brian McKay, 6057 Marin Ln W, West Fargo ND 58078; and E1/2 of E1/2 of 5-129-56 to Dennis Flihs, 12790 96th St SE, Cogswell ND 58017 (Breker/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Sharon Halmrast joined the meeting at this time.

Discussion was held on the advertised position in the Auditor's Office, as it was advertised as Auditor's Office Trainee. As applicants have interviewed, they are asking for which position they will actually be hired for. Once the auditor has submitted her formal letter of resignation, the position they will be applying for will be the auditor's position, however, they will be training at a lesser salary until July 1, when they will be appointed to the position. Once the auditor has submitted her formal letter of resignation, the position will be advertised again. The position, however, will have to be on the November ballot for an unexpired 2-year term, as the resolution adopted above does not take effect

until January 1, 2026 and will actually not take effect until the unexpired term is up, which would be April 1, 2027.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

SCOTT JOHNSON – CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

PAM MALONEY – COUNTY AUDITOR