

November 4, 2020
Forman, North Dakota

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 2:03 p.m. in the Conference Room with the following members present: Bill Anderson, Jason Arth, Lyle Bopp, and Richard Ruch. Present through technology: Jerry Waswick. Also present were Margie Johnson, State's Attorney Legal Assistant; Alison Toepke, Treasurer/Recorder/Clerk of Court; Jill Mulder, Human Resources Director; Mark Breker, Commissioner Elect and Pam Maloney, County Auditor. Present through technology was Mary Engst, Sargent County Teller.

Vice-Chairman Bopp called the meeting to order and chaired the meeting, as Chairman Jerry Waswick was off-site & had to leave the meeting early.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Ms. Mulder spoke to the commissioners about different safety training courses for employees. There is a mandatory training coming up on December 2nd regarding risk management and WSI claims. This will be offered at two different times on the 2nd & a recording will also be available if an employee is not able to take the training on that day. She stated that there is a winter driving course presented by ILG that would be beneficial for all employees, one this summer on Hot Temps that she thinks would be beneficial to the road department; and is also working with Wendy Willprecht, Emergency Manager, on an emergency evacuation plan for courthouse employees. At this time, there is no disciplinary action for employees that do not take the mandatory trainings. Ms. Mulder will be working with the personnel board to come up with disciplinary action or an incentive program for these trainings.

Travis Paeper, Sheriff, arrived at the meeting.

Ms Toepke requested to cancel five warrants which remain for a period of one year or more per NDCC 11-25-05. These warrants were written in 2017 & 2018. Indemnity Bond notices were sent out to these individuals with no response. Motion to authorize the Treasurer's Office to write off five uncashed warrants. The following checks will be written off - #74444 dated 1/30/17 to Tammy Nelson-Mathews for \$14.98; #75721 dated 8/17/17 to Chad Heimbuch for \$485.90; #77365 dated 8/8/18 to Cody Rader for \$10.00; #77744 dated 10/16/18 to Joshua McKenna; and #77967 dated 12/13/18 to Ronald Narum; all written on Sargent County Bank. (Waswick/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Jayne Pfau, States Attorney, arrived at the meeting.

Sheriff Paeper had emailed the commissioner quotes for radio equipment that will need to be upgraded in the sheriff's department by 2024. There are two different choices, but Sheriff Paeper is recommending to purchase the APX 8500 Series, as it will have better coverage in our rural areas. Motion to purchase the APX 8500 Series for the Sheriff's Office at a cost of \$65,527.95 and to offer the two radios the sheriff's office is currently using that may be upgraded to work with the SIRN system, to the county ambulance services. (Arth/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

The hearing on appraisals of property forfeited to the county for delinquent taxes was opened at 2:30 p.m. No interested persons attended the hearing. Motion to accept the minimum sales prices as set at the previous meeting. (Arth/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. The public auction for sale of all properties forfeited to Sargent County for non-payment of taxes is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, November 17, 2020, in the Conference Room, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The list of property to be sold will be posted at the front door of the Courthouse.

Motion to approve October 20th minutes as corrected. (Ruch/Waswick). Motion carried.

The commissioner proceeded to open the bids for surplus property that was advertised for sale. Motion to accept all high bids for those items and that those items need to be picked up within two weeks; and to give the auditor authority to dispose of the unsold items as she deems appropriate. (Anderson/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Wendy Willprecht, Emergency Manager arrived at the meeting and Brenda Peterson, Health Unit Administrator; and Cindy Klapperich, Extension Office; arrived at the meeting through technology. Ms. Peterson reported that there are 28 active COVID 19 cases in Sargent County at this time. There is a concern with the holidays coming up that cases again will increase.

Discussion was held on a Temperature Screening Kiosk system to be placed at each entrance to the courthouse. The department heads at the meeting stated that they were comfortable with the way things were at the present time, with the mask mandate within the buildings. There has been low foot traffic, anyway, due to the virus, so there are much fewer people coming into the building. The commissioners stated that each office may buy their own non-contact thermometer to use if there is any concern.

Ms. Mulder requested one change to the Covid policy. In the sentence: "Employees that are isolated or in quarantine because of the COVID-19 will be paid their regular working hour wages during the time that they are not at work", it was requested to read: "Employees that are isolated or in quarantine because of the COVID-19 related exposure will be paid their regular working hour wages during the time that they are not at work." Motion to accept the recommended change to the COVID-19 policy. (Arth/Anderson) Roll Call Vote: Yes – Anderson, Arth, Bopp and Waswick. No – Ruch. Motion carried.

Wendy Willprecht, Emergency Manager, reported that the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan that she has been working on for many months with Interstate Engineering, has been submitted for approval. She also reported that Dickey Rural Networks will be here November 16 to finish up the security improvements to the courthouse and shortly after that, each employee will be provided with a security badge/fob for entering the building.

Ms. Mulder reported on the Paid Parental Leave Policy brought forth from the Personnel Board. She stated that, after research, she has found no other governmental entity in North Dakota that offers a paid parental leave policy. No policy change was made at this time.

State's Attorney Pfau stated that she is working on the easements for the County Road #1 drainage project.

Commissioners Arth and Ruch stated that the box culvert has been installed in Taylor Township and the water seems to be flowing like it should.

Commissioner Arth will contact Road Supervisor Engquist regarding the bridges that need attention by the November 17 deadline.

More discussion was held on the CARES Act reimbursement to cities with police contracts. Commissioner Arth stated that the cities without police contracts should receive some reimbursement, as well. The auditor was requested to look at the police contracts for each city and to provide some additional figures for the next meeting.

Jerry Waswick left the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Brian Tayer, Sargent County Ambulance-Milnor Squad, arrived at the meeting through technology. Mr. Tayer stated that they have had 115 runs so far in 2020 which is above average. They are still looking at purchasing a new ambulance. They have received a grant from the state to help with volunteer costs. Things are going well, but they can always use more volunteers.

Marwood Klein, Sargent County Ambulance-Forman Squad, arrived at the meeting through technology. Mr. Klein stated that they have had 69 runs so far in 2020. He reported that they have also received a grant to help with volunteer costs and also may receive CARES act reimbursements for COVID-19 related costs incurred up to December 31, 2020. Trent Mahler should be back to work on November 16. As always, volunteers are always needed, but he stated that he does have one individual taking the EMT course.

The auditor requested to store the election equipment in the old Food Pantry space, but the equipment will not fit with the large counter in the middle of the space. Motion to allow the auditor to store the election equipment in the basement vault and to have the custodian remove the counter from the center of the room. (Ruch/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

LYLE BOPP – VICE-CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

PAM MALONEY – COUNTY AUDITOR