

December 1, 2020
Forman, North Dakota

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room with the following members present: Bill Anderson, Jason Arth, Lyle Bopp, Richard Ruch and Jerry Waswick. Also present were Jill Mulder, Human Resources Director; Mary Engst, Sargent County Teller and Pam Maloney, County Auditor. State's Attorney Jayne Pfau was present via technology.

Chairman Waswick called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Motion to approve November 17th minutes as corrected. (Anderson/Arth) Motion carried.

Additional discussion was held on the CARES Act reimbursements to the cities that were agreed upon at the last meeting. Motion to increase Gwinner City's allocation from \$20,400 to \$23,800.00. (Bopp/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion for the chairman to execute the lease agreement with the Wild Rice Soil Conservation District for the facilities used by NDSU Extension's office space at a cost of \$500/month, provided there is no objection by the Extension Service. (Anderson/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to appoint Dan McKeever (representing Gwinner City-term expires 12/31/23) to the Sargent County Job Development Authority (JDA). (Anderson/Ruch) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed the results of the Official Canvass of the November 3, 2020 General Election. The following were elected to the respective county offices: County Commissioner At Large – Jason Arth-1285; Mark Breker-984; Supervisor, Wild Rice Soil Conservation District – Duayne Baldwin-1808; Supervisor, Wild Rice Soil Conservation District (Unexpired 4-year Term) – Eric Delahoyde-1802; Director, Garrison Diversion Conservancy District – Brian Orn-1836; Home Rule Charter – Yes-1370 – No-515. Total votes cast in the county 2087. Motion to accept the 2020 General Election results as certified by the Canvassing Board. (Ruch/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Anderson presented the following resolution:

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
COUNTY OF SARGENT

WHEREAS, The Covid-19 Pandemic continues to afflict the entire nation, including the State of North Dakota; and,

WHEREAS, In recent weeks, North Dakota has been afflicted with the highest Covid-19 infection rate in the nation and with the highest Covid-19 mortality rate in the entire world; and,

WHEREAS, The Covid-19 infection rate and mortality rate in Sargent County have been increasing to an unacceptable level and at an unacceptable rate, threatening the physical health, mental health and emotional stability of Sargent County residents and the economic health of the Sargent County community; and,

WHEREAS, The Sargent County Commission has approved mandates in accord with guidelines from the CDC and the North Dakota Department of Health to protect County employees, and members of the public entering County facilities, from the Covid-19 virus, including a mask mandate in County offices and facilities; and,

WHEREAS, Vaccines to protect individuals from the effects of Covid-19 are not yet available, and the best preventative measures now available include: wearing face masks; washing hands & using hand sanitizers frequently; and, watching to maintain appropriate social distance; and,

WHEREAS, In an effort to control the spread of Covid-19 in the State of North Dakota, on November 13, 2020, North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum issued an Executive Order that included a mask mandate and limitations on the hours and capacities of many North Dakota businesses;

WHEREAS, Individually owned and operated small businesses, the backbone of the economic and social life of North Dakota's small towns, are those most adversely affected by the restrictions contained in the Governor's Executive Order.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Sargent County Board of County Commissioners during the Board's regular meeting on Tuesday, December 1, 2020, that:

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners supports the Governor's use of executive authority to control the spread of Covid-19 in communities throughout this State; and,

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners strongly urges that the Governor and the State Legislature provide financial relief to those small businesses that have been adversely impacted by the Covid-19 Pandemic and by efforts to control its spread; and,

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners supports waiving County and State licensing and inspection fees, among other incentives and breaks, for those small businesses that have been adversely affected by shortened hours, limited capacities and other restrictions contained in the Governor's Executive Order of November 13, 2020; and,

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners support such additional, stronger measures as the Governor may take to protect the people of this State from Covid-19, if such measures are deemed to be necessary and advisable.

Resolution moved for adoption by Commissioner Anderson on Tuesday, December 1, 2020 and seconded by Commissioner Bopp. Roll Call Vote: Yes – Anderson, Arth, Bopp and Waswick. No – Ruch. The Resolution was approved.

Forman City has requested to place Christmas lights on the big evergreen on the front lawn of the courthouse. Permission granted for this year & future years until revoked by the commission.

Motion to accept Brenda Peterson's resignation as County Coroner; and Vanessa Bayger's resignation as Assistant County Coroner; with regret and thanks for their years of service to Sargent County. (Ruch/Anderson) Roll Call Vote: Yes – Anderson, Arth, Bopp and Ruch. No – Waswick. Motion carried. The auditor was instructed to advertise the open position in the official newspaper.

Motion to approve the revision to the Application for Drainage Work Within County Road Right-Of-Way to include the following: Work Completed (Date); Inspection by (Date). (Anderson/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Sargent County Roadway Worker Safety Standard Operating Procedure Draft was reviewed by the commission. The auditor was instructed to send it out to all department heads for review and revision suggestions. The commission will review these comments at the next meeting.

State's Attorney Pfau stated that she has received a request for payments on the easements for the County Road #1 drainage project. Motion to authorize up to \$500 for each easement (by land description) if requested by the landowner. (Anderson/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

The Annual Tax Sale was conducted at 10:00 a.m. Properties were auctioned individually and sold to the highest qualified bidder thereon. Barbara Enderson, Havana City Auditor; Travis Bergh & Paul Bergh, Havana City Residents; Mary Saunders, Cayuga City Mayor; & Jacob & Jessica Martinez, Geneseo Residents; were in attendance. Dale Lugert, Lidgerwood, joined the meeting via technology. Motion to approve County Deeds for the following sales: Lot 15, Block 8, Original Townsite of Veda, Kingston Township, for \$104, to Dale Lugert, 15700 91st St SE, Lidgerwood ND 58053; Lots 8-9-10 Inclusive & 33' x 142' of E1/2 2nd St Vacated, Block 4, Second Addition, Forman City; Tract beg 732' S & 248' E of NW1/4; S 150'; E 52'; N 150'; W 52' of Section 6-130-55, Unplatted Lands, Forman City; Lot 8, Block 4, Original Townsite, Cogswell City; Lot 16, Block 4, Original Townsite, Cogswell City; N part of Lots 7-8-9 ada a parcel beg at NE cor Lot 7, Block 5, th 75' W of NW cor of Lot 9, th S 50'; th SE-erly 23'; th E 63'; th N 70' to beg, Block 4, Original Townsite, Cogswell City; Lots 10-11-12, Block 9, Original Townsite, Cogswell City; Lot 6, Block 4, Original Townsite of Cogswell; Lot 7, Block 4, Original Townsite, Cogswell City; Lot 18, Block 4, Original Townsite, Cogswell City; East 100' Lot 3, Block 6, McNeeley's Addition, Cogswell City; & Lots 1-2-3, Block 18, Auditor's Plat, Cogswell City; to Cheap Lands, Inc, PO Box 881655, Port St Lucie, FL 34988; Lot 6, Block 1, Williamson's Addition, Havana City to Travis Bergh, 302 1st Ave S, Havana ND 58043; Lots 2-3-4, Block 5, Weber's Addition, Havana City to Paul Bergh, 2414 Centennial Rose Dr S, Fargo ND 58104; & 80 x 100' Outlot B, Auditor's Plat, Havana City to Havana City, PO Box 96, Havana ND 58043; &

Lot 18, Block 1, Original Townsite of Cayuga to Cayuga City, 311 Park Ave, Cayuga ND 58013. (Anderson/Ruch) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

COVID 19 Reports: Wendy Willprecht, Emergency Manager, had sent an email stating that sports will be starting up again in the schools, but that there would be no spectators allowed & the athletes would have to wear masks while sitting on the bench.

The county will not hold its annual employee Christmas pot-luck lunch.

Commissioner Waswick brought forth that the commissioners extend the employee's holiday by closing the Courthouse all day Thursday & Friday, December 24 & 25th. Motion to close all day Christmas Eve, instead of closing at noon as is the normal holiday. (Arth/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. Notice should be published in the official newspaper and sent to the SC Scoop.

Jill Mulder, Human Resources Director, asked about the current county COVID policy regarding the Family First Coronavirus Response Act. The federal deadline for this is December 31, 2020, so she was wondering if the county deadline would be the same. Further discussion will be held at the next meeting.

At this time, the board took a short break for cake & coffee, in honor of Bill Anderson, retiring commissioner. Commissioner Waswick presented him a plaque thanking him for his sixteen years of service to Sargent County.

Motion to approve beer and liquor licenses for 2021 to: Gerald D Dill, Dilly's Bar & Grill, Village of Stirum, Vivian Township; Dale Lugert, Geneseo Bar & Grill, Village of Veda, Kingston Township; Olivia & Austin Stenvold, CDPB, LLC, Tewaukon Township; & Paul & Kate Mund and Jill Gainor, The Field dba The Schoolhouse, Hall Township, contingent upon receiving the township consent form and the fee from Dilly's Bar & Grill. There were no objections to the license renewal from either the State's Attorney or the Sheriff. (Anderson/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to waive the Sargent County Beer & Liquor License Fees for the aforementioned bars licensed by Sargent County due to funds received via the CARES Act. (Anderson/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Waswick brought forward an idea to create a grant program for Sargent County businesses funded by the CARES Act money received. These are for those businesses that were impacted by the Governor's Order in the Spring of 2020 and now the Governor's Order in November. These grants will range from \$250 to \$1500 per business. Motion to approve the Sargent County Covid Grant Project as presented by Commissioner Waswick to be funded by the CARES Act money received. (Anderson/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. Terms of the grant are available at the Auditor's Office.

Damon DeVillers, Interstate Engineering, arrived at the meeting.

The commission received a request from the City of Milnor that the county sponsor Milnor City's Transportation Alternative Grant application. Motion to authorize the chairman to sign a letter of support for the Milnor City TAP project. Milnor City's project includes replacing sidewalks, curbs, gutters and lighting including bump-outs and enhancements along Main Street. Grant funds will pass from ND DOT through Sargent County to the City of Milnor. (Anderson/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. DeVillers presented a request that the county sponsor Gwinner City's Transportation Alternative Grant application. Motion to authorize the chairman to sign a letter of support for the Gwinner City TAP project. Gwinner City's project includes construction of 5' & 6' wide concrete sidewalks that will start at 1st St NW & continue west on the south side of 3rd Ave NW approximately 1630' & turn north approximately 1170' along the east side of the golf course in an alley right of way easement. (Anderson/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

The commissioners and Mr. DeVillers discussed a request received from Dickey County to send a letter of support regarding the temporary Emergency Surface Drain Permit No. 5466 in Verner Township. Dickey County would like to make this a permanent surface drain. Motion to send letter of support to convert the temporary emergency drain permit to a permanent drain permit contingent upon the approval of the road supervisor and county engineer. (Anderson/Ruch) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Ruch reported that there will be an information meeting Wednesday, December 9th, at 6:00 p.m., in Cogswell, regarding the proposed extension of Drain #9 to add 4 ½ miles west into Brampton Township. The commissioners thanked Commissioner Ruch for his attendance at the Sargent County Water Resource Board meetings and bringing back information to the commissioners.

Meeting adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

JERRY WASWICK - CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

PAM MALONEY – COUNTY AUDITOR