

Forman, North Dakota
February 1, 2022

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9:01 a.m. with the following members present: Jason Arth, Lyle Bopp, Mark Breker, Scott Johnson and Richard Ruch. Also present were Pam Maloney, Sargent County Auditor. Lynn Kaspari, representing the Sargent County Teller, was present through technology.

Jason Arth, Chairman, called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion to approve the agenda as amended. (Bopp/Johnson) Motion carried unanimously.

Approve January 18, 2022 minutes as presented. (Bopp/Breker) Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bopp has visited with a candidate for the SENDCAA Board. The auditor was requested to send an application to the potential board member.

Commissioner Ruch stated that the asbestos removal has been completed at the auditorium at the fairgrounds and that demolition will commence February 21st.

Motion to re-appoint Michael Wyum and Todd Stein to the Sargent County Water Resource Board. They were the only two applications received. (Ruch/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to allow the request for a pet in the workplace. A Waiver of Liability Form has been submitted. (Bopp/Breker) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Some discussion was held regarding Covid procedure/policy. The Covid sick leave is no longer in effect, so an employee would have to use sick leave, vacation or personal days if they would test positive. The commissioners agreed that they should know if there are positive cases in the courthouse. HIPPA does not allow for names, but they can know that cases exist.

More discussion was held regarding the proposed CO2 pipeline to be built across Sargent County. Some of the commissioners have received phone calls from concerned citizens. The auditor was instructed to contact Dickey and Richland County Auditors for their county's opinions on the matter.

Joe Reinke, Ransom/Sargent Veteran's Service Office, arrived at the meeting. He is currently working four days a week between the two counties and the ND Veteran's Home and would like to become a full-time forty hours/week employee. He stated that he believes the demand is there for a full-time position and that he strives to do the best he can for the veterans of our area, getting them the services and benefits they have earned and deserve. Commissioner Arth will contact Ransom County Commissioner Mathern to discuss this further & the commission will discuss it more fully at the next commissioner meeting. The commissioner thanked Mr. Reinke for his service in the military and also for his service and commitment to the veterans in Sargent County.

Doug Straus, G & R Controls; and Neil Weaving, Courthouse Custodian; arrived at the meeting to discuss an alternate heat source when the current boiler system cannot keep up in the cold winter months. He stated that a propane boiler backup system should serve our needs and be able to supplement the heat when needed. Motion to authorize Mr. Straus to get cost estimates for a supplemental heat source. (Bopp/Ruch) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Weaving also suggested that it might be a good idea to complete a heat loss analysis to see areas when heat is escaping. He has also done some research about refinishing the floors in the courthouse, but would like to get an estimate on how much it would cost to have it stripped and waxed professionally.

Bob Walton, ND DOT, joined the meeting through technology. The commission had sent a letter in opposition to a roundabout at the intersection of Highways 13 & 32 east of Gwinner. He stated that this intersection is on the list of Rural High Crash Intersections, however, Mr. Walton explained that they currently do not have this project on the list through 2026. He also stated that the letter that the

commission had written with their concerns would be placed in the file and considered if and when the project does come up. Wendy Willprecht, Emergency Manager/911 Coordinator, arrived at the meeting to explain that it was the Gwinner Fire Department and concerns of other EMS personnel that prompted the original letter to ND DOT requesting safety measures at this intersection.

Jayne Pfau, State's Attorney, arrived at the meeting.

Brian Tayer, Sargent County Ambulance-Milnor Squad, joined the meeting through technology. He reported that there were 136 calls in 2021 that the Milnor Squad responded to, with 32 of those calls to Bobcat. He stated that both the Milnor and Forman Squads had received funds through a Rural Assistance Grant. He has one individual taking the EMR class and two individuals that possible will become drivers for the Milnor Squad.

Marwood Klein, Forman Squad, was unable to attend.

Motion to hire Rath & Mehrer, Certified Public Accountants to audit the financials for years ending December 31, 2020 & 2021. (Breker/Ruch) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Breker stated that he had visited with the landowners that have fencing encroaching on the county road right-of-way on County Road #3. They would like to know what the right-of-way footage is in that particular area. Further research will be done.

Tim Faber, Road Supervisor, arrived at the meeting. Damon DeVillers, Interstate Engineering, joined the meeting through technology. Mr. Faber had reviewed the potential job descriptions for his department to be sent to Gallagher for classification. Motion to send the job descriptions for the road foreman and Equipment Operators 2 & 3 on to Gallagher for classification. (Ruch/Johnson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. DeVillers stated that Sargent County Bridge 41-116-24.0 was approved for the amount of \$929,218 for HB 1505 Bridge Grant. However, Mr. DeVillers has spoken with the engineer in Marshall County, South Dakota and this bridge actually belongs to Marshall County, South Dakota. In the past, it has been on and inspected in both North and South Dakota. Mr. DeVillers will contact Bryon Fuchs with ND DOT to see if our award can be moved to another bridge, as there were four bridge applications sent in.

Mr. DeVillers also stated that he had been in contact with Richard Vanderbeek regarding the FLAP bridge projects. The commissioners authorized Mr. DeVillers to acquire the right-of-way needed for the project from Robert Lee.

Mr. DeVillers presented four different road projects for the commissioners to consider for the year, ranging in price from \$328,000 to \$1.5 million. The commissioners will review the choices and the finances and determine which projects to move forward with.

He also stated that Interstate Engineering and Houston Engineering will be conducting bridge inspections for the next two years in the southeast quadrant of North Dakota.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

JASON ARTH – CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

PAM MALONEY – COUNTY AUDITOR