

Forman, North Dakota
May 6, 2025

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 9 a.m. Those in attendance were Commissioners Jerry Waswick, Scott Johnson, Lyle Bopp, Jason Arth (by electronic means) and Chairman, Wade Anderson. Also, in attendance were Tim Faber, Road Supervisor; Jayne Pfau, State's Attorney; Duane Peterson, Human Resources Director; Tia Bopp, Auditor; Richard Ruch and David Lunneborg, county residents.

Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

David Lunneborg, Shuman Township, was in attendance to request cost sharing on five culverts needing to be replaced in Crooked Creek. Motion to approve one-third county cost share for Crooked Creek culverts. (Waswick/Johnson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. Mr. Lunneborg left the meeting at 9:02 a.m..

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

Motion to accept the minutes from the April 15, 2025, meeting. (Waswick/Bopp) Motion carried.

Motion to accept the minutes from the equalization meetings from Gwinner on April 7, 2025; Gwinner on April 14, 2025; and Milnor on April 15, 2025. (Waswick/Johnson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Discussion regarding the office remodel and the window project. Commissioner Waswick will look into a grant to see if funding can be procured to assist with the window project as the contractor is waiting for feedback.

Sheriff Travis Paeper arrived at the meeting at 9:25 a.m..

HR Director Peterson outlined the investigation he had completed in regard to an unauthorized purchase by a county employee. He also gave his recommendation. Discussion was held regarding a Performance Improvement Plan. Motion to follow the recommendation of the Human Resources Director for a 90-day Performance Improvement Plan. (Johnson/Bopp). Voting yes were Commissioners Bopp, Arth, Johnson and Anderson. Voting no was Commissioner Waswick. Motion carried.

Custodian Neil Weaving arrived at the meeting at 9:42 a.m.. Road Supervisor, Tim Faber left the meeting at 9:43 a.m..

Discussion regarding a bill that has been submitted multiple times to Robert Perez for work cleaning up a load of spilled rocks by Geneseo. Information will be sent to the State's Attorney for further action.

Custodian Weaving gave his report. Painting has been completed. No one else has been found that is interested in doing painting in the courthouse. He is going to request Caleb Nelson to continue to submit bids. The boiler has been turned off. Triton still hasn't received the boiler motor. The smell from the courtroom is no longer an issue. The rain washed away some of the hydroseeding. Weaving will run hoses with sprinklers over the freshly seeded areas. ServiceMaster has not billed us for the work they did. The HVAC unit was turned on yesterday. The gold car had a transmission flush as well as the brakes done. The car has about 115-120,000 miles. No bill has been received. Commissioner Waswick has talked to Wyatt Lyons about putting bullet proof glass in doors. Mr. Weaving is requesting someone to do work on the chimney. Mr. Weaving left the meeting at 9:57 a.m..

Tax Director, LaJuana Hayen arrived at the meeting at 9:55 a.m. Ms. Hayen updated the commission regarding the current contract with Vanguard. Vanguard will attempt to stop and go into a home. Vanguard does not recommend only reassessing two towns. A review only project was approved in 2023. There are only two or three cities and counties in the state that do not use Vanguard. Nelson, Kidder and Richland counties do not use Vanguard and neither does the City of Fargo. Ms. Hayen left the meeting at 10:06 a.m..

Correspondence received from Leon Mallberg was shared regarding concerns with the Water Board. Commissioner Bopp stated he has an issue with the water board borrowing from its general fund all the time.

Motion to agree with the abatements requested for primary residence credits for homes owned in a trust and others that were provided to the county by the state. (Johnson/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. The upload to the state also included mobile homes and a couple miscellaneous applicants per the state tax office.

A recess was taken from 10:14-10:24 a.m..

Upon reconvening, Pat Olofson from the Historical Society arrived at the meeting at 10:24 a.m.. Ms. Olofson shared her quarterly update. She has been working on fundraising and has some grant applications out for consideration.

Ms. Olofson left the meeting at 10:43 a.m.. Trent Mahler, Sargent County Ambulance Coordinator, arrived at the meeting at 10:44 a.m.

Mr. Mahler gave the update for the Forman Ambulance. Staffing for the Forman squad is a big need. The hydraulic system on the cot went out. The cost to repair is \$4,000; whereas the cost for a new cot is \$30,000. He continued to share the update for the Milnor squad. There still remains \$29,689.59 in the Milnor Ambulance account which will be closed and added to the account which is being maintained at the county level. Mr. Mahler left the meeting at 10:54 a.m.

Motion to approve the following permits: (1) Road Permit to Southeast Water Users District for boring a 1" poly water line under County Road 4 in Sections 34 and 7 in Vivian Township; (2) Road Permit to Dakota Valley Electric Cooperative for installing 1- 1/0 220 mil primary bore under County Road 14 approximately 175 feet north of 99th Street SE, in the SW ¼ of Section 3 and the SE 1/4 of Section 4, Marboe Township; (3) Road Permit to Dakota Valley Electric Cooperative to bore 1- 1/0 200 mil primary URD under County Road 4 in NE ¼ of Section 23 and NW ¼ of Section 24 in Harlem Township; (4) Road permit to Dakota Valley Electric Cooperative to bore 3 – 1/0 mil primary URD under County Road 4 approximately 50 feet south of 95th Street SE in the NE ¼ of Section 35 and the NW ¼ of Section 36 in Sargent Township; (5) Road Permit to Dakota Valley Electric Cooperative to bore 1 – 1/0 220 mil primary URD under County Road 8 approximately 2550 feet south of 95th Street SE in NE 1/4 of Section 16 and NW ¼ of Section 15 in Willey Township. (Waswick/Johnson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Road Supervisor Tim Faber arrived back at the meeting at 10:55 a.m. Damon DeVillers of Interstate Engineering was also on the phone. Mr. DeVillers summarized the two bid openings that were held. Mr. DeVillers recommends awarding the county slope project on County Road 12 to the lowest bidder for \$376,987.41. Mr. DeVillers also recommends awarding the seal coat and crack seal project on various county roads to the lowest bidder for \$571,594.21. Material for the crack sealing project would come from Midstates. Motion to hire Craig Bardson for the county slope project CP 4129 (025) for the bid amount of \$376,987.41 along with \$54,000 for the material that will be procured locally all for County Road 12 and to be paid out of the Prairie Dog funds. (Johnson/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Paeper arrived at the meeting at 11:10 a.m..

Motion to hire Morris Seal Coat for the seal coat and crack sealing project on various county roads for the bid amount of \$571,594.21 plus the material of approximately \$18,000 to be purchased from Midstates. This project is to be paid from the federal aid fund. (Johnson/Waswick) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was held about farmers farming in the right-of-way on county roads. Interstate Engineering has looked at County Roads 12 and 6. There is quite a bit of farming in the right-of-way on County Road 12. It is quite time consuming trying to locate the documents that state the right-of-ways. Discussion was held on what can be done.

Discussion was also held on road restrictions. It would take approximately 84 signs to have all the roads properly marked. Mr. Faber will get a quote for the signs.

Discussion was held regarding County Road 4 and an agreement that was made when the road was milled that the County would put mag chloride on for a number of years. A number of families have been putting this on at their own expense and the county has bladed through it resulting in the county then having to replace it. Motion to put mag chloride on County Road 4 in front of Greenmeyers', Totenhagens' and Litchs' for three years: 2025, 2026 and 2027. (Arth/Johnson) A letter will be sent to these individuals. Upon roll call vote motion carried unanimously. Mr. Faber will proceed with ordering the dust control for County Road 4.

Commissioner Johnson informed the Commission that the Health Department building has water run in when it rains out. Commissioner Johnson thinks adding in some gravel and sloping it away from the building may be beneficial. Mr. Faber will proceed with this work.

A check was received from the Water Board for work the County did. Mr. Faber would like to see these funds go back to the road department. Motion for the check from the waterboard in the amount of \$3600 be put back into the road fund. (Waswick/Johnson). Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to pay the ambulance bills as presented. (Johnson/Bopp) Discussion was held about adding some more categories to divide the expenses out for a more accurate picture of the spending. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to sign award notices for: (1) Bituminous Pavement Markings CP-41200 (25) on County Roads 14, 10, 4 & 2; (2) Bituminous Patching CP-4101 (025); (3) Mastic Crack Seal and Repair CP-4125 (025) on County Road 10; and (4) Rubberized Crack Seal & Repair CMC-4100 (025) on County Roads 7, 10 and 14. (Johnson/Bopp). Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Paeper was in attendance to request out of state travel for Deputy Jon Wold to attend a conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. Motion to approve out of state travel for Jon Wold to attend the DARE Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. (Johnson/Bopp). Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to use 3.5% for COLA for the 2026 budgets (Waswick/Johnson) Discussion followed. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Arth left the meeting at 12:06 p.m..

Discussion turned to road department equipment and needs. Mr. Faber obtained bids for a reclaimer two different types. The sign truck no longer is in working condition. Motion to authorize an equipment purchase of a sign truck, a reclaimer, and a culvert transit for up to \$42,000 between the three items with each purchase being approved by Commissioner Arth and being paid out of the equipment line item. (Waswick/Johnson) Voting yes were Johnson, Bopp, and Waswick. Voting no was Anderson. Arth was not present to vote. Pictures of the old truck need to be taken and put out on sealed bids, and then taken off insurance.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

WADE ANDERSON - CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

TIA BOPP – COUNTY AUDITOR