

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at 9 a.m. at the Forman City Hall. Those in attendance were Commissioners Jerry Waswick, Scott Johnson, Lyle Bopp, and Chairman, Wade Anderson. Absent was Commissioner Jason Arth. Also, in attendance were Jayne Pfau, State's Attorney; Tia Bopp, Auditor; LaJuana Hayen, Tax Director; Wendy Willprecht, Dickey-Sargent Water Resource District; Samantha Schilling, Chief Deputy Property Tax and Assessment Director; Duane Peterson, Human Resources Director; and Travis Paeper, Sheriff. Others in attendance were Todd Stein, Michael Hayen, Michael Wyum, Donavon Hajek, Alicia Thompson and Pat Olofson.

Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion to approve the agenda with additions. (Waswick/Bopp). Motion carried.

Motion to approve the minutes from the May 20, 2025, meeting. (Johnson/Waswick). Motion carried.

The Water Board was the first order of business. Commissioner Waswick wanted to understand where the Commission was in regard to paying the funds owed to the Water Board pursuant to the Joint Powers Agreement that had been entered into. A bond payment is due in May of 2026. State's Attorney Pfau mentioned that the Water Board was to advise the Commission when they were nearing default on the bond payments and then the funds would be released. Commissioner Bopp stated he requested three different times for a vote. Commissioner Bopp feels liability lies with the Water Board attorney. The Water Board respectfully disagrees. There is century code that states the County can't let the Water Board default. The matter will be discussed at the next commission meeting. Wendy Willprecht, Todd Stein and Michael Wyum left the meeting at 9:14 a.m.

Motion to nominate Jamie Nelson and Computer Express for the Dedicated Partner award. (Johnson/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

A recess was taken from 9:20 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

The Board of Review and Equalization proceeded to organize for 2025 at 9:30 a.m. Several county residents were in attendance. In addition to those listed above, attending were Grover Riebe, Randall Brockman, Scott and Shawn Maro, Jan Riebe, Geneva Waswick, Carrili Larson, Kent Johnson, Amy Bergstrom, Don Patterson, Joan Johnson, Steve Klefstad, Janell McLaen, Steve McLaen, Dana Erickson, Brendan and Michelle Ciesynski, Jaimie Gavin, Auston Creech, Jessica Peterson, Bryton Ciesynski, Linda Johnson, Jodi Ost, Jan Melroe, Joleen Hardy, Cheryl Anderson, Kari Ulven, Mark Breker, Adam Hill, Sandra Hanson, Charlene Smith, Seth Aberle, Jennifer Wangler, Jerrod Sandness, Becky Sandness and Jeannie Strange.

Tax Director Hayen brought forth 28 Disabled Veteran Credits. Motion to accept the 28 Disabled Veteran Credits as presented. (Bopp/Waswick) Upon roll call vote motion carried unanimously.

Tax Director Hayen brought forth 66 approved and 6 denied Homestead Credits. Motion to approve the 66 approved Homestead Credits and 6 denied Homestead Credits. (Waswick/Johnson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the Primary Residence Credits which list was provided to the Tax Director from the State. (Bopp/Waswick). Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Tax Director Hayen brought forth Farm Residence Exemptions. Motion to accept the Farm Residence Property Tax Exemptions consisting of 124 active farmers, 26 vacant residences, 28 farm laborers, 83 retired farmers, 21 surviving spouses, 1 did not qualify and 8 unreturned applications. (Bopp/Waswick). Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Tax Director Hayen requested a motion to deny a Farm Residence Property Tax Exemption for parcel 09-3028001 in Jackson Township. The Jackson Township Chairman had requested the parcel be looked into further, and upon further review the applicant does not qualify. Motion to deny the Jackson Township application on parcel 09-3028001. (Bopp/Johnson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Tax Director Hayen requested a motion to deny a request for the removal of residential/improvement values and leave those values added to the total values based on the applicant not returning their

application on parcel 18-5406000 in Taylor Township. Comments were heard regarding the matter from Steve McLaen. Commissioner Waswick wants to recess and reconvene when the Board of Commissioners has had a chance to review century code and the application in further detail.

Motion to reconsider the motion made on the Jackson Township application. (Bopp/Waswick). Tabled.

There being no further business that could be acted on until all credits/exemptions have been ruled on, the meeting turned to hearing public comment. Public comment was received from Jaimie Gavin, Grover Riebe, Auston Creech, Pat Olofson, Jodi Ost, Sandra Hanson, Randall Brockman, Scott Maro, Michelle Ciesynski, and Don Patterson. Motion to ask Vanguard to adjust the numbers for the Cities of Milnor and Gwinner to the county average. (Waswick/Johnson). Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to be taken up at the present time, the Board of Review and Equalization went into recess until Tuesday, June 10th at 7 p.m. at the Forman City Hall.

A recess was taken from 10:45 to 11:00 to allow the meeting to be moved back to the Commission Room at the Courthouse.

Upon reconvening those in attendance were Commissioners Jerry Waswick, Scott Johnson, Lyle Bopp and Chairman Wade Anderson. Also, in attendance were Neil Weaving, Custodian; Travis Paeper, Sheriff; Brenda Wyckoff, SC District Health Administrator; and LaJuana Hayen, Tax Director.

Custodian Weaving gave an update on projects he has been working on.

Mark Breker arrived at the meeting at 11:03 a.m. Custodian Weaving left the meeting at 11:03 a.m. Human Resources Director, Duane Peterson arrived at the meeting at 11:05.

The Courthouse is scheduled to be closed on Juneteenth for a holiday, however, there is court so several offices will need to be open. Sheriff Paeper suggested swapping the Juneteenth holiday for July 3rd. Motion to swap June 19th for July 3rd with the Tax Director's office being closed on June 19th due to previous commitments. The Tax Director's office will work July 3rd; however, the courthouse will remain closed to the public. (Johnson/Bopp). Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was held on a possible lock box for personal belongings for those attending court. No action was taken. Sheriff Paeper left the meeting at 11:21 a.m.

Brenda Wyckoff, Sargent County District Health Unit Administrator, reported on measles outbreaks across the state and actions and awareness being taken by her department. Additionally, she reported on federal funding and impacts they are or will be seeing. Ms. Wyckoff left the meeting at 11:28 a.m.

State's Attorney, Pfau arrived at the meeting at 11:28 a.m.

Human Resources Director, Duane Peterson discussed the NDPERS Defined Contribution Plan. The County currently has two employees enrolled in this plan. The County does have the option to opt out. Mr. Peterson is going to visit with the impacted employees and report back to the Board.

Roll call vote was taken for the Motion made on May 20th to amend the Sheriff's budget for \$2476.06, the same amount of the repayment of prisoner board. Voting yes were: None. Voting no were: Johnson, Bopp, Waswick and Anderson. Motion failed.

Commissioner Johnson outlined what he had requested in regard to quotes on a new county vehicle. If action is taken at this time, a vehicle could potentially be available in September.

Road Supervisor, Tim Faber and Damon DeVillers, Interstate Engineering, arrived at the meeting at 11:52 a.m. Mr. DeVillers explained how the DOT is supposed to distribute funds. He suggested townships and counties put together a list of projects for grants as some of the funding will be coming through grants. He did share that Interstate Engineering does have grant writers on their staff.

Ed Erickson Jr. had applied for a permit for ditch cleaning and the possibility of lowering a culvert which would result in the need of a hydrology study. The Board of Commissioners suggested that Mr. Erickson apply for a permit for cleaning the ditch and then apply for a second permit for the culvert if it was deemed to be necessary to lower the culvert and after the completion of a hydrology study.

An Application for Drainage Work Within the County Road Right of Way was received from Aaron Beaner. The application was tabled as a hydrology study needs to be completed first.

New rental rates as submitted by Road Supervisor, Tim Faber were reviewed. Motion to approve the newly proposed rental rates. (Johnson/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

A recess for lunch was taken from 12:22 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Upon reconvening, Tim Faber and Damon DeVillers returned to the meeting and were accompanied by Ed Erickson Jr. Discussion was held regarding the application which had been submitted and an explanation of the need to resubmit a new application for just ditch cleaning. Mr. Erickson indicated he may not need to lower the culvert and proceeded to complete a new application for only ditch cleaning.

Motion to pay the ambulance bills as presented. (Waswick/Johnson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to sign the Agreement Forms and Notice to Proceed for the Rubberized Crack Seal & Repair project on County Roads 7, 10 & 14. CMC-4100(025) ERS25-00-022.02 (Johnson/Bopp). Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to sign the Construction Agreement for the Bituminous Pavement Markings on County Roads 14, 10, 4 & 2. CP-4100(025) ER25-00-019. (Bopp/Johnson). Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to sign the Notice to Proceed for the Bituminous Pavement Markings on County Roads 14, 10, 4 & 2. CP-4100-(025) ER25-00-019. (Johnson/Waswick). Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the Application for Special Permit to Sell Alcoholic Beverages at a Special Event at Designated Premises received from Jeremy Daggett. (Waswick/Bopp). Discussion was held as there needs more information on the application relating to where the alcohol will be served from. The motion was tabled.

Motion to accept the Application for Drainage Work Within the County Road Right of Way as received from Ed Erickson Jr for ditch cleaning. (Johnson/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. Ed Erickson Jr. left the meeting at 1:33 p.m.

Discussion was held regarding converting a tri-axle truck into a semi for the road department. Motion to authorize the conversion of the tri-axle truck into a semi for the price of \$5975. (Waswick/Bopp). Voting yes were Commissioners Bopp, Waswick and Johnson. Voting no was Chairman Anderson. Motion carried.

Road Supervisor Faber left the meeting at 1:40 p.m.

Important dates were reviewed.

Motion to authorize Chairman Anderson to sign the vehicle quote FSSP13-2 to proceed with the purchase of a 2025 Ford Explorer for the purchase price of \$39,729.00. (Johnson/Waswick) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

The meeting recessed at 1:44 p.m. and will stand in recess until June 10th at 7 p.m.

Forman, North Dakota
June 6, 2025

A Special Meeting of the Sargent County Commission was held at 4:00 p.m. on June 6, 2025, at the Sargent County Courthouse with the following present: Commissioners, Scott Johnson and Chairman, Wade Anderson. Participating via electronic means was Commissioner, Jason Arth. Absent were Commissioners Jerry Waswick and Lyle Bopp. Also, in attendance were LaJuana Hayen, Tax Director and Sharon Halmrast, Chief Deputy Auditor.

The purpose of the special meeting was the continuance of the equalization meeting. Chairman Anderson reconvened the meeting at 4:00 p.m. No further business or information was available at the time of the meeting. Chairman Anderson recessed the meeting until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, June 9th.

Forman, North Dakota
June 9, 2025

A Special Meeting of the Sargent County Commission was held at 8:00 a.m. on June 9, 2025, at the Sargent County Courthouse with the following present: Commission Chairman, Wade Anderson. Participating via electronic means were Commissioners, Jason Arth and Scott Johnson. Absent were Commissioners Jerry Waswick and Lyle Bopp. Also, in attendance were LaJuana Hayen, Tax Director and Tia Bopp, Auditor.

The purpose of the special meeting was the continuance of the equalization meeting. Chairman Anderson reconvened the meeting at 8:00 a.m. No further business or information was available at the time of the meeting. Chairman Anderson recessed the meeting until 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 10th.

Forman, North Dakota
June 10, 2025

A Special Meeting of the Sargent County Commission was held at 8:00 a.m. on June 10, 2025, at the Sargent County Courthouse with the following present: Commissioners Jerry Waswick, Scott Johnson and Chairman, Wade Anderson. Participating via electronic means was Commissioner, Jason Arth. Absent was Commissioner Lyle Bopp. Also, in attendance were LaJuana Hayen, Tax Director; Jayne Pfau, State's Attorney; and Tia Bopp, Auditor.

The purpose of the special meeting was the continuance of the equalization meeting. Chairman Anderson reconvened the meeting at 8 a.m.

Commissioner Waswick wanted to go through the three townships that were discussed on June 3, 2025, at the initial Equalization Meeting.

Tax Director, LaJuana Hayen explained in Jackson Township the applicant is paid as a farm laborer, he doesn't own the house or the land. The owner of the house is retired. The individual he works for does not own or have control of the property. The State indicated they agree that the applicant does not qualify for an exemption. A vote was called for on the tabled motion to reconsider the original motion to deny the application for parcel 09-3028001. Voting yes were: None. Voting no were Commissioners Waswick, Johnson, Arth and Anderson. Motion to reconsider fails.

Taylor Township was next to be discussed. The application was sent to the tax payer listed in the tax system and who was listed on the deed transferring the property. The recipient of the application contacted the Tax Director's office and said the property was no longer a farm and he would not be returning the application. Additional family members are now contesting the addition of the property to the tax rolls. Motion to deny the request to have the values removed from the tax rolls in Taylor Township for parcel 18-5406000. (Johnson/Arth) Voting yes were Commissioners Johnson, Arth, and Anderson. Voting no was Commissioner Waswick. Motion carried.

In Milnor Township a property owner was given an inspection card and the property was assessed. The owner is appealing the value. Disconnection notices were provided, but were after the deadline. The applicant admitted there was no farmer living there. The assessment was done in 2024 and the disconnection notices were dated 2025. This property would only be on the tax roll for one year and the residence would come off. Motion to deny the application in Milnor Township for removal of

residential values and leave the value included in the total values for parcel 12-4012002. (Waswick/Johnson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Waswick requested information on the outcome of the request made to Vanguard to adjust the assessed values for the Cities of Gwinner and Milnor down to the county average. Tax Director, Hayen stated anything they tried took the whole county out of tolerance.

There being no further information or business to discuss, the meeting was recessed until June 10, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Forman, North Dakota
June 10, 2025

The Board of Review and Equalization for 2025 reconvened at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at the Forman City Hall. Commissioners present were Jerry Waswick, Scott Johnson and Chairman Wade Anderson. Absent were Commissioners Jason Arth and Lyle Bopp. Also attending from the County were LaJuana Hayen, Tax Director; Samantha Schilling, Chief Deputy Property Tax and Assessment Director; Duane Peterson, Human Resources Director; Jayne Pfau, State's Attorney; Tia Bopp, Auditor; and Logan Peterson, Deputy Sheriff. Representative Mike Brandenburg and Senator Robert Erbele were also present. Community members present were: Steven D. McLaen, Randall Brockman, Pat Olofson, Becky Sandness, Paula M. Hansen, Jerrod Sandness, Amy Bergstrom, Joleen Hardy, Janell McLaen, Dennis Fliehs, Lisa Fliehs, Derrick Hansen, Dana Erickson, Geneva Waswick, Joan Johnson, Mark Breker, Jaimie Gavin, Jessica Peterson, Charlene Smith, Nancy Wrage, Jodi Ost, Michelle Goettle, Grover Riebe, Jan Riebe, Paula Hansen, Julie Johnson, Kent Johnson, Dawn Anderson, Sean Anderson, Dan Johnson, Scott Maro, Shawn Maro, Jeannie Strange, Steve Klefstad, Denise Dahl, and Dennis Dahl.

Chairman Anderson called the continued meeting back to order at 7:00 p.m. and introduced Representative Brandenburg and Senator Erbele.

Tax Director, Hayen explained that the decision from the County was needed prior to June 30th so reports could be submitted to the state by the June 30th deadline. She also notified those in attendance that the State uses a program called GenTax not Vanguard.

Motion to accept the abstract changes in individual jurisdictions as presented. (Johnson/Waswick). Upon roll call vote motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Hayen then asked for an approval of the new cost manual adjustments, adding the market adjustment, the depreciation, and giving the cities of Cayuga, Cogswell, Forman and Havana and the townships of Bowen, Brampton, Denver, Dunbar, Forman, Hall, Harlem, Herman, Jackson, Marboe, Milnor, Ransom, Rutland, Sargent, Shuman, Southwest, Taylor, Tewaukon, Verner, Weber, Whitestone Hill and Willey a 5% residential structure increase. No motion was made and instead moved to community input.

Public input and questions were heard from several individuals. Representative Brandenburg and Senator Erbele answered questions regarding the assessment process and options the County had.

Motion to reduce Milnor and Gwinner cities to the median ratio of the County. (Waswick) Commissioner Waswick then rescinded his motion.

Motion to deny all residential property recommendations brought forth by the Tax Director, LaJuana Hayen and send everything to the state for their determination. (Waswick/Johnson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Forman, North Dakota
June 12, 2025

A Special Meeting of the Sargent County Commission was held at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 12, 2025, at the Sargent County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Scott Johnson and Chairman Wade Anderson. Present via electronic means was Commissioner Jason Arth. Absent were Commissioners Lyle Bopp and Jerry Waswick. Also, in attendance were Jayne Pfau, State's Attorney; LaJuana Hayen, Tax Director; Samantha Schilling, Chief Deputy Property Tax and Assessment Director; and Tia Bopp, Auditor.

Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to consider the Tax Director’s recommendations regarding the assessed values of agricultural land and commercial land and property. Motion to accept Tax Director Hayen’s recommendations for commercial land and property and agricultural land assessed values. (Johnson/Arth). Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

The Board of Review and Equalization adjourned “SINE DIE” at 3:32 p.m.

ATTEST:

TIA BOPP –AUDITOR

WADE ANDERSON, CHAIRMAN