

Forman, North Dakota  
April 7, 2026

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met for their regularly scheduled meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 7, 2026. Present were Commissioners Jerry Waswick, Wade Anderson, Lyle Bopp, and Jason Arth. The first order of business at 9:00 a.m. was an all employee non-agenda meeting which was called to order by Chairman Waswick and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance in addition to the Commissioners were the following employees: LaJuana Hayen, Amy Bogart, Trent Mahler, Sam Schilling, Bobbi Maly, Vanessa Bayger, Jayne Pfau, Melissa Seykora, Lindsay Bosse, Brenda Wyckoff, Wendy Schmiess, Sharon Halmrast, Shelby Johnson and Tia Bopp. Several topics were discussed including use of the community room, dental insurance, window replacement, snow removal in the parking lot, and county vehicles. The non-agenda employee meeting ended at 9:34 a.m. and the commission meeting stood in recess until 10:00 a.m. where it resumed back in the commission room. Commissioner Scott Johnson joined the meeting via electronic means. In addition to the Commissioners, in attendance were Jayne Pfau, State's Attorney; Tia Bopp, Auditor; Melissa Seykora, NDSU Extension Agent, and Richard Ruch.

Motion to approve the agenda with amendments. (Arth/Bopp) Motion carried.

Motion to approve the minutes from the March 17, 2026, meeting with one revision. (Bopp/Johnson) Motion carried.

There were three applicants for the two open health board positions. No action was taken as interviews will be scheduled.

Motion to authorize the chairman to sign the NDIRF proxy form indicating the Board's selection of Chad Peterson to the NDIRF Board of Directors (Arth/Anderson) Motion carried.

Travis Paeper, Sheriff and Neil Weaving, Custodian arrived at the meeting at 10:06.

Motion to approve the Application for a Local Permit or Restricted Event Permit as submitted by Lisbon Youth Trap Club, LLC. (Johnson/Arth) Voting yes were: Anderson, Johnson, Arth and Waswick. Voting no was Bopp. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Application for a Local Permit or Restricted Event Permit as submitted by Cogswell Gun Club. (Anderson/Arth) Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding the request from Shuman Township for the county to do the maintenance of the township road that goes from the county road to the boat access on Buffalo Lake which travels past the Marquette farmstead. Motion to accept the portion of the township road and name it 1A. (Anderson/Arth) State's Attorney Pfau stated if the county wants to proceed they would need to notify the township of the intent, hold a public meeting and then the Commission would decide at the following meeting how they will proceed. Auditor Bopp will draft a letter to the township indicating the intent of the county and the next steps to be taken. Based on the information provided by Pfau, Anderson rescinded his previous motion as well as Arth rescinding his seconding of the motion. Motion to start the process of notifying the township and scheduling of a public hearing to be held at the May 1<sup>st</sup> commission meeting. (Anderson/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Use of the community room was the next topic for discussion. The room has been locked as part of the courthouse security plan that was developed with the aid of the judge. A policy will be drafted regarding the use of the room going forward. After discussion with Wendy Schmiess, Secretary to the Water Board, the water board room can be left unlocked and used in the interim for meetings.

Tim Faber, Road Supervisor, arrived at the meeting at 10:19.

Sheriff Paeper discussed the county cars in relation to the liquidation of the gold car and the most recently replaced black patrol car being transferred to the coroner for her use. Paeper is requesting the black patrol car being rolled to the coroner and value be added to his budget for use on the payment of the Axon equipment contract. Paeper will work to get the gold car to the auction.

Wendy Schmiess, EM/911 Coordinator was present to discuss payment that had been budgeted for the Gwinner First Responders. Schmiess was looking for confirmation from the Commission that they could proceed with the volunteer pay.

Schmiess also discussed her request to move some revenue and expenses that were paid out of the general water board fund to come out of the Tewaukon Watershed fund as said projects were for dams located in that watershed district. Motion to approve the movement of \$10,314.50 of expenses and

\$6414.00 of revenue that originally were transacted through the water board general fund be moved to the Tewaukon Watershed fund per the request of Schmiess and the water board. (Bopp/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

The window project will be handled by Commissioner Arth going forward.

Larry Bohnekamp and Dustin Kuchar members of the road department and Damon DeVillers from Interstate Engineering, arrived at the meeting at 10:57 a.m.

Discussion turned to the Silver Lake Road Improvement project where the county was awarded \$500,000. The local cost share of this project would be approximately \$360,000; however, the gravel for the project was budgeted at \$181,000. After doing some figuring the county cost for the gravel could be reduced to approximately \$50,000 with the county doing the graveling. This project will be worked on in 2027 giving the county time to bid out the project and get a better idea of the county cost share. Chairman Waswick suggests we accept the project with our own staff doing the graveling and schedule this project for 2027. Motion to accept the project to be done in 2027 and accept the award of \$500,000. (Arth/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Next order of business was to interview for Construction Engineering Service for Project BRJ-0041(021) PCN 23724. Motion to accept the proposal from Interstate Engineering. (Anderson/Arth) Motion carried. Motion to award Interstate Engineering for Construction Engineering Services for Project BRJ-0041(021) PCN 23724. (Arth/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. Gladen Construction was the contractor that was selected for the project. Motion to award Gladen Construction the bridge removal project and authorize Chairman Waswick to sign the contract. (Arth/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

DeVillers wanted to know what the county wanted to do for mastic and crack sealing this year. Motion to put Damon's proposed projects out for bid in parcels. (Anderson/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Discussion then turned to road equipment quotes that were provided by Faber. Motion to purchase a Cascadia semi-tractor for \$23,500 and a trailer from I-29 Trailer Sales for \$58,900.00. (Anderson/Bopp) Voting yes was Anderson. Voting no were Johnson, Bopp, Arth and Waswick. Motion failed.

Motion to purchase a 2005 Freightliner from NorthStar Ag for \$34,000 and a Midland trailer from I-29 Trailer Sales for \$58,900. (Arth//Bopp) Voting yes were Bopp, Arth, Anderson and Waswick. Voting no was Johnson. Motion carried.

Faber is borrowing a disc from another county for the front of the maintainer. In the future, Faber would like to buy a disc for Sargent County's maintainer. The plan will be to lease a payloader this year. Faber was asked to put counters in the trucks to track the number of loads of gravel being hauled this summer.

Kraft Lake access was discussed. Chairman Waswick has talked with various offices at the state level and learned the Game and Fish does not want to restrict access, and it is the county's right of way.

NDIRF annual meeting dates were shared.

Faber stated the department did the best they could under the circumstances with the storm this weekend.

LaJuana Hayen, Tax Director arrived at the meeting. She received an email from an individual that inherited some property in Forman and wants to relinquish his rights to the county. The parcel in question is 26-8106001 and was inherited from the Shane Swanson estate. No action will be taken by the county.

Motion to pay the bills. (Anderson/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the Clerk of Court Agreement. (Bopp/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Park Manager Cornelius has put together a list of tools and things he would like to purchase for the park. In interest of time with no park board meeting scheduled for another two weeks, a motion to authorize Cornelius to purchase the list submitted at a price of \$2591.00. (Arth/Anderson) Discussion was held about making decisions without the full park board. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Park internet for the shop at the lake was discussed. Auditor Bopp will call to see if the internet can be put on vacation like the phone during winter hours and will report back to the next park board meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

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JERRY WASWICK, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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TIA BOPP –AUDITOR