

Forman, North Dakota
March 1, 2022

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present: Jason Arth, Lyle Bopp, Mark Breker, and Scott Johnson. Absent: Richard Ruch. Also present were Tim Faber, Road Supervisor; and Pam Maloney, Sargent County Auditor. Mary Engst, 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/Breker) Motion carried unanimously.

Approve February 15, 2022 minutes as presented. (Bopp/Breker) Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to appoint Wade Anderson, Havana, to the Southeast North Dakota Community Action Agency Board. (Breker/Johnson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. Mr. Anderson was the only application received.

Brian Vculek, Sargent County Resident, arrived at the meeting. He is requesting that County Road #2 from his farmsite to Crete be the same load restrictions as State Highway #13 to allow him to move seed easier. Commissioner Arth had called Damon DeVillers, the county engineer and Mr. DeVillers was concerned about how the road would hold up under the extra weight. As Mr. DeVillers will be present later in today's meeting, the commissioner will discuss it further with him and let Mr. Vculek know the decision made.

Mr. Faber requested that the forty hours of vacation he lost as of December 31, 2021, be reinstated. According to the Sargent County Handbook, every employee must take one week of vacation during the year. If the employee doesn't take the vacation, they lose it. He stated that he wasn't aware of the policy and also, that he was short staffed all through the year and was unable to take any vacation. Mr. Faber should talk to Commissioner Arth, the road commissioner, on how best to resolve this.

The auditorium demolition was discussed briefly. Commissioner Arth made a call to the contractor and they will be here either the week of March 27th or April 3rd.

The Five-County Meeting will be held at the Black Pelican in Wyndmere on Thursday, March 10th. As of now, there will also be three representatives from the NDACo also attending.

Motion to allow up to two people in the NDSU Extension Office to have a ND.gov account. (Johnson/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve a raffle permit for the Tewaukon Rod and Gun Club, Geneseo ND for a raffle to be held March 1, 2022 through April 30, 2022 with the drawing to be held at the Geneseo Hall on April 30, 2022. (Breker/Johnson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

The commissioners will hold non-agenda employee meeting by department again in 2022. The auditor will set up meeting times for the March 15 and April 6 meetings for all departments within the county.

More discussion was held regarding the proposed CO2 pipeline to be built across Sargent County. Additional phone calls have been received from concerned citizens. Commissioner Bopp had a copy of an easement agreement that a landowner in Richland County had received & he is concerned about some of the stipulations within the agreement. Commissioner Arth will contact Summit Carbon Solutions to request a meeting in Sargent County regarding this pipeline.

The commissioners discussed comp time for the employees who worked during the time the courthouse was closed due to having no water. Some of the commissioners felt it should be their decision if and how comp time can be accrued, while others thought it should be up to the department heads. The department heads had met Monday, February 28, to discuss how the comp time should be handled for this particular incident and were unified in their decision to grant their staff comp time at a rate of one and half times the hours worked on the days the building was closed. This is an issue the personnel board has been working on, but there is no policy at this time.

The auditor stated that the Federal Aid Road levy will be expiring in 2024, which is fifteen mills. This will be a huge cut in funding for the road department. The Road levy can be increased from ten mills to thirty mills upon a vote of the people. The commissioners will decide at their next meeting on how to proceed.

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

Tim Faber, Road Supervisor, arrived back at the meeting along with Travis Hinkley, Sales Representative of General Equipment and Supplies, Inc. Mr. Hinkley brought brochures and an equipment sales quote for a 2022 JCB Model 4220 tractor. The commissioners are considering decreasing the number of maintainers and purchasing this tractor to replace one of the maintainers, as the tractor would have much more versatility and with the number of attachments than can also be purchased, be used year-round for different jobs.

Damon DeVillers, Interstate Engineering, arrived at the meeting. He stated that he had checked into looking for additional right-of-way acquisitions on County Road #3, but did not find any for the area in question. Therefore, the right-of-way would be determined to be sixty-six feet.

The commissioners questioned Mr. DeVillers further regarding Brian Vculek's request to leave the load restrictions for County Road #2 the same as State Highway #13. Mr. DeVillers stated that he would definitely not leave the road unrestricted, as it would quickly damage the road. 7 ton per axle with a maximum of 80,000 pounds gross weight would be his suggestion.

Mr. DeVillers had some forms that needed to be signed for the FLAP projects. The county will be purchasing 2.76 acres of permanent maintenance easements from Robert E. Lee in two separate parcels at a cost of \$600/each. Motion to authorize the chairman to sign the Waiver Valuation for the Labelle Creek Bridge. (Breker/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to authorize the chairman to sign the Right-of-Way Certification for the Labelle Creek Bridge. (Bopp/Johnson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to advertise for a road equipment operator, as one of the employees has resigned. He has given his verbal resignation to Mr. Faber, but the board has not received a written resignation yet. (Bopp/Johnson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

JASON ARTH – CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

PAM MALONEY – COUNTY AUDITOR