

Forman, North Dakota
March 7, 2023

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present: Wade Anderson, Jason Arth, Lyle Bopp, Mark Breker, and Scott Johnson. Also present was Richard Ruch, County Resident; and Pam Maloney, County Auditor. Mary Engst, Sargent County Teller, was present through technology. Jayne Pfau, State's Attorney, was in and out during the meeting.

Chairman Mark Breker called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Motion to approve the February 21, 2023 minutes as presented. (Anderson/Johnson) Motion carried.

Further discussion was held regarding the purchase of business band radios for the road department. Mr. Wermerskirchen had provided Commissioner Johnson a new quote for one base station, nine mounted in-vehicle units and five hand-held units at a cost of \$35,587.55. State reimbursement would amount to \$22,500, so the net cost would be \$13,087.55. Motion to purchase fifteen business band radios at a cost of \$35,587.55 to be paid from the Road Department Equipment budget line item. (Bopp/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Michelle Denault, Human Resources Director; and Heidi Johnson, Sheriff's Deputy Matron, arrived at the meeting. Further discussion was held regarding the payroll errors for three employees when receiving a step increase in 2022, which resulted in an overpayment to these employees. The auditor provided information/documentation further explaining what had happened. Tabled until the next meeting when the other two employees could be present and express their opinions.

Tyler Newborg and LaJuana Hayen, Sargent County Fair Board; arrived at the meeting. Ms. Hayen reported that they currently have \$67,178.28 in their checking account and \$32,669.57 in their savings account. Mr. Newborg stated that they will be finalizing plans for the fair at their next meeting. They will have a two-day rodeo, mutton busting, demolition derby, along with live bands for evening entertainment. They have had no success yet, attaining a carnival, but will continue to make phone calls. He also stated that the fair board had voted on selling some of the fairground property to Forman City and it was unanimously a "no" vote.

Jerry Waswick, Gwinner Resident, arrived at the meeting.

Wendy Willprecht, Emergency Manager/911 Coordinator; Michelle Denault, Human Resources Director; and Auston Creech, Gwinner First Responders; arrived at the meeting. Brian Tayer, Sargent County Ambulance Coordinator, was present through technology. Ms. Denault provided the commissioners with information on how the current EMS structure is set up and a proposed EMS structure. The proposed structure would move Brian Tayer from his current pay grade of C41 to a pay grade of B32; and move Trent Mahler from his current pay grade of B23 to a pay grade of B32; in essence making them equal as ambulance coordinators. Much discussion was held on the duties/responsibilities of the ambulance coordinator and the assistant ambulance coordinator. Chairman Breker will meet with Ms. Denault and the ambulance coordinator and assistants to further discuss and bring back information to the commission.

Ryan Johnson, Gwinner First Responders; and Travis Paeper, Sheriff; arrived at the meeting. Further discussion was held regarding reimbursement to the Milnor Ambulance Squad for the ambulance they gifted to the Gwinner First Responders. Mr. Creech, Mr. Johnson and Ms. Willprecht would like the commissioners to reconsider their decision not to reimburse the Milnor Squad the \$65,000 trade-in value. They stated that Mr. Tayer had come to the commission and requested that the Milnor Squad be reimbursed for the rig they would gift to the Gwinner First Responders before moving forward with the bid process, and at that time in August 2021, the commission was in favor of providing reimbursement, although no formal motion was made. Chairman Breker will meet with personnel from all three ambulance units, along with Ms. Willprecht, to discuss this matter further.

Motion to re-appoint Scott Christianson to the Sargent County Park Board – term ending January 1, 2026. (Arth/Johnson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. No other applications were received.

Motion to approve a two Raffle Permits: 1) for the Lisbon Youth Trap Club, LLC, Lisbon, for a raffle to be held March 13, 2023 through May 21, 2023, drawing date and 2) CHS/Dakota Plains Ag, Gwinner, for a raffle to be held March 8, 2023 through March 31, 2023 drawing date. (Arth/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Alison Toepke, Treasurer/Recorder/Clerk of Court, arrived at the meeting. Commissioner Arth stated that he had received phone calls and emails from a county taxpayer who believed he should have received the five percent discount on his 2022 real estate taxes. Ms. Toepke provided the portion of the NDCC that outlines the discount for early payment of tax. She also stated that they use the postmark on the envelope to determine if a discount should be given. This particular envelope was postmarked February 16, which was a day after the February 15 discount date. The courthouse was closed on the morning of February 15, but was open in the afternoon for taxpayers to make payments. The commission were in agreement with Ms. Toepke and the discount will not be given to the taxpayer.

Further discussion was held regarding the tower demolition. Ms. Pfau has concerns on whether the successful bidder is licensed and/or insured. Commissioner Johnson will contact the bidder and find out.

Ms. Pfau stated that she had received several responses from other counties regarding a Road Use and Maintenance Agreement for SCS Carbon Transport. She will review them further and bring it for commissioner approval at a future meeting. Commissioner Arth provided minutes from a Dickey County Commission meeting that shows a list of ordinances that they are considering concerning hazardous pipelines. Ms. Pfau will review and determine if any of them could be placed within the agreement.

Tim Faber, Road Supervisor, arrived at the meeting. He stated that they are working long hours and doing the best they can to keep the roads clear. He provided a quote from CHS for a 10,000 fuel tank, but is waiting for another quote from Rutland Oil Company. He stated that the plow trucks are really taking a beating and that the plows might need to be replaced.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

MARK BREKER – CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

PAM MALONEY – COUNTY AUDITOR