

Forman, North Dakota
April 10, 2023

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present: Wade Anderson, Jason Arth, Lyle Bopp, and Mark Breker. Scott Johnson was absent. Also present was Jayne Pfau, State's Attorney; Tim Faber, Road Supervisor; and Pam Maloney, County Auditor. Damon DeVillers was present through technology.

Chairman Mark Breker called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Mr. Faber reported that the Bernard Mahrer Construction is still working on some of the blocked roads, as contractors were hired to help open up the roads after the last snowstorm. Commissioner Johnson sent an email providing some details special calls received during the storms and that the road crew worked several hours during this time period. Information was received that snow removal costs under an emergency declaration could be paid out of the General Fund, Road & Bridge Fund or the Emergency Fund. As long as we can track & report those costs separately from regular road maintenance costs, there is not a requirement to use the Emergency Fund in order to obtain reimbursement. Mr. Johnson also stated in his email that Isaiah Throener is in the process of getting his contractor's license, and he is insured, so there should be no issue with him removing the communications tower in Harlem Township.

Mr. Faber stated that he will be in Bismarck at a conference April 11 & 12 & will be back to work on April 13.

Road restrictions went on April 1, 2023.

Wendy Willprecht, Emergency Manager/911 Coordinator; and Luke Siemieniewski, Sargent County Water Resource Board Chairman; arrived at the meeting. Motion to approve the following Flood Emergency Declaration provided by Wendy Willprecht, Emergency Manager. (Arth/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Sargent County, North Dakota Flood Emergency Declaration

WHEREAS, the heavy snow received in the winter of 2022-2023, created an unusually high snowpack in Sargent County; and

WHEREAS, the impending spring melt, creates significant potential for severe spring flooding, including overland flooding and stream flooding; and

WHEREAS, the impact of these damages threatens the health, well-being and public safety of Sargent County citizens; and

WHEREAS, the potential damage to public and private property and roads are beyond normal anticipation and budgeted funds; and

WHEREAS, the 2022-2023 winter storm response has required the County, Townships and Cities to expend public works and emergency funds, presenting challenges for financing anticipated flood fight operations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Sargent County Commission declares a flood emergency and orders the activation and utilization of the Sargent County Emergency Operations Plan, its procedures, attachments and appendices to monitor the situation, develop a detailed damage assessment, alleviate hardship, and to limit the hardship and impact of this emergency upon the citizens of Sargent County, North Dakota. Through this declaration the Sargent County Commission

does release the use of the Sargent County Emergency Funds for the purpose of use in response and recovery of the public infrastructure in Sargent County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, all local government agencies and departments are directed to provide protection to the citizens of Sargent County during this event and limit where possible the hardships and impact of said emergency.

Ms. Willprecht stated that there are sandbags that we can get from Richland County with an approximate cost of \$450. Motion to approve the purchase of sandbags/sand and/or mileage to pick them/it up. (Arth/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Siemieniewski stated that the Water Resource Board would look into cleaning out Drain #8 near Rutland and Drain #7 near Milnor to help with flooding issues. It would come out of Water Resource General funds, but would hopefully be reimbursed by FEMA funds. Mr. Siemieniewski will contact some contractors and will coordinate with Mr. Faber on the work to be done.

Mr. DeVillers has provided an updated Engineer's Opinion of Probable Construction Cost for the Chip Seal & Patching Project on County Road #4 from ND 11 to ND 13; and County Road #12 from ND 11 to County Road #1 in the amount of \$1,027,580. Motion to call for bids on the Chip Seal & Patching Project on County Roads #4 & #12 with bids to be opened Thursday, May 11th at 11:30 a.m. (Anderson/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

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

Discussion was held on the Haul Route Agreement that State's Attorney Pfau had provided the commission to use for the SCS Carbon Transport pipeline project. Motion to accept and adopt the Haul Route Agreement as presented by the State's Attorney for this & future projects. (Arth/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Computer Express, the county's IT provider, has requested an access code to gain entry to the courthouse before or after working hours. Sheriff Paeper stopped in to say that he had no reservations allowing the computer technicians access. Motion to allow Computer Express to have an access code to allow entry into the courthouse before or after hours. (Anderson/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

The board chose not to sign & return the North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund (NDRIF) proxy form.

Motion to approve the Forman City Police Contract and authorize the Chairman, Auditor and Sheriff to sign said document. (Arth/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to publish the annual notice concerning County Road Rights of Way in the official newspaper. (Arth/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Pat Olofson, Sargent County Historical Society, joined the meeting through technology. Museum building #3 collapsed under heavy snow, which has also done some damage in Building #1 & Building #2. The insurance appraiser is about a week out. She is concerned about people coming into the building when it is in such a dangerous condition. The commission suggested she place a "No Trespassing" sign on the front door and put caution tape around the entire area. She also wondered if a commissioner should be present when the appraiser comes, but the commission stated that the historical society board members would be sufficient.

Meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

MARK BREKER – CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

PAM MALONEY – COUNTY AUDITOR