

Forman, North Dakota
June 6, 2023

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9:00 with the following members present: Wade Anderson, Lyle Bopp, and Scott Johnson. Also present was Jerry Waswick, County Resident; and Pam Maloney, County Auditor. Mary Engst, Sargent County Teller; was present through technology. Jason Arth and Mark Breker were absent.

Vice Chairman Scott Johnson called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Motion to approve the May 16, 2023 minutes. (Bopp/Anderson) Motion carried.

The Hamlin Cemetery was brought up for discussion. Motion to advertise for bids to clean up the cemetery one time mowing grass, removing trees and other objects. (Bopp/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

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

Michelle Denault, Human Resources Director, arrived at the meeting to further discuss the commission reconsidering the county switching the county's main dental plan from BC/BS to Colonial Life. She provided additional information regarding rates and savings for the county, as well as the employees. She was asked to make sure that employees could still stay on the BC/BS plan if they desired, if the county moved to Colonial for the main dental plan.

The following resolution was introduced by Commissioner Bopp, who moved for its adoption on the 6th day of June, 2023:

Be it resolved by the Sargent County Commission, to-wit:

WHEREAS The Sargent County Commission wants to redesignate the elective county offices of Auditor and Treasurer/Recorder/Clerk of Court as appointive and

WHEREAS NDCC 11-10.2-02(1) provides the board of county commissioners may by resolution adopt a preliminary resolution incorporating a proposed plan for redesignating an elective county office as appointive, subject to the right of referendum and

WHEREAS The job duties are quite extensive for each office and

WHEREAS It is in the best interest of the citizens of Sargent County that each office is held by a qualified individual and THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED That the plan is for the offices of Auditor and Treasurer/Recorder/Clerk of Court to become appointive on January 1, 2026, and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED That the duties, functions, qualifications and training, and method of determining compensation of each office shall not change from what is now in place, and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED That each office shall be subject to all other employment laws and Sargent County policies as other appointive offices, and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED That appointment of each office, shall be made by the Sargent County Commission, and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED That the number of support staff for each office shall not change as a result of this

resolution.

Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion for adoption. Roll Call Vote: Yes – Anderson, Bopp and Johnson. No – None. Absent & not voting – Arth & Breker.

State's Attorney Pfau inquired about joining the McKinsey MDL in re: McKinsey & Co, Inc National Prescription Opiate Consultant Litigation. The Nachawati Law Group is recommending to join the McKinsey MDL in the event that there is a settlement. Motion to authorize Ms. Pfau to notify the Nachawati Law Group that Sargent County would move forward with joining the McKinsey MDL. (Bopp/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve a Gaming Site Authorization for the Lidgerwood Columbus Hall Association, Inc, Lidgerwood at the Geneseo Bar & Grill, 317 Main Ave, Geneseo ND for the activities of pull tab dispensing device and electronic pull tab device, from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. (Bopp/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

The commission received a request from Forman City to use the courthouse lawn for bouncy houses during Carfest on September 9, 2023. Request granted as long as they don't leave ruts or tear up the lawn bringing them in or taking them out.

Motion to authorize the Vice-Chairman and the Auditor to sign the Notice of Award in the amount of \$880,889.78 for Morris Sealcoat and Trucking for Bituminous Seal Coat and Patching – Project CP-4111(023) & CP-4129(023). (Bopp/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve a Sargent County Road Permit application for Cass County Electric Cooperative to bore under County Road #1 approximately 5090 feet west of intersection of County Road #1 and 123rd Ave SE (County Road #4A). (Bopp/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Temporary custodian hourly rate was discussed, as Mr. Weaving will be gone for two weeks in July. Commissioner Bopp has been scouting for someone to fill in temporarily, but a rate of pay needs to be decided on. Motion to pay \$25/hour, up to 40 hours/week for a temporary custodian while the custodian is on vacation. (Anderson/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve the increase in the Red River Basin Commission request for funds from \$3,100 to \$3,471.00. This is split 50/50 with the Sargent County Water Resource Board, so each entity will pay an additional \$185.50. (Anderson/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Brenda Peterson, Health Unit Administrator; and Travis Paeper, Sheriff; arrived at the meeting. Mr. Peterson is asking for permission to purchase the lot to the south of the health district, as they want to add on to the health district building. They have received \$11,000 so far in donations and are hopeful to receive additional gaming funds, along with some county matching funds. The projected cost of the addition is \$150,000. Motion to give permission for Ms. Peterson to pursue a three year option to purchase the lots directly south of the health district building for expansion of the current building. (Bopp/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Peterson also requested to move Shaylynn Nelson, LPN from a temporary position to a full-time permanent position. She is currently funded through grants & will continue to be funded that way, so her status would have no bearing on the county tax levy. Motion to move Shaylynn Nelson from a temporary position to a full-time permanent position at Grade C42/Step 2 effective January 1, 2024. (Bopp/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Further discussion was held on the sheriff deputy's car that the health unit was test-driving. It was decided to decline the purchase at this time and let the sheriff take the vehicle to auction. The commission will look into budgeting for and purchasing a newer vehicle in 2024.

LaJuana Hayen, Tax Director, arrived at the meeting. The Board of Review and Equalization proceeded to organize for 2023 at 10:30 a.m.

Ms. Hayen recommends increasing the valuation of residential lots & buildings countywide 2%. This would fall within the 10% tolerance at 90.4%.

Ms. Hayen recommends decreasing all commercial lots and buildings countywide 5%. This would fall within the 10% tolerance at 100%.

Ms. Hayen is recommending no change to agriculture values. 2024 Sargent County's average value per acre as determined by North Dakota State University (NDSU) is \$1,111.42 and this average per acre value has been set by the ND Tax Commissioner's Office.

Motion to concur with all recommendations of the tax director. (Bopp/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

The Board of Review and Equalization adjourned "SINE DIE" at 10:20 a.m. (Bopp/Anderson) Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Hayen also requested that the commission lock in a contract with Vanguard for a revaluation. Two options were presented. Option 1 would be a full revaluation with measuring of structures and an attempt to inspect the interior of each property – cost \$369,695. Option 2 would be a full revaluation with an exterior review of each property. If the property appears to have had changes an interior inspection would be attempted – cost \$300,615. The work would not be completed until 2029. Motion to move forward with Option 2 at a cost of \$300,615 with work to be completed in 2029. (Anderson/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Tim Faber, Road Supervisor, arrived at the meeting.

Crack sealing quotes from Borgen were reviewed. It was decided that no crack sealing would be done this year as funds wouldn't be available.

The Application for Drainage Work Within County Road Right-of-Way received at the last meeting from Gulleeson Farm and Ranch LLP, Rutland, to possibly clean the ditch on the south side of County Road #5 along the North side of Section 1-129-55 – Tewaukon Township – was further reviewed. Motion to approve the application contingent upon maintaining the 4:1 slope required on Federal Aid Roads. (Bopp/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to finish the curves on 87th St in Herman Township and to do two miles of slope work on County Road #12 at a cost of \$62,000/mile to be paid with Prairie Dog Funds. (Anderson/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Rutland Township has a mag chloride application recipient that has not paid the township. The state's attorney will research to see if the dollar amount can be placed on the recipient's tax statement for collection.

Motion to trade the 145 Excavator in for a E88 R2-Series Bobcat Compact Excavator at no cost to the county. (Bopp/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Robert Orn, Stirum, County Resident, arrived at the meeting to discuss the high water situation in the Stirum area. Commissioner Johnson will contact Damon DeVillers, Interstate Engineering, to meet with Mr. Faber, Mr. Orn and a representative from the railroad to determine what needs to be done to alleviate the high water.

LaJuana Hayen, Tax Director, provided the commissioners with information and a new application regarding the expansion of the Homestead Tax Credit for tax year 2023. This legislation broadens the eligibility requirements and maximum reduction amounts for those applying for the credit. This program is aimed at homeowners 65 years of age and older or those who are permanently and totally disabled.

Motion to close county offices on Monday, July 3, giving employees a paid holiday resulting in a longer Independence Day weekend. (Bopp/Johnson) Roll Call Vote: Yes – Bopp and Johnson. No – Anderson. Absent and not voting – Arth & Breker.

Meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

SCOTT JOHNSON – VICE CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

