

Forman, North Dakota  
June 7, 2022

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 8:02 a.m. with the following members present: Lyle Bopp, Mark Breker, Scott Johnson and Richard Ruch. Jason Arth was absent. Also present was Pam Maloney, County Auditor. Mary Engst, Sargent County Teller, was present through technology.

Vice-Chairman Richard Ruch called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion to approve the agenda as amended. (Breker/Bopp) Motion carried unanimously.

Approve May 17, 2022 regular meeting minutes and June 2, 2022 special meeting minutes as presented. (Johnson/Breker) Motion carried unanimously.

The commissioners provided a few more names for muskrat control agents. The auditor will contact those on last year's list & complete the list of twelve agents to be sent into ND Game & Fish Department.

Motion to approve a Sargent County Road Permit to Cass County Electric Cooperative for boring under County Road #2 for an emergency cable replacement. CCEC needs to lower their three phase power that feeds the Village of Crete so a culvert can be installed for water flow in the ditch. The culvert will remove water that is flooding a potato/onion warehouse. (Bopp/Breker) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

No interest from the commissioners on serving on any NDCCA Standing Committees.

Motion to cast a vote for Kim Rasmussen for Dakota Valley Electric Cooperative Board of Directors – Central Region-District 2 on behalf of Silver Lake Park (Bopp/Johnson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to grant an exception to the Fish and Wildlife Service in regards to Sargent County's Burn Ban Proclamation, allowing them to use prescribed fire as a habitat management tool. (Breker/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve NRG Technology Services quote for server replacement in the amount of \$21,122.17. (Bopp/Johnson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

The auditor provided the commission with an email from ND DOT regarding Bridge 41-116-24.0 posting requirements. This bridge was deemed to belong to South Dakota, so the auditor will respond to ND DOT asking if Sargent County is responsible for posting when the bridge belongs to South Dakota.

Commissioner Breker brought up his concerns with the Job Development Authority. One house has been built at Riverside and will be moved to a site in Forman. He understood, after reading the meeting agenda, that construction would begin on two more houses. The commission understood that additional houses would be built in Milnor and Gwinner, but not until the first house was sold. There will be a JDA meeting on Wednesday, June 8.

Trent Mahler, Assistant Ambulance Coordinator-Forman Squad; Brian Tayer, Ambulance Coordinator-Milnor Squad; Jayne Pfau, State's Attorney; & Michelle Denault, Human Resources Director; arrived at the meeting. Mr. Mahler will be taking over the paperwork that Mr. Klein had been responsible for. Motion to hire a temporary employee to fill Mr. Mahler's position at Grade B23/Step 1. This position will not be eligible for benefits. (Johnson/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. Priority right now is to get the paperwork done for Medicare revalidation, so the ambulance can start billing again.

Scott Christianson, Traci Hanson, & Donavon Hajek, Park Board Member Applicants, each had a short interview with the board. After a tie vote was reached, the decision was tabled until the next meeting, when a full board will be assembled.

Alison Toepke, Treasurer/Recorder/Clerk of Court; & Michelle Denault, Human Resources Director; met with the board to get clarification on a motion from the January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting. This motion removed the longevity requirement until an employee reaches Step 8 (or midpoint). Clarification is needed as to whether the employee sits at Step 8 longer or if they move forward in three years, which

is the current structure. There was much discussion and no decision reached. Tabled until the next meeting.

Denise Ferderer, Tax Director; and LaJuana Hayen, Deputy Tax Director; arrived at the meeting. The Board of Review and Equalization proceeded to organize for 2021 at 10:30 a.m.

Ms. Ferderer recommends increasing the valuation of residential lots & buildings countywide 10%. This would fall within the 10% tolerance at 92%.

Ms. Ferderer recommends increasing all commercial lots and buildings countywide 2%. This would fall within the 10% tolerance at 93%.

Ms. Ferderer provided information regarding the value of agricultural land in Sargent County and is recommending no change to agriculture values. 2022 Sargent County's average value per acre as determined by North Dakota State University (NDSU) is \$1,028.36 and this average per acre value has been set by the ND Tax Commissioner's Office. The 2021 county average value per acre was \$1023 which is 99.5% of the 2022 state determined value.

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

The Board of Review and Equalization adjourned "SINE DIE" at 10.20 a.m. (Bopp/Breker) Motion carried unanimously.

The commissioners discussed the Five-County Meeting that Sargent County will be hosting July 7<sup>th</sup>. It was decided to have a tour of the Sargent County Museum and then have the business meeting and meal at The Springs in Gwinner. The auditor will contact the venues & set things up.

Tim Faber, Road Supervisor, arrived at the meeting. Bruce Speich, Sargent County Water Board Member, joined the meeting through technology. There was discussion on the Drain #7 crossing on County Road #12. There were emergency culverts placed last fall, but the culverts have been dropping and the area is becoming a safety concern. The wait for a box culvert is approximately one year out, so a motion was made to purchase the recommended steel culverts. (Bopp/Johnson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to hire Bryton Ciesynski as Road Department Equipment Operator at Grade B22/Step 3. (Breker/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

The commissioners have received several complaint calls regarding the road work done on County Road #4. The project was to mine & blend County Road #4 from ND 13 north 3 miles. The project was completed, but then the area was inundated with rain and the road became a mess, as it didn't have time to set up. The commissioners understood that a gravel lift was also included in the bid, and have contacted Damon DeVillers, Interstate Engineering, regarding this project.

Mr. Faber also stated that he had cleaned out the ditch along County Road #6 and built up the road, so the drainage issue there has been resolved.

After consulting with Damon DeVillers, Interstate Engineering, the commissioners advised Mr. Faber to clean out the ditch along County Road #2 in Section 11 of Jackson Township and to clean out the culvert that had been plugged. This will hopefully resolve the problem with the flow of water.

Mr. Faber provided the commission with maps of the summer graveling projects. He will provide the maps to the State's Attorney, as well. Motion to approve the gravel plans & have Ms. Pfau send out graveling contracts to the contractors. (Bopp/Johnson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

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RICHARD RUCH – VICE-CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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PAM MALONEY – COUNTY AUDITOR