

Forman, North Dakota
August 1, 2023

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 8:00 with the following members present: Wade Anderson, Jason Arth, Lyle Bopp, and Scott Johnson. Also present was Pam Maloney, County Auditor. Mark Breker was absent.

Vice-Chairman Scott Johnson called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Motion to approve the July 18, 2023 minutes. (Bopp/Anderson) Motion carried.

The auditor reported that Computer Express has requested Crossroads Electric to give a quote on the electrical work needed to move the server.

Motion to approve the revised Road Permit received from the State's Attorney with the suggested changes from a prior meeting. (Arth/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Johnson presented a quote to repair the large crack on the back side of the District Health Building. Motion to approve the quote from Devildog Home Repair in the amount of \$6,145. (Bopp/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Anderson reported that the Sargent County Water Resource Board will pay for the chevron signs that are placed along legal drains next to county roads.

Motion to approve an Application for Drainage Work from Eric Delahoyde to install an approach along County Road #2 on the east side of NE1/4 Section 2-Jackson Township (west side of county road). (Arth/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. They will be re-using a culvert. The approach will give access to the pasture that borders the county road. The new approach would be approximately 225 yards north of the home's driveway.

Motion to authorize the chairman to sign the Vanguard contract for the revaluation for Sargent County with a completion date of February 1, 2029. (Anderson/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to authorize the chairman and the auditor to sign the Notice to Proceed and the contract with Morris Sealcoat & Trucking for Bituminous Seal Coat and Patching CP-4111(-23) & CP-4129(-23) – County Roads #4 & #12. (Arth/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to authorize the chairman to sign Modification #002 for Agreement 6982AF-18-K-5000029 – ND FLAP 136(1) and 145(1) Tewaukon Structures to extend the Agreement's period of performance to March 31, 2024. (Arth/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Mark Breker arrived at the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

Discussion was held regarding the mileage rate for employees using their personal vehicles when a county fleet vehicle is available. Commissioner Anderson stated that a county in South Dakota only reimburses the employee one-half of the mileage rate if using a personal vehicle when a county fleet vehicle is available. The board will check with the state's attorney to see if this can be done and proceed with appropriate action if it can be done.

Jayne Pfau, State's Attorney, arrived at the meeting at 8:40 a.m.

Bryce Carlson, Bill Anderson, and Sandra Hanson, Sargent County Job Development Authority Board Members; and Ray Martinson, County Resident; arrived at the meeting. The SCJDA answered questions and provided more information regarding the loan programs and their partnership with

Martinsen's Home Center/Riverside Building Center. The SCJDA does anticipate reducing the amount requested from the county in the forthcoming years unless a larger business and/or expansion of an operating business requires more funds.

Steve and Janell McLaen, Pat Olofson, Dylan Ekstrom, June Fritzen, Valera Hayen, Ray Martinson, Bill Anderson, Marcy Schutt, Linda Costain attended the meeting on behalf of the Sargent County Historical Society. Steve McLaen presented a PowerPoint with information and photos of the collapse of one of the buildings of the museum in April of 2023. Insurance will not cover what a new building will cost. The museum relies heavily on grants and donations as they receive only a quarter of a mill from the county, which amounts to approximately \$10,500. They feel that the commission has a fiduciary responsibility to the Historical Society to help rebuild this building. Mr. McLaen thanked the board for listening and stated that the Historical Society has felt great community support and the plan to is rebuild the structure.

Alison Toepke, Treasurer/Recorder/Clerk of Court; Travis Paeper, Sheriff; Ray Martinson and Dan Delahoyde, County Residents; arrived at the meeting. The board proceeded with the advertised public meeting to discuss moving the elected positions of the Auditor and the Treasurer/Recorder/Clerk of Court to appointed positions. Discussion was held and concerns were raised about taking the power away from the people with this suggested change. It was decided to hold another public meeting on Tuesday, September 12th at 6:00 p.m. at Forman City Hall.

Sheriff Paeper then requested out of state travel to be approved for Deputy Jon Wold. Deputy Wold will be attending a DARE Officer training in Kansas August 21 through September 1 and a School Resource Officer training in Iowa September 11 through September 15. Motion to approve out of state travel for Deputy Wold to attend the trainings in Kansas and Iowa in August and September. (Arth/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

The Commission reviewed the draft Preliminary Budget for 2024, showing a projected mill levy of 102.35 mills. Motion to approve the 2024 preliminary budget in the amount of \$11,024,387. (Johnson/Bopp) Upon roll call, motion carried unanimously. A public hearing will be conducted Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Trent Mahler, Sargent County Ambulance-Forman Squad; arrived at the meeting. Brian Tayer, Milnor Squad, was unable to attend. Mr. Mahler stated that the Milnor Squad has had 84 runs so far this year; Mr. Tayer has assisted on 66 of those runs, while Peter Christiansen assisted on 41 of them. Their current checkbook balance is \$25,871.28 with patient revenue for the year at \$39,038.99. They are waiting on grant funds. They have facilitated six CPR courses. He then stated that the Forman Squad has had 42 runs so far this year; Mr. Mahler has assisted on 22 of those runs, while Tim Owen assisted on 15 of them. Their current checkbook balance is \$1,402.77 with patient revenue for the year at \$22,179.33. They are also waiting on grant funds and have facilitated 3 CPR courses. Mr. Mahler also stated that they are seeking a new medical director, as Dr. Rup will be retiring as of October 2023.

Tim Faber, Road Supervisor; Damon DeVillers, Interstate Engineering; Wendy Willprecht, Emergency Manager/911 Coordinator; Ray Martinson, Terry Wehlander, Scott Mund and Paul Mund, Hall Township; arrived at the meeting. Discussion was held on the culverts that are worn out and need replacement on 150th Ave SE in Hall Township on the Richland County line. The county has submitted a request for FEMA funds for this area. A disaster has been declared with cost share amounts as follows: Federal 75%, State 10% and local 15%, but it is unknown whether this particular site will be approved for funding. Until the site is reviewed and approved, the commissioners will not make a decision on moving forward with the repairs. A decision will be made whether to repair the site or close the road once the commission knows whether FEMA funds will be eligible. The commission will be in contact with Hall Township once they receive word from FEMA.

LaJuana Hayen, Tax Director; arrived at the meeting.

Mr. DeVillers and Mr. Faber will be meeting with the railroad, the contractor and Bob Orn tomorrow regarding the high water problem near Stirum.

Mr. Faber reported that the slope work being done on County Road #12 is going well. Commissioner Arth has grass seed and a seeder once the project is complete.

At an earlier meeting, Mr. DeVillers suggested that drain tile be installed on County Road #2 near Dan Delahoyde's as that is a problem area for water and soft spots. There is concern that this will create

more water downstream, so the project will wait until Interstate Engineering has done a hydrology study. Mr. Faber does still need to provide a written quote from the contractor that will do the tiling.

Discussion was held on an Application for Drainage Work Within County Road Right-of-Way from Dorn Malpert of Hecla, SD to clean the ditch along County Road #2 along the east side of Section 11-129-58 – Southwest Township. Mr. DeVillers had driven out to look the site, but there wasn't enough information on the application to make an informed decision regarding a recommendation. Commissioner Anderson will contact Mr. Malpert to provide more information on his application.

Meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

MARK BREKER – CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

PAM MALONEY – COUNTY AUDITOR