

Forman, North Dakota
August 15, 2023

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9:00 with the following members present: Wade Anderson, Jason Arth, Lyle Bopp, Mark Breker, and Scott Johnson. Also present was Jayne Pfau, State's Attorney; Sue Seelye, Park Manager; Michelle Denault, Human Resources Director; Scott Christianson, Park Board Chairman; and Pam Maloney, County Auditor.

Chairman Mark Breker called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Motion to approve the August 1, 2023 minutes. (Anderson/Arth) Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding the park manager salary. Currently, she is paid a salary based on twelve months, but receives no overtime pay, as her overtime hours are banked to use to receive her salary during the winter months. As that pay structure can no longer continue, a few options were presented to the commission. Option 1 would be that a pay average would be determined based on a nine-month seasonal calendar which would be paid out over twelve months and then she would be paid for any overtime hours during the working months. It would still be a salaried position. Option 2 would be to move the position to an hourly position and the employee would be eligible for unemployment compensation during the winter months. Motion to go with Option 1 paying the employee for nine months, but spread over a period of twelve months, with the employee receiving pay for any overtime hours worked. (Arth/Johnson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried.

Ted Priester, Red River Basin Commission Executive Director, arrived at the meeting. He provided information and answered questions regarding benefits that Sargent County receives from the organization. Sargent County's pledge is based on the taxable valuation.

Jerry Waswick, County Resident and Sargent County Health Board Member, arrived at the meeting.

No bids were received for the building of an addition to the Health Unit Building. The ad will be run again in the paper, along with outreach to contractors and putting it out on social media. New bid opening date will be October 17th, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

Discussion was held on the couch up in the courtroom that Alison Toepke, Treasurer/Recorder/Clerk of Court would like to see removed. As the county is on the National Register of Historic Buildings, permission will need to be granted to remove the couch. However, it's possible that a grant could be obtained to restore the couch and it could be placed in a different area of the courthouse. Commissioner Bopp will be in consultation with our local historical society and the state historical society to determine what can be done.

The commissioners discussed different areas of the budget that will be addressed and possibly reduced before the final budget hearing: leaving the COLA at 5% instead of the 7% the employees requested; cutting the JDA down to 1 mill instead of 3 mills; cutting the request for a new fleet vehicle; possibly reducing the PERS retirement percentage to only the mandated percentage increase by state legislation; and cutting the Sheriff's School Resource Officer.

Travis Paeper, Sheriff, arrived at the meeting to discuss the School Resource Officer. The commissioners asked for the amount that the schools will be providing for the salary for the officer. They also asked if a contract had been drawn up between the county and the three schools. Sheriff Paeper, State's Attorney Pfau and Commissioner Arth will meet to discuss these items.

Commissioner Johnson left the meeting.

LaJuana Hayen, Tax Director, arrived at the meeting. There was one application for abatement that needed to be addressed. Parcel 31-0000019 – 1980 Schultz – 14 x 75 Mobile Home. The applicant, Casey Decker, requests that the taxes for 2023 be abated as the mobile home has been destroyed. The

tax director confirmed the demolition in June with a drive-by. Willey Township has approved the abatement application. Motion to concur with Willey Township. (Arth/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Morgan Blair, Coroner, arrived at the meeting. She provided a written report documenting the calls she worked on between May 1, 2022 and July 27, 2023. She dealt with seven cases in that time period. She also requested input regarding securing the body in the vehicle during transport. The commissioners suggested she reach out to other counties and/or funeral homes to see what kind of method they use.

Motion to publish the annual weed mowing notice in the official newspaper and to also post it on the county website. (Anderson/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to authorize the State's Attorney draft a letter of support to the Clerk of the North Dakota Supreme Court encouraging the retention of Judgeship #1 in the Southeast Judicial District, and to authorize the chairman to sign the letter. The retention of the Southeast District judgeship is vital to the citizens of our area. To not fill the current judicial vacancy would have a detrimental effect on judicial administration in the District and the quality of judicial services in the District would seriously suffer. (Bopp/Arth, unanimous)

Motion to approve the appointment of Robert Ptacek, Cogswell; Randy Pearson, Milnor; and Duayne Baldwin, Geneseo to the Sargent County Soils Committee. (Arth/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Approve August payroll in the sum of \$277,877.83 and the following bills. (Anderson/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

85648-85665		Health Unit Expenses	1,381.59
85666-85667		Human Services Expenses	276.59
85669	Forman City	Water/Sewer/Garbage	209.00
85670	Ottertail Power Co.	Electricity	1,229.70
85671	Ransom County	VSO Salary/Benefits	2992.85
85674-85680		Health Unit Expenses	4,024.30
85694-85698		Health Unit Expenses	758.58
85699	AMS, Inc	GPS Rental July 2023	100.00
85700	Aramark	Cleaning Services	419.08
85701	Arth, Jason	Travel	588.00
85702	Avid Hawk, LLC	Web Services	45.00
85703	B&B Gardens	Courthouse Flowers/Plants	322.13
85704	Cenex Fleet	Sheriff/Auditor Travel	103.90
85705	Computer Express	Sheriff Computer/Tech Support/ EMS Toner	5,741.72
85706	Counties Providing Tech.	Staff Support	2,510.00
85707	Dacotah Paper Co.	20 Cases of Copier Paper	859.00
85708	Dakota Plains	Sheriff/Auditor/CH/Health Travel/ Road Fuel & Gasoline	5,316.98
85709	Dakota Water Solutions	5 Gal Water Jugs	24.00
85710	Dickey Rural Networks	Telephone Services	1,071.65
85711	Faber, Tim	County Car Carwash	24.99
85712	Forman Drug	Sheriff-Envelopes	7.46

85713	Forman Lumber	Custodian Supplies	365.17
85714	G&R Controls	Pneumatic Compressor Repair	92.00
85715	Geneseo Upholstery	Sheriff Windshield Repairs (2)	500.00
85716	Gwinner One-Stop	Sheriff Travel	876.80
85717	Hayen, LaJuana	Tax Director Travel	100.00
85718	Information Tech Dept.	Adobe Acrobat/WAN/VPN/ Netmotion	1,263.35
85719	Innovative Office Solutions	Auditor Office Supplies/Custodian Supplies	306.97
85720	J&M Printing	Self-Inking Stamp	32.19
85721	Johnson, Heidi	Certified Postage	5.94
85722	Loffler	Sheriff Copy Charges	40.38
85723	Maloney, Pam	Auditor/Election Travel	146.33
85724	NDACo Resources Group	Technology Services	515.71
85725	NDSU Ext Service Budget Office	Seykora Salary 2nd Qtr 2023	6,591.67
85726	Office of Attorney General	SCRAM 24/7	220.00
85727	Pfau, Jayne	Phone/GoToMeetings May-July/ Office Supples	493.01
85728	PharmChem	Sweat Patch Analysis	95.85
85729	Pitney Bowes	Postage Rental	150.00
85730	Radisson Hotel-BMK	Treasurer Travel	88.20
85731	Ramkota Hotel	Tax Director Travel	264.60
85732	Sidwell	GIS Services/Mapping	320.00
85733	The Teller	Publishing Fees	845.45
85734	Verizon Wireless	Sheriff MiFi Cards	200.05
85735	Walock-Johnson	Scheduled Property Insurance	25.00
85736	Waverly's	Leaf Blower/Plastic Roll	225.00
85737	Weaving, Neil	Building Maintenance Supplies	540.47
85738	Wild Rice Soil	June-July-August Ext Rent	1,500.00
85739	Yagow, Cindy	Treasurer Travel	313.66
85740	A W Diesel	Red Pete/Truck 130 Repairs	974.10
85741	Bear Creek Gravel	Crushed Gravel CR#1-2-6	1,005.12
85742	Bernard Mahrer	Crushed Gravel CR#1-2-4-5-6-7-10-14 & Stockpile	13,115.21
85743	Enderson Construction	Haul Clay/Level Slopes #12/Gravel CR#5	88,476.49
85744	Faber, Tim	Personal Vehicle Mileage/Cell Reimbursement	962.96
85745	Hansen Lumber	Window Squeegee	14.98
85746	IBBG Lawncare	Shop Mowing	150.00
85747	Interstate Engineering	Engineering Services/Sealcoat Project	10,554.76

85748	Minn-Kota	Shop Radios	33,763.94
85749	Rutland Oil Co.	Gasoline & Fuel	9,634.21
85750	Smith Motors	2015 Chevy Silverado Repairs	566.66
85751	Southside Auto.	Peterbilt Axle Repairs	87.75
85752	Visto's Carquest	Road Repair Parts/Supplies	208.20
85753	Western Dakota Energy Ass'n	County Truck Permit Dues	500.00
85754	Amazon Capital Services	Ext-Cardstock Supplies	59.06
85755	Dickey Rural Networks	911 Trunks	231.00
85756	Gwinner First Responders	2023 Allocation	6,500.00
85757	ND Ass'n of Counties	911 Wireless	764.40
85758	Oakes Ambulance Service	2023 Allocation	21,781.89
85759	Sargent County Ambulance - Forman Unit	2023 Allocation	5,000.00
85760	Sargent County Ambulance - Milnor Unit	2023 Allocation	5,000.00
85761	Sargent County Treasurer	Ext-Postage	22.92
85762	Seykora, Melissa	Ext-Travel/Office Supplies	569.81
85763	Visa	Ext-Copier/Office Supplies	558.92
85772-85776		Weed Control Expenses	2,760.56

Tim Faber, Road Supervisor, arrived at the meeting. Word was received from FEMA and NDDDES that the Sargent County Site 1 under disaster #4717 has been found to be, in large part, ineligible. This was the area where the culverts are worn out and need replacement on 150th Ave SE in Hall Township on the Richland County line. Commissioner Breker stated that Wendy Willprecht, Emergency Manager/ 911 Coordinator, will do further research regarding the site and she, along with Hall Township will be invited back to the next meeting on August 1st.

Mr. Faber reported that he hadn't heard anything from Bob Orn after his meeting with the railroad regarding the issue with high water near Stirum. Hydraulic studies have been received from Interstate Engineering regarding this same project.

Morris Sealcoat is setting up to start work on County Road #12 and County Road #4 tomorrow, August 16.

The road crew continues to blade and do some spot graveling.

Mr. Faber has received a written quote from Brian Vculek for \$1500 to install a drain tile on County Road #2 near Dan Delahoyde's as that is a problem area for water and soft spots. The commission will invite all the landowners that might be affected to come to the next meeting on September 5th to discuss this further. The auditor was requested to send the hydraulic study to each landowner.

The auditor was also asked to check the mileage on the tan car to see how many miles are put on the vehicle in a year's time.

Meeting adjourned at 12:54 a.m.

MARK BREKER – CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

