

Forman, North Dakota
August 2, 2022

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 8:00 a.m. with the following members present: Jason Arth, Lyle Bopp, Mark Breker, Scott Johnson and Richard Ruch. Also present was Pam Maloney, County Auditor. Mary Engst, Sargent County Teller, was present through technology.

Chairman Jason Arth called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Approve July 19, 2022 meeting minutes as amended. (Johnson/Breker). Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Johnson provided a quote from Triton Mechanical of Gwinner to replace the existing air conditioning units in the courthouse. The present units are approximately fifteen years old & need to be replaced. Motion to accept Triton Mechanical quote to replace all the current air conditioning units, except for the courtroom as that was quoted earlier, in the amount of \$48,091. Funding will be appropriated from the ARPA money. (Bopp/Johnson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bopp provided a list of electrical and lighting issues in and out of the courthouse that the custodian had compiled. Commissioner Bopp and Mr. Weaving will work on correcting the issues.

Commissioner Ruch stated that he had received phone calls from landowners who have not allowed pipeline surveyors on to their property, subsequently getting a letter from Summit Carbon Solutions warning them of court action. Mr. Borracci, TurnKey Logistics Relationship Manager representing Summit Carbon Solutions, will be in attendance at the next commissioner meeting for a question and answer session.

Motion to appoint the Assistant Coroner, Morgan Blair, as Coroner; and to appoint the Coroner, Vicki Berreth, as Assistant Coroner. (Johnson/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to add to the 2022 General Election Ballot the question, "Shall Sargent County, State of North Dakota, levy and collect a property tax not to exceed fifteen (15) mills on the net taxable assessed valuation of the county annually or until discontinued as provided by law, for the purpose of subsidizing county emergency medical services, pursuant to the provisions of Section 57-15-50 of the North Dakota Century Code?" (Breker/Ruch) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. The increased levy will help fund potential additional EMS personnel for both the Milnor and Forman squads.

A bill for Southside Automotive was brought up for discussion. The Auditor's Office will research the balance due and voucher out as necessary. The county does not pay from statements and does need the invoices for verification and clarification.

Commissioner Ruch stated gave a short report on the 2022 County Fair. Events were well attended, for the most part, and no major incidents were reported. The Sargent County Fair Board Annual Meeting will be held Monday, August 22.

Jim Berndt, Herman Township Resident, arrived at the meeting to discuss the abandoned cemetery which adjoins his property. Also present was Jayne Pfau, State's Attorney; Alison Toepke, Treasurer/Recorder/Clerk of Court; and Jerry Waswick, Gwinner Resident. Mr. Berndt stated that he has owned the surrounding quarter since the early 1990's and stated that the cemetery has always been a mess. He estimates that there are approximately a dozen grave stones in the cemetery. There is no one locally that has ties to the cemetery other than the Goolsbey family from Milnor. He stated that he would be willing to go in with a batwing mower, as he has a general idea of where stones are and could navigate around them. Unfortunately, lilacs and weeds have taken over the majority of the plot and there needs to be several hours/days of manual labor to clean up the area to be able to maintain it easily. Mr. Berndt also stated that he would not deny access to the cemetery for work to be done.

Ms. Pfau updated the commission on the National Opioid Settlements. She has received notification that Sargent County would be receiving \$1,275.89 in 2022. The county will receive approximately \$38,000 over a period of several years.

The Commission reviewed the draft Preliminary Budget for 2023, showing a projected mill levy of 111.76 mills. Motion to approve the 2023 preliminary budget in the amount of \$12,614,195.

(Breker/Ruch) Roll Call Vote: Yes – Arth, Breker, Johnson and Ruch. No - Bopp. Motion carried. A public hearing will be conducted Wednesday, October 5, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Michelle Denault, Human Resources Director; Trent Mahler, Assistant Ambulance Coordinator; Tim Owen, temporary Assistant Ambulance Coordinator; and Jennifer McCloud, arrived at the meeting. Brian Tayer, Ambulance Coordinator, was present through technology. After much discussion regarding chain of command and job and roles structure, it was decided a new job description would be needed for a second in command role. Motion to appoint Brian Tayer as Sargent County’s Chief Overall EMS Coordinator; appoint Trent Mahler to Sargent County EMS Coordinator-Forman Squad; and to move Tim Owen from temporary Assistant EMS Coordinator to a permanent status as Assistant EMS Coordinator. (Bopp/Breker) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Other discussion was held on the Forman Squad moving to Basic Life Support (BLS) with Advanced Life Support (ALS) capabilities as the squad now has two paramedics on staff. This could potentially increase revenue and reduce intercepts with other squads with ALS capabilities. Motion that the Sargent County Ambulance-Forman Squad move to BLS with ALS capabilities. (Breker/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Tayer then presented his second quarter report for the Milnor Squad. The squad has had 76 runs so far in 2022; has received \$38,038 in grants and \$33,592 in patient revenue. There have also been donations received. Staffing is adequate at this time.

Mr. Mahler presented his second quarter report for the Forman Squad. The squad has had 59 runs in 2022, has received grants in the amount of \$16,940.54 and patient revenue of \$5,225.74. Staffing is adequate, although more drivers would be welcome. He stated that there is an individual that will be taking the EMS course in Oakes, so there is potentially another squad member moving forward.

Tim Faber, Road Supervisor; and Damon DeVillers, Interstate Engineering; arrived at the meeting. Mr. DeVillers has received two quotes for paving the parking lot. This would be a five inch blacktop project. Knife River quoted at \$121,272 and Zavoral quoted \$122,815. This would only include the paving project & would not include retaining walls or prior preparation work. There was also discussion on County Road #12 sloping project and patching and/or resurfacing County Road #4. Mr. DeVillers will get quotes on patching County Road #4 and other places in the county that might need patching before winter.

Meeting adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

JASON ARTH - CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

PAM MALONEY – COUNTY AUDITOR