

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 8:03 a.m. with the following members present: Lyle Bopp, Mark Breker, Richard Ruch and Jerry Waswick. Also present were Pam Maloney, Sargent County Auditor.

Chairman Lyle Bopp called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commissioner Arth arrived at the meeting.

Motion to approve the July 20th, 2021 minutes as presented. (Waswick/Breker) Motion carried unanimously.

Mary Engst, Sargent County Teller, arrived at the meeting.

Motion to increase the Sargent County Job Development Authority’s 2022 approved budget to the equivalent of four mills, based on the information presented at the last meeting. (Waswick/Arth) Roll Call Vote: Yes – Arth, Bopp, and Waswick. No – Breker & Ruch. Motion carried.

SC Job
Development
Authority
Budget

Commissioner Waswick reported that he had done further research into the Weber Township culvert blocking complaint by a landowner in Victor Township, South Dakota. After further investigation, motion to rescind the motion from a previous meeting to send letters to Victor Township and the Marshall County State’s Attorney requesting them to take action of requesting the landowner to stop blocking the culvert. This matter will be tabled until a hydrology study has been reviewed. (Waswick/Ruth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Weber
Culvert

Sewer problems were discovered at the Sargent County Fairgrounds during the weekend of the fair. This will likely be a costly repair and the commission will look into using Emergency funds, as this was not something that was budgeted for & needs to be fixed immediately.

County Department Heads and officials eligible to participate in the election of a delegate to the North Dakota Association of Counties (NDACo) met for the purpose of electing a delegate for the next 2 years. Present were: all 5 County Commissioners; Auditor Pam Maloney; Health Unit Administrator Brenda Peterson (virtually); Denise Ferderer, Tax Director; Wendy Willprecht, Emergency Manager/911 Coordinator; and States Attorney Jayne Pfau. Nominate Tax Director Denise Ferderer as NDACo Conference Delegate to represent Sargent County at the 2021 and 2022 NDACo Conferences. (Ruch) Motion that nominations cease & that a unanimous ballot be cast for Denise Ferderer. (Bopp/Waswick) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

NDACo
Conference
Delegate

Motion to re-appoint Wade Anderson and Dan Bishoff to the Sargent County Weed Control Board with terms expiring August 10, 2025. (Waswick/Ruch) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Weed Board

Motion to extend the authorized use of the unused sponsorships for the Lead Local event held in July to the event to be held in September. There is \$175 left of the \$250 authorized. (Waswick/Ruch) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Lead Local

Wendy Willprecht, Emergency Manager/911 Coordinator, arrived at the meeting to discuss the safety concerns at the intersection of Highways 13 & 32 east of Gwinner. This intersection has been the scene of many accidents, some of them fatalities. As this intersection is state managed and controlled, it was decided to send a letter to ND DOT outlining the county’s concerns. Motion to send a letter requesting the state to reduce the speed limit of the traffic moving east and west on Highway 13; add signage that would alert northbound motorists on Highway 32 of the stop sign ahead; and to also add red flashing lights on the stop sign at the intersection of Highways 32 & 13. (Waswick/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. Ms. Willprecht will draft a letter with both her and Commission Chairman Bopp signing it.

Hwy 13 & 32
E Gwinner

Some discussion was held regarding wages for the Road Department. It is difficult to attract employees at the current wage with Bobcat as a competitor. No decision made.

Discussion regarding further distribution of Cares Act Funds. No decision made.

Inundated
Land Apps

Denise Ferderer, Tax Director, arrived at the meeting with 2021 Inundated Land Applications. Motion to approve inundated land as recommended by the Tax Director. (Breker/Arth). Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.	
Ms. Ferderer also requested that the commission agree to pay the \$250 rent for the CDP Lodge for a December 10 th Employee Christmas Party. The employees will be responsible to pay for their own meals.	2022 Preliminary Budget
The Commission reviewed the draft Preliminary Budget for 2022, showing a projected mill levy of 103.71 mills. Motion to approve the 2022 preliminary budget in the amount of \$12,409,951. (Waswick/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. A public hearing will be conducted in October – date to be determined.	
Wendy Willprecht, Emergency Manager/911 Coordinator; arrived at the meeting. Brenda Peterson, Health Unit Administrator, was present through technology. Ms. Peterson stated that there are two active Covid cases in the county presently and the county has a 60% vaccination rate.	
Brian Tayer, Sargent County Ambulance-Milnor Squad, arrived at the meeting. He reported that they have had 75 runs this year. He has lost drivers, but are in the process of training in others. He also stated that the Milnor Squad and the Forman Squad will be meeting with the EMS Advisory Committee to discuss the possibility of hiring another coordinator to share between the two squads.	
Marwood Klein, Sargent County Ambulance-Forman Squad, arrived at the meeting. He reported that they have had 58 runs this year. He is in the process of working on the Rural Assistant Grant and will be installing a landline & internet at the apartment base. There are twelve on Forman’s roster with six of them EMT’s.	Horton Emergency Vehicle
Mr. Tayer further discussed the ambulance received at the July 6 th meeting. He, along with other members of the squad, went through each bid and are recommending to accept the bid for the 2022 Horton Emergency Vehicle from Premier Specialty Vehicles at a cost of \$273,013. There were safety features that the squad felt were important, such as rear air bags & 4 point harness vests. Motion to accept the recommendation of the Milnor Ambulance Squad and purchase the 2022 Horton Emergency Vehicle Type 1 Ambulance. (Waswick/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.	2021 Excavator Bids
Tim Faber, Road Supervisor; Ali Matter & Jamie Thoennes, RDO; and Kyle Bleecker, Bobcat of Gwinner; arrived at the meeting. The commission proceeded to open bids for a Lease Purchase of a new 2021 Excavator. Bids received from RDO, Bobcat of Gwinner, & Butler Machinery. Motion to accept the bids for review. (Ruch/Breker) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.	Board Review
After reviewing the bids and much discussion, motion was made to table the decision and have the road supervisor and the road commissioner get together to review them further & make a recommendation to the board. (Waswick/Ruch) Roll Call Vote: Yes – Arth, Bopp, Ruch and Waswick. No – Breker. Motion carried.	
More discussion was held regarding the culvert crossing on County Road #12 on Drain #7. The commission is very concerned that the repairs need to be done yet this fall. Mr. Faber was requested to check on if and when the culverts could be delivered and it will be discussed further at the next meeting.	
Meeting recessed at 1:10 p.m. to reconvene at 9:00 a.m. Friday, August 6 th .	
<hr/>	
Meeting reconvened on Friday, August 6 th at 9:01 a.m. with Jason Arth, Lyle Bopp, Mark Breker, and Richard Ruch in attendance. Jerry Waswick was present through technology. Also in attendance were Luke Siemieniewski & Todd Stein, Sargent County Water Resource Board members; Damon DeVillers, Interstate Engineering; Tim Faber, Road Supervisor; Jayne Pfau, State’s Attorney; and Merrill Engquist, previous Road Supervisor.	
Chairman Lyle Bopp called the meeting back to order.	
Discussion was held regarding the Drain #7/County Road #12 crossing. Mr. Siemieniewski stated that the water board will be meeting with the State Water Commission next Thursday, August 12 to find out whether the cost share on their clean-out project will be approved. He suggested that we wait until after that meeting to decide. It will depend on what type of culvert is approved for cost-share on how the project will proceed. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting August 17, 2021.	Excavator Purchase Bids

The excavator lease purchase bids were discussed further. Commissioner Arth had provided a spreadsheet with the bids received outlined. Motion to accept the bid from Bobcat of Gwinner as per the lease purchase bid option. \$35,000 will be paid before the end of the month, with the balance of \$114,946.38 due January 31, 2022 for a total purchase price of \$149,946.38. (Arth/Ruch) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

The October 5th commission meeting date will be changed to Thursday, October 7 at 8 a.m. due to a conflict with the NDACO Annual Conference. Therefore, the final budget hearing will be held Thursday, October 7, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioner’s Room of the Sargent County Courthouse.

The custodian was given approval to junk a table and desk from the health department that are beyond repair and unusable.

Road Dept.
Positions

Discussion was further held regarding the vacancy in the road department. There have been no applications to fill the position. Motion to request the Human Resources Director to contact Gallagher Benefits to do a market study just for the road department positions. (Waswick/Arth) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. It was decided to further advertise the position with ND Job Service with no deadline, stating “Position Open Until Filled”. It was also suggested that the Human Resources Director send the ad to the cities in the county to put out on their websites and/or Facebook pages.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

LYLE BOPP– CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

PAM MALONEY – COUNTY AUDITOR