

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met at 9:01 a.m. with the following members present: Jason Arth, Lyle Bopp, Mark Breker, Scott Johnson and Richard Ruch. Also present were Jayne Pfau, State's Attorney and 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 September 6, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. (Bopp/Johnson). Motion carried unanimously.

The courthouse parking lot was discussed again, wondering if Bituminous Paving would provide a quote for us, as they will be here to do some patching in October. However, there will need to be preparation work done to the retaining wall before any other work can be done.

It was decided to send letters to landowners throughout the gulch on County Road #7 to remove the trees in the road right-of-way. These trees make snow removal difficult through the winter months.

Ideas for the Court Facilities Grant were discussed. Commissioner Bopp stated that Ted Keller will be providing an estimate to replace the windows in the conference room, courtroom and the clerk of court offices for possible grant funds.

Road department wages were discussed again, at length. Information had been provided from the NDDOT regarding wages & benefits for the state highway department employees. It has been increasingly difficult to hire and retain employees. However, that is happening in all avenues of employment all across the state. It was decided not to make any changes at this time and wait to see what the salary survey shows in 2023.

Alison Toepke, Treasurer/Recorder/Clerk of Court, arrived at the meeting. She requested to remove Patricia Zirnelt, former Chief Deputy Treasurer/Recorder/Clerk of Court, from all banking responsibilities. Motion to remove Patricia Zirnelt from all banking responsibilities. (Johnson/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Toepke & Ms. Maloney then requested to set a policy not to accept phone or online bidding at the November Tax Sale – that all people must bid in person. Motion to set a policy that all bidders must bid in-person at the November Tax Sale. (Ruch, died for lack of second) Further discussion was held and it was decided to set a pre-approval policy for bidders. Commissioner Johnson will provide some paperwork to the offices so they create an application for pre-approval for those wishing to bid online or by phone.

Dan Delahoyde, Jackson Township resident, arrived at the meeting. Discussion was had on the County Road #2 ditch cleaning that had been approved at the last meeting. Motion to reconsider the motion from the September 6th, 2022 meeting that reads as follows: Motion to clean the ditch on the north side between sections 12 & 13 in Jackson Township, 4800 feet to the drain and place the appropriate field access culverts. (Bopp/Ruch) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. Motion to amend the motion to clean the ditch on the north side between sections 12 & 13 in Jackson Township a full mile and place the appropriate field access culverts, and to clean the west ditch of the township road. (Ruch/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Delahoyde also provided a resolution from Jackson Township concerning water drainage from County Road #2. Motion to accept the Resolution by Jackson Township Board regarding Sargent County Road Department's Need of Cooperation dated and signed by the Township Board of Supervisors. (Ruch/Johnson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. Resolution on file at the Sargent County Auditor's Office.

State's Attorney Pfau stated there would be no fines or penalties for blocking or plugging culverts, unless criminal charges were filed and restitution was ordered by the court.

Commissioner Bopp reported that the custodian is considering moving one of the small storage sheds to the coal bin pad nearer to the courthouse for easier accessibility to the snowblower and other items.

Commissioner Ruch reported that Drain #11 work has been delayed to weather issues on other projects the contractor is working on. Bids for Drain #7 were to be opened this week.

Commissioner Breker asked State's Attorney Pfau a few questions regarding the Job Development Authority's housing projects. He was concerned about the JDA's capability of paying the contractor if the houses didn't sell in a timely manner. Ms. Pfau stated that they would be able to borrow money with the houses as collateral.

Motion to appoint Scott Johnson as delegate to the State Fair Association's Annual meeting to be held in Minot on November 16, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. (Bopp/Breker) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Tim Faber, Road Supervisor; and Damon DeVillers, Interstate Engineering, arrived at the meeting.

Rutland Township needs to replace a 48" culvert in Section 3 on the northern border with Dunbar Township. It will be replaced with the same size culvert. Approximate cost of the culvert will be \$7,630 – county share to be 2,543.33. Motion to approve the culvert cost-sharing request from Rutland Township, providing a hydrology study is done. (Breker/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

The commission discussed a letter received from Jim Styron, NDDOT Hwy/Rail Crossing Manager, regarding highway/rail crossing safety improvements. The commissioners designated six different areas of concern – two each on County Roads #4, #10 & #12.

Motion to reconsider the motion made at the September 6, 2022 meeting that reads as follows: Motion to put the Ford pickup and the Autocar Truck up for bids on the Big Iron Auction Site. (Breker/Ruch) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. Motion to put the Ford pickup and Autocar Truck up for bids on the Big Iron Auction Site (Ruch/Johnson) Upon roll call vote: Yes – None. No – Arth, Bopp, Breker, Johnson and Ruch. Motion failed.

Motion to trade the Autocar Truck and a gravel retriever that doesn't work with any of the county equipment to Bill Beaver for a gravel pup trailer. (Johnson/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Faber stated that the white Ford, with rocker arm assembly repair, could still be used during the summer months, if needed.

Mr. Faber stated that the road rake had broken in half and is requesting to purchase rakes to install on the maintainers. Motion to approve the purchase of two road rakes to be installed on the maintainers. (Breker/Ruch) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. DeVillers stated that he had talked to Bituminous Paving who has been contracted to do some patching on county roads, and they will be here in the latter part of October.

Mr. DeVillers had met with Summit Carbon Solutions and they are requesting not to have to case the pipe going under the county roads, but instead to use a thicker-walled pipe. Mr. DeVillers has told them that they will need to case the pipe, but that if the NDDOT doesn't require it, he will reconsider. The commission will defer to Mr. DeVillers' recommendation.

The county has received 100% funding to remove two bridges that are no longer being used. Mr. DeVillers advised the commission that will need to go through the RFP process for design engineering. He will send the auditor some information on how to move forward.

He also provided the county with a hydrology study that he had done on County Road #2.

Discussion was held on County Road #1 through Section 13 in Herman Township. The Wild Rice River is cutting the road and the road will likely have to be moved to the east as the road is becoming more hazardous.

The auditor informed Mr. DeVillers that Sargent County's meeting with NDDOT will be held at 2:00 p.m. October 4th at the NDACo Conference.

Motion to re-appoint Christina Ferderer to the RSR Human Resource Zone Board, pending her acceptance. Term ending January 31, 2025. (Bopp/Johnson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Approve September payroll in the sum of \$243,796.07 and the following bills. (Ruch/Bopp). Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

84126-84136		Health Unit Expenses	1,589.42
84139	Forman City	Water/Sewer/Garbage	191.36
84140	Ottertail Power Company	Electricity	2,200.97
84141	Ransom County	VSO Salary/Benefits	2,397.48
84147-84154		Weed Control Expenses	38,177.30
	American Professional		
84188	Manufacturing	Coroner Disaster Pouch	365.74
84189	AMS, Inc.	GPS Rental	100.00
84190	Aramark	Cleaning Services	479.86
84191/84226	Avid Hawk, LLC	Website Services	70.00
84192	Beerman, Andrew	Shingling Sheds	1,500.00
84193	Blair, Morgan	Coroner Travel	15.00
84194	Carrot-Top Industries	Flags	321.48
84195	Counites Providing Tech.	Tech Support	2,510.00
84196	Dakota Plains	Coroner/Health/Tax Travel	121.89
84197/84227	Dakota Water Solutions	5 Gal Water Jugs	45.00
84198	Dickey Rural Networks	Telephone Services	1,083.75
84199	Forman Drug	Batteries	36.45
84200	Forman Lumber	Shingles/Ridge Cap/Roof Nails	1,209.54
	Forum Communications		
84201	Printing	Estimated Tax Statements	1,580.52
84202	G&R Controls	AC Unit Repairs	1,785.30
84203	Grotberg Electric	AC Unit Repairs	3,882.08
84204	Gwinner One-Stop	Sheriff Gas Purchases	405.16
84205	Hayen, LaJuana	Tax Director Travel	52.50
84206	Hoselton, Samantha	Tax Director Travel	70.00
84207	Information Tech Dept.	Wan Access/SSL VPN/Netmotion	755.90
		Auditor/Treasurer/Building	
84208	Innovative Office Solutions	Maintenance Supplies	433.83
84209	J&M Printing	Coroner Vehicle Magnets	90.55
84210	Johnson, Bryan	Prisoner Meal	11.08
84211	LexisNexis	ND Century Code Books	227.97
84212	Loffler	Tax Director/Sheriff Copier Mtn	269.99
84213	Maly, Kevin	Fairgrounds Maintenance	700.00
84214	ND Ass'n of Counties	Workers Comp.	1,250.98
84215	Office of Attorney General	SCRAM 24/7	465.00
		Acrobat PRO/Cell	
84216	Pfau, Jayne	Phone/GoToMeeting	
		Reimbursement	355.96
84217	PharmChem	Sweat Patch Analysis	125.80
84218	Quality Inn	Tax Director Travel	345.60
84219	Richland Co. Jail	Prisoner Board	1,540.00
84220	Streicher's	Drug Test Kit/Belt	159.96
84221	Strom, Lori	States Attorney Hearing Transcript	36.00
84222	Verizon Wireless	Sheriff MiFi Cards	200.05
84223	Walock-Johnson	Fairground Insurance	25.00
84224	Weaving, Neal	Building Maintenance Supplies	261.67
84225	Wolfe Ford	Sheriff Oil Change	54.83
		Filters/Window	
84228	AW Diesel	Washer/Axle/Repairs	1,364.08
84229	Bernard Mahrer Construction	Gravel #2 & #3	1,300.15
84230	Bobcat of Gwinner	Equipment Rental	250.00
84231	Braaten, Marshall	Culvert Installation	15,800.00
84232	Colonial Enterprises	Commercial Curve Arm	225.00
84233	County Line Repair	2008 Ford Engine Repair	300.00
84234	Creekside Repair	2003 Chevy Repair	452.49
		Travel/ Cell & Ink Cartridge	
84235	Faber, Tim	Reimbursement	839.28
84236	Forman Lumber	Wasp & Hornet Spray	10.47

84237	Hansen Lumber	Filter/Paint/Gorilla Tape	73.92
84238	Interstate Engineering	Engineering Fees	2,963.64
84239	Knife River Materials	County Road #3-#4-#10-#12 Road Projects	91,155.46
84240	Lee's Service Station	Oil/Rotor & Pads	2,147.41
84241	NAPA Auto Parts	Glass Cleaner/Towels	77.18
84242	Plunkett's Pest Control	Pest Control Program	66.20
84243	Rutland Oil Co.	Gasoline/Fuel	5,457.35
84244	Sargent County Weed Control	Trailer/Tank Purchase	3,285.94
84245	TrueNorth Steel	Culverts	32,000.12
84246	Welton's Tire Service	Trailer Tire Service/Wheel Alignment	230.00
84247	Central Grocery	Ext-Supplies	29.69
84248	Dickey Rural Networks	911 Trunks	231.00
84249	Forman Fire Dept.	LEPC Meeting	240.00
84250	Innovative Office Solutions	Ext-Office Supplies	148.10
84251	Mathison, Amber	Ext-Travel	16.25
84252	Seykora, Melissa	Ext. Travel	361.25
84253	Visa	Ext-Spinning Prize Wheel	49.99
84254-84273		Health Unit Expenses	31,450.65
84274	Bixby Body & Glass, LLC	Deputy Bryant Car Repairs	1,177.32
84275	Green Iron Equipment	Box Blade Equipment Rental	2,500.00
84276	Western Dakota Energy	LoadPass Dues	500.00

Meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

JASON ARTH - CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

PAM MALONEY – COUNTY AUDITOR