

Forman, North Dakota
September 6, 2022

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 was Charlie Adams, Summit Carbon Solutions; Mary Engst, Sargent County Teller; Michelle Denault, Human Resources Director; Jayne Pfau, State's Attorney; and Pam Maloney, County Auditor.

Chairman Jason Arth called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Ms. Denault provided an update regarding the salary survey that the county will be asking for in 2023. This will only be a salary survey & will not include classifications and/or pay scale. Road wages were discussed further & Commissioner Breker provided some information about ND DOT wages throughout the state. Ms. Denault will do further research on these wages and also the benefit package they receive to bring back to the next meeting.

Mr. Adams was at the meeting to answer any questions the board might have.

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

Motion to approve August 16, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. (Breker/Ruch). Motion carried unanimously.

A GIS map showing property ownership through the gulch area on County Road #7 was provided by the tax director. The road supervisor will use it to determine where the trees that need to be removed are located, so landowners can be contacted.

Approve the road department purchase of a trailer and tank from the weed board in the amount of \$3,285.94 (Johnson/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Approve the following resolution and move for its adoption: (Breker/Ruch) Roll Call Vote: Yes – Arth, Bopp, Breker, Johnson and Ruch. No – None. Motion carried.

SARGENT COUNTY RESOLUTION FOR SARGENT COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, the 49th Legislative Assembly passed the "North Dakota Disaster Act of 1985: (NDCC 37-17.1) enacting an emergency management law embodying all aspects of disaster/emergency preparedness for all types of hazards which could seriously affect this county; and

WHEREAS, the law mandated the formation of local disaster organizations responsible to provide effective response and recovery capabilities to reduce the loss of life and property of our citizens from the effects of disaster or emergency; and

WHEREAS, the law provides that each county shall maintain an emergency management organization that serves the entire county, and each city shall provide an emergency management organization of its own, or it shall participate in the county wide emergency management organization; and

WHEREAS, the State Law requires the cities and counties to notify the North Dakota Department of Emergency Management of the manner in which their jurisdiction is securing an emergency management capability,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Sargent will be a participant in the Sargent County Emergency Management Agency.

Tim Faber, Road Supervisor, arrived at the meeting.

Approve Application for Drainage Work within County Road R/W for Paul Berg for 4500' of 15" tile to outlet in the Wild Rice along the North Side of Section 35-129-56 – Taylor Township, pending approval of the road supervisor. (Ruch/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

The commission reviewed the quotes received for Hot Bituminous Pavement Patching on various county roads in the county. Motion to accept the quote from Bituminous Paving, Inc, Ortonville, MN, in the amount of \$201,243.00 to be paid from the Federal Aid Road fund. (Breker/Ruch) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Dan Delahoyde and Valera Hayen, Jackson Township residents, arrived at the meeting to discuss the water/culvert issue on County Road #2. As there two natural springs in the area, the culverts freeze every winter. 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 field access culverts. (Ruch/Bopp) Roll Call Vote: Yes – Bopp and Ruch. No – Arth, Breker & Johnson. Motion failed.

After further discussion, 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 culverts upon township approval. (Ruch/Bopp) Roll Call Vote: Yes – Arth, Bopp, Breker & Ruch. No – Johnson. Motion carried.

Tyler Newborg, Sargent County Fair Board, arrived at the meeting with an update on the fair. The fair was well attended and events were well received. Commissioner Ruch also stated that electrical improvements have been made and the motocross track has been removed. The fair board is expecting more income this fall/winter with winter storage and construction workers using the fairgrounds as a campground until freeze-up.

Commissioner Ruch inquired whether we had received a bill from Load Pass for the road permit system. The bill has been received & will be paid at the next meeting. He will visit with the sheriff's office to discuss how the program is working.

Commissioner Ruch also reported that work on Drain #11 will commence this week. Drain #7 has been put out on bids, but the water board has ordered culverts for the Drain #7/County Road #12 crossing, so the work on that can be finished up before winter sets in. The asphalt over the crossing will be included in the contractor's bid.

Wade Anderson, Roger Bopp, David Jacobson, Duayne Baldwin, Patty & Jerry Woytassek, Denny Pherson, Trent Nelson, Calvin Jacobson, Mike Zirnhelt and Ray Martinson, Sargent County Taxpayers; Terry Dusek, Carol Peterson, Mark Bopp, Robert Ptacek and Sandy Hanson, Sargent County Job Development Authority members; and Nathan Berseth, Crossroads Community Advisors; arrived at the meeting to discuss the SCJDA budget. Most of the taxpayers present were in opposition to and are questioning on the housing loans to Riverside Building Center, Lisbon, for homes to be built & placed in Sargent County. The SCJDA explained that providing housing will hopefully attract more people to move into the county and therefore, increase the county's tax base. The jobs are here, but there is insufficient housing, therefore, people are commuting from other counties. There was also concern that Sargent County contractors/businesses should be contacted to work on these projects. Mr. Dusek has brought that up to Riverside Building Center, and hopefully, moving forward that will be a consideration. As time had expired, the group was urged to attend the county's final budget hearing on October 5, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. for further discussion.

Tim Faber reported on road damage on County Road #10 due to an accident which happened there.

He also reported that he had located a pickup that would work for the road department. It is a 2016 Chevrolet one ton pickup. Motion to approve the purchase of a 2016 Chevy one ton pickup for the purchase price of \$ 24,990 and to authorize the auditor's office to cut the check when the invoice is received. (Breker/Johnson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Faber also asked to purchase a 1998 Dodge Cummins diesel one ton dump truck from Steve Johnson. Motion to approve the purchase of a 1998 Dodge Cummins diesel one ton dump truck from Steve Johnson in the amount of \$15,500 and to authorize the auditor's office to cut the check when the invoice is received. (Breker/Ruch) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to put the Ford pickup and the Autocar Truck up for bids on the Big Iron Auction Site. (Ruch/Johnson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to send a letter of support for the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute application for the Safe Streets and Roads for All Discretionary Grant Program. (Bopp/Breker) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Discussion regarding fines/penalties for blocking culverts. Discussion will continue once the state's attorney has time to research it.

Commissioner Bopp reported that the courthouse sheds have both been shingled and that they are waiting on a quote for electrical updates to the courthouse.

Discussion was held regarding the 8% Cola Raise for employees. As there hasn't been much change in the ECI or CPI, it was decided to leave it at 8%.

Commissioner Breker suggested that cell phone usage be limited during agenda appointments during the commissioner meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

JASON ARTH - CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

PAM MALONEY – COUNTY AUDITOR