

Forman, North Dakota
July 2, 2026

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met for their regularly scheduled meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 2, 2026. Present were Commission Chairman, Jerry Waswick (via electronic means), Wade Anderson, Scott Johnson (via electronic means), Lyle Bopp and Jason Arth. Also present were Nathan Trosen, Moore Engineering; Luke Siemieniewski, Sargent County Water Board; Wendy Schmiess, Sargent County Water Board Secretary; Tim Faber, Road Supervisor; and Tia Bopp, Auditor.

Chairman Waswick was attending via electronic means so Vice-Chairman Arth called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion to accept the agenda with additions. (Anderson/Bopp) Motion carried.

Motion to approve the minutes from the June 16, 2026 meeting as presented. (Bopp/Anderson) Motion carried.

Nathan Trosen, Moore Engineering; Luke Siemieniewski, Sargent County Water Board; Wendy Schmiess, Sargent County Waterboard Secretary; and Tim Faber, Road Supervisor were all present to discuss a potential cost share for a box culvert to be installed on County Road 5 at the Drain 9 crossing. Currently a steel culvert is in place and doesn't meet the required crossing standards so the Water Board would like to have a 8 x 6 box culvert installed. The County's portion of the cost would be 40% of an estimated cost of \$225,000-\$250,000. This project would be done in 2027 between the dates of June 15th and August 1st to eliminate any potential disruption of harvest. Motion to put a box culvert on County Road 5 at the Drain 9 crossing at a 40% cost share to the county on the estimated total cost of \$225,000-\$250,000. Project is to be completed between June 15th and August 1st of 2027. Reimbursements to the Water Board can be spread over a six-year span. Funding for this project will come from the flex transportation fund. (Anderson/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. Trosen, Siemieniewski and Schmiess left the meeting.

Data centers was the next topic of discussion. Ransom County recently put a moratorium on battery storage facilities, air carbon capture facilities, high voltage transmission lines, renewable energy (wind and solar farms), AI data and crypto mining centers, and nuclear and industrial disposal sites. Commissioner Waswick suggested Sargent County do the same. Motion to adopt the moratorium that was put in place in Ransom County for the same facilities in Sargent County. (Bopp/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

There was discussion of having a committee established to put together zoning requirements. Potential committee members mentioned were Commissioners Waswick and Bopp; State's Attorney, Pfau; and Rutland Township Supervisor, Daniel Pearson.

Road Supervisor Faber, left the meeting at 9:30. Melissa Seykora, NDSU Extension Agent arrived to give her quarter 2 report. Seykora has participated in the East Farm Safety Camp in Devils Lake held in late May; facilitated the 4H Consumer Marking Contest; delivered a wildlife tracks educational program the end of June; hired a new administrative assistant, Tavia Guzman; is in on-going preparation for the Sargent County Fair/4H Achievement Days as well as participated or facilitated several other community events. Seykora left the meeting at 9:42 after the completion of her report.

Maps from a field in the Crete area were reviewed where a local farmer has concerns about marsh area on his property. The farmer feels the County is responsible for contributing to the increase of this marsh area. Damon DeVillers, Interstate Engineering, will be asked to look into the matter to see if he feels the County has any responsibility in the matter.

DeVillers had requested some more information on how the Commission wants to proceed with the culvert project by the Darren Hoistad farm on County Road 5. Feedback will be provided to DeVillers, and he will proceed with getting numbers and options for the Commission to review.

A recess was taken from 10:17-10:23 a.m. Upon reconvening, a motion was made to approve a road permit request from Otter Tail Power Company to bore a 12.5 kv line under County Road 10 just north of Rutland. (Anderson/Waswick) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made to authorize the Vice-Chairman to sign the County Township Road Mileage Certification. (Johnson/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve a cost share request from the City of Forman in regard to a repaired leak on the fairgrounds. (Waswick/Bopp) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to sign the Memorandum Agreement with the ND Department of Emergency Services, Division of State Emergency Communications Center for services for the July 1, 2027-June 30, 2029 biennium. (Anderson/Johnson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to proceed with propane summer fill and to contract the four-year average gallons for the highway department through CHS. (Bopp/Johnson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve a request from Southeast Water Users to place a link to their website on the county’s website since they are a utility company servicing Sargent County. (Waswick/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bopp and Auditor Bopp summarized the information provided at the Rural Health Transformation meeting held in Hankinson.

A motion was made to approve a Road Permit for Judy Ringdahl and Steve Ringdahl to facilitate the installation of a rural water line to the Judith Ringdahl farm located at 8894 118th Avenue SE, Oakes with the work being performed by Jerry Bohnekamp. (Waswick/Anderson) Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve and pay the bills as presented. (Anderson/Bopp) Motion carried with Waswick abstaining from voting.

Commissioner Bopp informed the Commission that he has a meeting at 9:30, Wednesday, July 8th with Hutch Floyd of NextEra Energy. Anyone wishing to attend was more than welcome. Floyd has also recently emailed other members of the Commission wishing to connect with them. Commissioner Johnson instructed Floyd to contact the Auditor’s office to schedule a meeting to meet with all Commissioners at once if he so desired.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

ATTEST:

JASON ARTH, VICE-CHAIRMAN

TIA BOPP –AUDITOR