RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting - January 5, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Norm Hansen. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members present: Greg Schwab, Joe Mathern, Connie Gilbert, Neil Olerud, and Norm Hansen.

Nickela Runck – deputy auditor appeared before the board to discuss the new Lisbon 2020 road special that was to be applied to all Lisbon parcels. Runck had gone to CPT the software company the county uses for taxes and asked if they could do a mass upload instead of having to key every parcel one by one. CPT and Moore Engineering, the company who determined the dollar amount per parcel for the City of Lisbon worked together to get the mass upload done. When numbers were proofed for the tax statements everything was accurate, the new specials were in place. However, when the statements were actually printed the numbers didn’t actually calculate on the statements. Runck has spoken to CPT, and they are working on creating a program to generate a new statement to send out with the missed Lisbon street special. Gilbert motioned to put an ad in the paper letting residence know that there was a special missed on the tax statements, and an additional statement will follow. Joe Mathern seconded the motion. All aye. Motion carried.

Chairman Hansen called for additions/revisions to the agenda. No changes. Olerud moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Gilbert. All aye. Motion carried.

Minutes from the previous commission meeting on Decemner 15, 2020 were considered. Olerud moved to approve minutes with corrections, seconded by Mathern. All aye. Motion carried.

Derek Johnson with the Ransom County Housing Authority joined the commission meeting via phone to go over the quarterly financial report. Olerud moved to accept the financial report as presented, seconded by Mathern. All aye. Motion carried.

Manual warrants in the amount of $5,786.41 were then reviewed by the board. Gilbert moved to approve manual warrants, seconded by Olerud. All aye. Motion carried.

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| 12/23/20 | ACH 770 | Cass County Electric Coop | $1422.73 |
| 12/23/20 | ACH 773 | Cass County Electric Coop | $181.20 |
| 12/20/20 | ACH 769 | Great America Financial  | $398.74 |
| 12/20/20 | ACH 776 | Great America Financial | $281.00 |
| 12/10/20 | ACH 777 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $178.83 |
| 12/10/20 | ACH 778 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $442.47 |
| 12/10/20 | ACH 780 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $134.45 |
| 12/10/20 | ACH 781 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $43.39 |
| 12/10/20 | ACH 782 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $569.88 |
| 12/14/20 | ACH 783 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $51.30 |
| 12/14/20 | ACH 784 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $129.15 |
| 12/14/20 | ACH 785 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $1.30 |
| 12/14/20 | ACH 786 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $25.00 |
| 12/14/20 | ACH 787 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $179.97 |
| 12/14/20 | ACH 788 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $7.54- |
| 12/14/20 | ACH 789 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $164.98- |
| 12/14/20 | ACH 790 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $28.06- |
| 12/14/20 | ACH 791 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $61.03- |
| 12/14/20 | ACH 792 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $28.04- |
| 12/14/20 | ACH 793 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $28.04- |
| 12/14/20 | ACH 794 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $28.04- |
| 12/10/20 | ACH 795 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $28.07- |
| 12/10/20 | ACH 796 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $28.04- |
| 12/14/20 | ACH 797 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $30.61 |
| 12/14/20 | ACH 798 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $212.94 |
| 12/10/20 | ACH 799 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $47.47 |
| 12/14/20 | ACH 801 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $4.00 |
| 12/14/20 | ACH 802 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $127.62 |
| 12/14/20 | ACH 803 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $31.98 |
| 12/14/20 | ACH 760 | Lisbon, City Of | $156.05 |
| 12/14/20 | ACH 761 | Lisbon, City Of | $26.60 |
| 12/14/20 | ACH 762 | Lisbon, City Of | $29.50 |
| 12/14/20 | ACH 763 | Lisbon, City Of | $10.00 |
| 12/14/20 | ACH 800 | Lisbon, City Of | $65.50 |
| 12/14/20 | ACH 765 | Marco | $137.67 |
| 12/14/20 | ACH 768 | Marco | $137.67 |
| 12/14/20 | ACH 772 | Marco | $110.01 |
| 12/14/20 | ACH 764 | ND Game and Fish Department  | $60.00 |
| 12/14/20 | ACH 771 | Southeast Water Users | $53.97 |
| 12/14/20 | ACH 774 | Wex Bank  | $861.42 |
| 12/14/20 | ACH 775 | Wex Bank | $45.83 |
| TOTAL |  |  | $5,786.41 |

States Attorney - Fallon Kelly appeared before the board to let them know he has an employee who will be quitting at the end of February. He would like to hire the replacement part time state’s attorney employee at the same rate the old one was making. Kelly stated the money was already in his budget for the year. He also said the average for a paralegal in the state is lower than what the county is offering. In order for him to get one with some experience, he feels this wage is needed. Olerud moved, seconded by Schwab to approve State’s Attorney Fallon Kelly to hire the new part time states attorney employee at $21.75 per hour. Schwab, Olerud, and Mathern, were in favor of the motion. Gilbert and Hansen opposed. Motion carried.

Sheriff- Darren Benneweis appeared before the board to let them know he has hired a new officer. He currently has the new officer starting at $21.64 an hour but would like to offer him more per hour so he is making closer to what the other officers make. Discussion was had. Schwab motioned to give the officer a $1.50 per hour pay raise in six months. Olerud seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Scott Smyth with KLJ appeared before the board to let them know that the Corp of Engineers has approved the Sheldon bridge project. The project is projected to take place in 2022.

Jeff Hopkins appeared before the board and would like to raise the grading and snow removal price to $100 per hour after researching what others around are charging. The new grader lease price also went up about $10,000 so Hopkins thinks we need to look at raising the price come spring. Joe Mathern moved to increase the price to $100 per hour for snow and grading as of April 1, 2021. Olerud seconded the motion. All aye. Motion carried. Kirsten Gilbert will notify the townships with a letter that as of April 1, 2021 the price for grading will be $100 per hour.

Kirsten Gilbert appeared before the board to discuss a letter she got from the state stating they have appealed the decision made by FEMA declining many of the states FEMA sites. FEMA is declaring any site that soil was visible are frost boils and they are declining to pay. There is nothing Gilbert can do about this on her end. Unfortunately, the county and many townships will not be getting as much FEMA money as hoped.

Nicole Gentzkow – auditor passed out the treasurer’s cash trial balance and revenue/expenditure guidelines for the board to review. Gilbert moved to authorize Gentzkow to make any budget amendments as she saw fit, seconded by Olerud. All aye. Motion carried.

Jamie Nelson with Computer Express was present at the meeting to assist the commissioners with their Microsoft Surfaces.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

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Nicole Gentzkow Norm Hansen

Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission