**RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Meeting – April 6, 2021

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

Chairman Hansen asked for any revisions to the agenda. Gilbert moved to approve the agenda as is, Mathern seconded the agenda. All aye. Motion carried.

Manual warrants in the amount of $10,221.98 were then reviewed. Olerud moved to approve the manual warrants, seconded by Mathern. All aye. Motion carried.

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| 3/23/21 | ACH 936 | Cass County Electric Coop | $1752.22 |
| 3/23/21 | ACH 965 | Cass County Electric Coop | $167.98 |
| 3/20/21 | ACH 935 | Great America Financial  | $398.74 |
| 3/20/21 | ACH 938 | Great America Financial | $281.00 |
| 3/11/21 | ACH 944 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $115.20 |
| 3/11/21 | ACH 945 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $317.20 |
| 3/11/21 | ACH 946 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $8.78 |
| 3/11/21 | ACH 947 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $527.63 |
| 3/11/21 | ACH 948 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $117.78 |
| 3/14/21 | ACH 949 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $121.76 |
| 3/14/21 | ACH 950 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $437.53 |
| 3/14/21 | ACH 951 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $2092.95 |
| 3/14/21 | ACH 952 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $569.88 |
| 3/14/21 | ACH 953 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $52.17 |
| 3/14/21 | ACH 954 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $11.97 |
| 3/14/21 | ACH 955 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $13.00 |
| 3/14/21 | ACH 956 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $43.50 |
| 3/14/21 | ACH 957 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $50.00 |
| 3/14/21 | ACH 958 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $10.99 |
| 3/14/21 | ACH 959 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $20.00 |
| 3/14/21 | ACH 962 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $35.98 |
| 3/11/21 | ACH 963 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $99.00 |
| 3/11/21 | ACH 967 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $45.00 |
| 3/14/21 | ACH 968 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $335.60 |
| 3/14/21 | ACH 969 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $145.90 |
| 3/11/21 | ACH 939 | Lisbon, City of  | $158.57 |
| 3/14/21 | ACH 940 | Lisbon, City of  | $26.60 |
| 3/14/21 | ACH 941 | Lisbon, City of  | $29.50 |
| 3/14/21 | ACH 942 | Lisbon, City of  | $10.00 |
| 3/11/21 | ACH 966 | Lisbon, City of  | $66.16 |
| 3/11/21 | ACH 934 | Marco | $116.06 |
| 3/14/21 | ACH 938 | Marco | $140.60 |
| 3/14/21 | ACH 943 | Marco | $209.54 |
| 3/11/21 | ACH 964 | Marco | $140.60 |
| 3/14/21 | ACH 937 | Southeast Water Users | $52.94 |
| 3/11/21 | ACH 960 | Wex Bank | $1350.00 |
| 3/11/21 | ACH 961 | Wex Bank  | $149.65 |
| **TOTAL**  |  |  | **$10,221.98** |

Nicole Gentzkow mentioned an email from Terry Traynor with NDACO had sent out an email addressing the most recent COVID Relief Funding. Traynor let the auditor’s association know that since townships are not getting direct federal funding relief funds, the State Legislature has several proposals on the table to send significant funds their way. Currently $30 million is in the bonding bill (HB1341) just for townships. A decision on these state funds won’t be final until they ajourn, which is likely April 23rd or a few days after. The county has the authority to suballocate their federal relief funds to “sub-units” of government, so that could be done if the county would so choose. However, the township would then be required to spend them in conformance with the same guidance as the county – and if they don’t comply, the County would be responsible to pay the US Treasury back.

Bea Roach – clerk of court, appeared before the board to present a resolution to transfer courtroom video conference system equipment to North Dakota Supreme Court. Roach explained the county would still physically keep the equipment; however, the state would be responsible for all financial maintenance fees going forward. Gilbert motioned, seconded by Mathern to turn back the equipment to the state as long as we get to use it and they maintain it. All aye. Motion carried.

Jeff “Ivan” Hopkins – road superintendent appeared before the board. Hopkins presented a bid he had gotten from CHS from the auditor’s office that was postmarked March 11, 2021. The envelope was not clearly marked as the bid stated it needed to be, so it had not been presented at the bid opening. Gilbert moved, seconded by Mathern to reject the bid from CHS from Dakota Plains due to it not being in the proper format. All aye. Motion carried. Olerud mentioned he would like to see the county rebid the propane bids if it is legal.

Gravel Bids were then discussed. Delores Anderson with Bear Creek Gravel was also present to answer a few questions that the board had during bid opening. Anderson clarified that Bear Creek does not haul gravel they only crush it. They also do not charge royalties, that is set by the pit owners. Gilbert moved to accept all gravel and clay bids. Gilbert said Hopkins can choose at his discretion who to use based on quality and price. Olerud seconded the motion. All aye. Motion carried.

The board and Hopkins discussed advantages of using different grades of gravel in different areas of the county. Currently all pits in the county are only making class 5 gravel.

Nicole Gentzkow presented information she had gotten regarding pay study information from Tanya Wieler with Dakota Dynamics. Wieler quoted the county $4000-$6000 for a pay study. Weiler recommends the county find a current handbook and get it going right away. She also, can look at doing job descriptions for the county. She is currently under contract with another county, so would have to finish that county’s pay study before starting Ransom’s but estimated about a 2-3 month waiting period. Olerud moved, seconded by Schwab, to hire Wieler for the pay study, job descriptions, and employee handbook. All aye. Motion carried.

Mathern moved to pay for Wieler with Dakota Dynamics for the pay study, job descriptions, and employee handbook out of the HR budget. Olerud seconded the motion. All aye. Motion carried.

Connie Gilbert asked Gentzkow to inquire about getting on Wieler’s list for hire to assist with HR consulting.

Norm Hansen let the board know that he has found someone to fill the opening on the social service zone board. Hansen would like to see the board appoint Harold Simpson. Gilbert moved to appoint Harold Simpson, seconded by Olerud. All aye. Motion carried.

The park board was then discussed. There is still an opening on the Ransom County Park Board. Nicole Gentzkow suggested Natalie Gulleson as she is very involved in the community and enjoys what the parks and rec programs offer. The board asked Gentzkow to see if Gulleson was willing to serve on the Ransom County Park Board.

Nicole Gentzkow discussed that Jamie Nelson with Computer Express would like to have the court house rewired to help improve the wireless connectivity, and have more direct lines. Ryan Kenyon with Kenyon Electric was in the courthouse, the board called him in to ask if he would be interested. Kenyon agreed to discuss the details of the job with Nelson to see what was all involved. Olerud motioned to hire Kenyon electric since he has been the electrician who normally works on the courthouse to do the wiring project with Jamie Nelson from Computer Express. Schwab seconded the motion. All aye. Motion carried. The board would like to see the project happen as soon as possible.

The board discussed getting new chairs, Gentzkow will look to see what line item they budgeted for them out of last year.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

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Nicole Gentzkow Norm Hansen

Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission