Ransom County Board of Commissioner

Regular Meeting – December 7, 2021

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

Agenda- The agenda was reviewed. Connie Gilbert and Norm Hansen both requested to be added to the agenda. Gilbert moved to approve the agenda with the additions, Hansen seconded the motion. All aye. Motion carried.

Minutes – Minutes from the previous regular scheduled commission meeting on November 16, 2021 were considered. Olerud moved, seconded by Hansen to approve the minutes with corrections. All aye. Motion carried.

Manual Warrants – In the amount of $14,511.01 were reviewed by the board. Olerud moved to approve the manual warrants in the amount of $14,511.01, Hansen seconded to motion. All aye. Motion carried.

Reorganization of the Board - Mathern then handed the meeting over to the auditor. Auditor Nicole Gentzkow called for nominations for Chairman. Hansen nominated Gilbert, Olerud nominated Mathern as Chairman. Olerud moved that nominations cease. Schwab seconded the motion. All aye. Motion carried. Gentzkow called for all in favor of Gilbert as Chairman – Hansen and Gilbert were in favor. Gentzkow then called for all in favor of Mathern as Chairman – Olerud, Mathern, and Schwab were in Favor. Motion passed with a three to two vote in favor or Mathern being Chairman. Mathern then called for nominations for Vice Chairman, Olerud moved to nominate Gilbert as Vice Chairman. Olerud moved that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Gilbert as Vice Chairman. Schwab, seconded the motion. All aye. Motion carried.

Gaming permit - A gaming permit for the Lisbon Gymnastics program along with the appropriate fee was reviewed. Gilbert moved, seconded by Hansen to approve the Lisbon Gymnastic gaming permit. All aye. Motion carried.

Beer and Liquor license – Silver Prairie Saloon in McLeod, ND submitted a beer and liquor permit, along with the appropriate fees, and taxes were paid. Gilbert moved, seconded by Hansen to approve the beer and liquor permits. Olerud abstained. Motion carried.

Sandune Saloon in McLeod, ND submitted a beer permit, along with the appropriate fee, and taxes were paid. Hansen moved, seconded by Gilbert to approve the permit. All aye. Motion carried.

Stiklestad Lodge in Fort Ransom, ND submitted a beer and liquor permit, along with the appropriate fees, and taxes were paid. Hansen moved, seconded by Olerud to approve the permits. All aye. Motion carried.

Jailing – the Barnes County Correctional Facility contract was reviewed and Hansen made a motion to approve signing it pending State’s Attorney Fallon Kelly’s approval, seconded by Olerud. All aye. Motion carried.

Stipends – Hansen asked how 911 and risk manager wages were going to be handled in 2022 on the new pay. Department heads filled out a data request sheet from Tanya Wieler with Dakota Dynamics and listed length of time with the county, in their current position, and job duties. Pay was determined based off of all current job duties. Gilbert discussed she would like to see a motion made to rescind any stipends for additional duties made in previous years. Gilbert made the motion to rescind all stipends the county pays for additional jobs, seconded by Hansen. All aye. Motion carried.

Minutes - Gilbert asked to get the commissioner minutes earlier for them to review prior to the commission meetings.

Gazette Article – Hansen stated the clarification that was put in the Gazette to correct the past article regarding the commission meeting, better not be paid for with County funds. Hansen felt it was a violation of open meeting laws since it had been signed by Schwab, Mathern, and Olerud. Gilbert and Hansen knew nothing about it until they read it in the paper. Discussion was had. Olerud addressed that he doesn’t appreciate Hansen’s attitude towards the board or him not attending meetings. It causes confusion when the full board isn’t’ there to hear the subject as it is presented. Lynn Kaspari with the Gazette stated there would be no charge for the clarification in the paper.

Fallon Kelly arrived.

Rewiring – Randy Gallagher let the board know Crossroads is now going to go through the walls with the cables when they do the rewire, not the track system. They are currently still about three weeks out.

NDSU Extension – ND Aging in the community has hired a coordinator Elise Meyer and a director Katie Mairs to get the project kicked off.

Deb Lee also has announced she will be retiring March 1, 2022.

KLJ – Scott Smyth appeared before the board to present the progressive estimate for Virgil Schultz Slope for $11,498.63. The second progressive estimate presented was for Maple River Slope Repair $6,261.94. Gilbert moved, seconded by Hansen to approve the Maple River and Virgil Schultz progressive estimate. All aye. Motion carried.

Handbook – Handbook was discussed. The board would like to have Chuck Horter come down to Ransom County to have an in-person discussion.

Holidays – The courthouse will be closed half a day on December 23 to observe Christmas Eve per the handbook, and all-day December 24. The courthouse will also be closed on Friday December 31st to observe New Years.

Service Awards – The manual warrant for the Silver Prairie for the Annual County Service Awards Banquet was presented. The bill was $1,331.36. Gilbert moved to approve the manual warrant for the Silver Prairie, seconded by Hansen. Schwab and Mathern were also in favor. Olerud abstained. Motion carried.

Drug testing – Random drug testing was readdressed. At this time the board did not come to a conclusion on doing random drug testing for any department that it is not state mandated for.

Time Clock – Nickela Runck, deputy auditor gave the board an update on the time clock. Employees will be starting to punch in and out on it this next pay period. She is only starting a few departments at a time on it, and will report back to the board.

Human Resources - It was asked again if the county should hire a full time Human Resource person. Nothing was decided.

Grant Writer – Should the county hire a grant writer? Could the grant writer and the human resources person be one individual, or should it be two separate positions?

Assessing – The contract for assessing between the county and the City of Lisbon is up at the end of December 2021. A plan needs to be discussed of what will happen in 2022, a meeting will be set up with the City of Lisbon and the board along with Kirstie Reinke the tax director.

Website – the new county website is up and working, however it is still just bare bones. It is a big transition getting everything on the new page.

Fuel – Schwab got a call from two different residents about possible missing red fuel from the satellite county shops. The callers stated the fuel was being used in personal vehicles. Schwab will speak to Jeff Hopkins about the possible issue, and report back at the next meeting.

Being nothing further to come before the board, Chairman Mathern adjourned the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission