**Ransom County Board of Commissioners**

Regular Meeting – February 1, 2022

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

Minutes – Minutes from the previous regular schedule commission meeting on January 18, 2022 were considered. Gilbert moved, seconded by Hansen to approve minutes with corrections. All aye. Motion carried.

Manual Warrants - In the amount of $20,972.16 were considered by the board. Olerud moved, seconded by Hansen. All aye. Motion carried.

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| **Vendor Name** | **Amount** |
| CASS COUNTY ELECTIC COOP | 2,017.30 |
| JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 14,758.98 |
| LISBON, CITY OF | 279.57 |
| MARCO | 1,546.38 |
| SOUTHEAST WATER USERS | 52.99 |
| VOYAGER FLEET SYSTEMS, INC. | 299.32 |
| WEX BANK | 2,017.62 |
|  |  |
| Total | 20,972.16 |

Misc. – Joe Mathern brought up the importance of looking into an air exchange or filtration system again for the courthouse with all the sickness going around. ARPA funds are able to be used to install HVAC/exchange systems into courthouses. Mathern would also like the board to look into the security of the courthouse. He would like to see if there are any options available to add a larger entryway to the courthouse to allow for more security options.

Tax director – Kirstie Reinke appeared before the board to ask for permission to travel to Deadwood, SD at the end of July for a continuing education training. The cost of the class is $325, plus hotel. Olerud moved, seconded by Hansen, to approve Reinke to go out of state for the continuing education training at the end of July. All aye. Motion carried. Reinke also asked the board for permission to close her office on February 16 & 17 to attend a winter workshop in Fargo. Reinke and Teresa Haecherl will be attending. Darla Haecherl will be in the treasurer’s office if anyone needs immediate assistance, she can help them. Reinke gave an update on what her office has all been working on. She expects agriculture land to be intolerance this coming year. However, residential and commercial will more than likely need to increase. All exemptions were mailed out, and are due on February 1, 2022. Reinke has not heard from Lisbon yet on the assessing fees. Reinke has 972 changes for the City of Lisbon for equalization this coming year. After much consideration Reinke believes the county should charge the City of Lisbon $8.00 per parcel for assessing, and increase the supplies to $1000.

KLJ – Scott Smyth with KLJ appeared before the board to let them know that the Anslem Bridge design construction permit had been approved. It is expected to cost around two million dollars, the County will be responsible for $800,000-$900,000. The County can use the funds from HB1505 to pay for this project if they choose to. Hansen motioned to execute the project partnership agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers, seconded by Olerud. All aye. Motion carried. Smyth also let the board know the NDDOT has approved funding for the Anslem bridge from HB1505 in the amount of $1,250,000.00 for new bridge construction on HWY 54. Schwab moved to accept the funds so the project could move forward, seconded by Hansen. All aye. Motion carried.

Fallon Kelly arrived.

Sheriff Darren Benneweis – Let the board know he is looking into having Patriot 1 come down later in February to discuss a security system for the entire court house campus. The system would be able to scan an individual as they came up to the building. Benneweis would like to look into having one entrance for public to get into all buildings.

Court Facility Improvement Grant – Ransom County was approved for a grant in the amount of $4,875.00 which will help cover the rewire project for the third floor of the courthouse.

NDSU Extension – Brian Zimprich asked permission from the board to travel to Kansas City, MO in February 2022 for a conference. Zimprich let the board know the majority of the expenses associated with attending the conference come from the National Agriculture Extension Agents Association and the ND Agriculture Extension Agents Association. Zimprich also set money aside in the 2022 budget for professional development to travel to the professional conference. Gilbert moved, seconded by Hansen to approve Zimprich to travel to Kansas City, MO for the conference. All aye. Motion carried.

Court Administrator – The State of North Dakota Office of State Court Administrator sent a letter inquiring if the county would like to elect into a funding agreement for the 2023-2025 biennium, under the statute, the options available to the county are determined by the number of full-time employees determined necessary by the Supreme Court to provide clerk of district court services in the county. Based on current data, Ransom County requires .70 FTE to provide clerk services and therefore has two options: to receive reimbursement for providing clerk services or may elect to provide clerk of district court services at the county’s own expense. The board asked Roach what she would like to see the county do, Roach would like for the county to continue as they have been and keep contracting with the state. Gilbert moved, seconded by Hansen to elect into a funding agreement for the 2023-2025 biennium to receive reimbursement for providing clerk services. All aye. Motion carried.

Bridge Inspection- Gentzkow presented a bridge inspection report and bill for the county’s 19.07% of the bill. Olerud moved, seconded by Hansen to approve to pay the bridge inspection bill. All aye. Motion carried.

Non-Profit Gaming Permits – A local non profit gaming permit along with the appropriate fee was submitted by the Good Shepherd Church WELCA. Hansen moved, seconded by Olerud. All aye. Motion carried. A second local non profit gaming permit along with the appropriate fee was submitted by Riding for Dreams Organization. Olerud moved, seconded by Hansen to approve the Riding for Dreams permit. All aye. Motion carried.

Eyes on the Horizon Consulting – Olerud received an email from Monica Kramer McConkey, LPC with Eyes on the Horizon Consulting stating she has recently contracted with the ND Department of Human Services Behavioral Health Division to provide outreach and education as part of the goals of the Disaster Grant Program. The grant runs from November 8, 2021 – September 30,2022. Olerud asked Benneweis if he thought Ransom County could use any of the services offered. Benneweis will look into the grant.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

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Nicole Gentzkow Joe Mathern

Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission