**RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Meeting – February 16, 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, Joe Mathern, Neil Olerud, Greg Schwab, and Norm Hansen.

The agenda was reviewed. Chairman Hansen asked for any additions/revisions to the agenda. Mathern moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Schwab. All aye. Motion carried.

Minutes from the previous February 2, 2021 regular commission meeting were considered. Gilbert moved to approve the minutes with corrections, seconded by Olerud. All aye. Motion carried.

Bills and payroll were then reviewed. Olerud moved to approve bills and payroll, seconded by Gilbert. All aye. Motion carried.

Gentzkow asked if going forward if the board would be ok only getting a cover sheet for payroll, versus the detailed report. The state auditors had mentioned it isn’t necessary to have the board approve payroll monthly. As wages were all set and approved during the budget process. Discussion was had, and the board agreed just a cover sheet would be fine going forward.

Greg Schwab attended the most recent fair board meeting, and had an update for the board. Schwab let the board know that it doesn’t sound like selling the racetrack to the racing association is an option. The racing association has applied for a $40,000 grant to help with some of the improvements they would like to do. However, they need matching funds in order to receive the grant. Schwab and the board discussed they could possibly get some from the fair board, job development, star grant, and do some fund raising on their own or through the fair board.

Scott Smyth with KLJ appeared before the board to give an update on how the highway funding covid 19 money was distributed. Smyth said it was a number of factors including population, CMC roads, size of county, and mill levies collected.

The Fox Farm Bridge was discussed. Ryan Lyons, Duffy Hansen, Jeff Hopkins, and Scott Smyth were present for the discussion. Joe Mathern stated he felt this was a township issue. Ryan Lyons stated the township officials have a route picked out, and are working with land owners to build a road going south. Mathern asked Hopkins if he thought they would be able to assist with the road, if the township choose to hire them. Hopkins stated he wasn’t sure the county had the time, or the right equipment to help build a road. The bridge can not be removed unless it is condemned. The bridge will need to continue to be posted with weight limits, and cross with your own discretion. Mathern informed Lyons and Hansen that if the township does not have the money, they can get a loan from the Bank of North Dakota. According to Mathern individuals who are not affected by this road don’t have to pay for it. The responsibility falls on the people asking for it. Lyons isn’t sure what kind of road they will be able to build, it may be a minimum usage road. Lyons would like to go east with a road; however, they can’t afford to. The township has permission from one land owner, the other one would like to see every avenue crossed before they are willing to give an answer. Lyons stated the township would like to help, but they can’t use all their funds. They are going to need financial assistance from the residents living back there. So far Lyons said all residents have been very good and willing to assist with what they can. Currently Island Park Township is waiting on bids from a few contractors. Olerud motioned to turn the road over to the township and they can hire whom ever they want to build a road. Mathern seconded the motion. Chairman Norm Hansen called for a role call vote: Hansen – yes, Gilbert – yes, Mathern – yes, Olerud – yes, Schwab – yes. Motion carried.

Joe Mathern asked permission to get the cities, townships, and county together at a presentation to learn about a software program called Eagleview. He also asked for permission to get all technology companies the county uses together for a meeting. Schwab motioned to allow Joe Mathern to contact the software people to discuss our programs. Olerud seconded the motion. Gilbert, Olerud, Mathern, and Schwab were in favor. Hansen opposed.

Olerud had to leave the meeting at 11:30 a.m. so the pay study will be discussed at the following commission meeting.

St. Jude’s submitted a local gaming permit along with the appropriate fee. Hansen moved to approve the gaming permit, seconded by Mathern. All aye. Motion carried.

Good Shepherd Church WELCA submitted a gaming permit along with the appropriate fee. Schwab moved to approve the permit, seconded by Mathern. All aye. Motion carried.

The county received a letter from the Garrison grant matching program, applications are due by April 1, 2021. The commissioners would like Gentzkow to send the letter to all cities in the county, and park boards.

Randy Gallagher had applied for a grant through court room facility grant program. The county was awarded $900 to update the electrical in the court room to support the new technology.

A county employee is requesting to use one hundred hours of sick leave due to a special circumstance. Mathern moved to approve the request to use one hundred hours of sick leave, seconded by Gilbert. All aye. Motion carried.

The board discussed openings on the Social Service zone board, Job Development board, and the Park board. The commissioners will continue to ask around to get the boards filled.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

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Nicole Gentzkow Norm Hansen

Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission