RANSOM COUNTY NOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting – January 19, 2021

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

Chairman Hansen called for additions/revisions to agenda. Gentzkow asked to add Benji Froemke to the agenda at 10:30 a.m. Gilbert moved to approve the agenda, with the addition. Neil Olerud seconded the motion. All aye. Motion carried.

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

The county website was discussed. Schwab mentioned the website seems pretty dated when it comes to commission minutes or information. Gentzkow let the board know that they try to only update the website when they have lots of info to change at one time. The county pays an outside vendor to update the website, so making changes adds up. The board questioned what it would all take for someone internally to maintain the county website. Gentzkow will look into that.

At this time there hasn’t been any interest in the open seats on the Park Board, Job Development Board, or the RSR Zone Board.

Ron Carlson, Ryan Lyons, Scott Gilbert, State’s Attorney Fallon Kelly, County Engineer Scott Smyth, Road Superintendent Jeff Hopkins were all present to discuss the Fox Farm Bridge. Many of the previous suggestions were discussed. The option of a road versus a new bridge was discussed, along with prices, and pros and cons of both. Carlson mentioned his offer to buy the bridge still stood. If the County would waive his taxes for the rest of his life. The County would also have to pay for the installation of the new bridge. Fallon Kelly advised he didn’t believe it was legal for the board to make a deal like that. No decision was made. Schwab would like to do a little research on bridge funding, before making a decision.

Todd Anderson and Benji Froemke appeared before the board to discuss to Sheyenne Valley Speedway which the Racing Association currently leases from the Ransom County Fair Board. Froemke said the Racing Association would like to purchase the racetrack. They would like to put some very large investments into the track to allow them to host some larger events. Fallon Kelly advised the Ransom County Fairgrounds and Race Track are a private non-profit entity who happen to get tax dollars. However, they are not run by the County. Anderson said the fair board is made up of fifteen volunteers and they do not feel comfortable selling the track without holding a public election to get the input of the Ransom County tax payers. The fair board is going to discuss further at a fair board meeting to come up with a plan to get the publics opinion.

Nicole Gentzkow, County Auditor asked the board if they would like to keep the current COVID 19 policy in place which allows for unlimited paid time off if an employee or household member are affected by COVID 19. As of January 1, 2021, the CARES ACT no longer requires employers to pay employees eighty hours of COVID 19 leave. The board discussed. Olerud moved going forward employees will only be allowed eighty hours paid COVID 19 leave, after that they will be required to use sick or vacation time, Mathern seconded the motion. All aye. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Nicole Gentzkow Norm Hansen

Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission