**RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Meeting – June 1, 20221

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

Chairman Hansen called for any additions/revisions to the agenda. Gentzkow asked to add Scott Smyth with KLJ to the agenda. Gilbert moved, seconded by Olerud to approve the agenda with the addition. All aye. Motion carried.

Minutes from the previous regular scheduled commission meeting on May 2021 were reviewed. Olerud moved, seconded by Mathern to approve the minutes with corrections. All aye. Motion carried.

Manual warrants in the amount of $41411.61 were considered. Olerud moved, seconded by Mathern. All aye. Motion carried.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 5/23/21 | ACH 1063 | Cass County Electric Coop | $177.36 |
| 5/23/21 | ACH 1064 | Cass County Electric Coop | $1114.77 |
| 5/20/21 | ACH 1059 | Great America Financial | $292.72 |
| 5/20/21 | ACH 1061 | Great America Financial | $422.71 |
| 5/11/21 | ACH 1020 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $80.10 |
| 5/11/21 | ACH 1021 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $85.20 |
| 5/11/21 | ACH 1022 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $165.22 |
| 5/11/21 | ACH 1023 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $80.06 |
| 5/11/21 | ACH 1024 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $52.99 |
| 5/14/21 | ACH 1025 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $26.50 |
| 5/14/21 | ACH 1026 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $239.94 |
| 5/14/21 | ACH 1027 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $5.49 |
| 5/14/21 | ACH1028 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $53.09 |
| 5/14/21 | ACH 1029 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $62.02 |
| 5/14/21 | ACH 1030 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $35164.10 |
| 5/14/21 | ACH 1031 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $59.71 |
| 5/14/21 | ACH 1032 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $1071.70 |
| 5/14/21 | ACH 1033 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $25.00 |
| 5/14/21 | ACH 1044 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $8.00 |
| 5/14/21 | ACH 1045 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $179.97 |
| 5/14/21 | ACH 1046 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $194.00 |
| 5/11/21 | ACH 1047 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $125.41 |
| 5/11/21 | ACH 1048 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $56.52 |
| 5/14/21 | ACH 1049 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $154.78 |
| 5/14/21 | ACH 1050 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $19.95 |
| 5/14/21 | ACH 1051 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $36.65 |
| 5/14/21 | ACH 1052 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $24.77 |
| 5/14/21 | ACH 1053 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $28.99 |
| 5/14/21 | ACH 1054 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $50.09 |
| 5/14/21 | ACH 1055 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $122.49 |
| 5/14/21 | ACH 1056 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $26.06 |
| 5/14/21 | ACH 1066 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $49.45 |
| 5/11/21 | ACH 1067 | Lisbon, City of | $159.40 |
| 5/14/21 | ACH 1068 | Lisbon, City of | $26.60 |
| 5/14/21 | ACH 1069 | Lisbon, City of | $29.50 |
| 5/14/21 | ACH 1070 | Lisbon, City of | $10.00 |
| 5/11/21 | ACH 1072 | Lisbon, City of | $67.24 |
| 5/11/21 | ACH 1058 | Marco | $187.51 |
| 5/14/21 | ACH 1060 | Marco | $116.06 |
| 5/14/21 | ACH 1062 | Marco | $259.39 |
| 5/11/21 | ACH 1071 | Marco | $140.60 |
| 5/14/21 | ACH 1057 | Southeast Water Users | $103.00 |
| 5/10/21 | ACH 1065 | ND GAME AND FISH | $56.50 |
| TOTAL |  |  | 41411.61 |

Randy Gallagher appeared before the board to present the checks the county received from participating in the WSI discount program for 2020. The first check was from the Learning Management System aka LMS program. The LMS program is a computer-based training program that offers employees regular safety classes from their desk. The county had twenty-three employees participate in this program. The check Ransom County received was for $1,029.38 The second check was from the Premium Safety Discount program which all counties must participate in. It is a mandatory claims management and drug free workplace training program. The check Ransom County received was for $1,029.38. The final check Ransom County received was for the Premium Dividend Credit Refund which is a program throughout the state where if counties are successful with aggressive claims management and safety programs and practices, they are able to control and save money on workers compensation costs. The final check was for $1,353.39. With the participation of these programs the county was able to save seventeen percent on their workers compensation premium for the year. Gallagher was also able to get 8 ergonomic keyboards, one stand-up stool, and one chair through Mike Wolf with WSI.

Nicole Gentzkow showed the written proposal to the board from AE2S it will cost right around $6000 for the first year to go to AE2S from Simple Wolf which will include all the training for staff, building, and transitioning the website. Then after the first year it will be $350 per year to host the website annually. Olerud moved to approve the switch from Simplewolf to AE2S as our new Website Host Company, Mathern seconded the motion. All aye. Motion carried.

At 10:00 a.m., the regular commission meeting was recessed. The county equalization meeting was brought to order and turned over to tax director Kristie Reinke. See attachment for the equalization changes.

Reinke presented a list of proposed changes regarding properties that were missed between the township/city equalization and the county equalization.

Gilbert moved, seconded by Mathern to not accept anymore farm exemption applications as the original March 31, 2021 deadline has passed for the 2021 tax year. The County had given an extension of June 1, 2021 which has also now expired. Hansen, Gilbert, Schwab, and Mathern were in favor. Olerud objected. Motion carried.

Gilbert moved, seconded by Mathern to approve the changes presented by Reinke since the townships and cities had already met to have their equalization meetings. All aye. Motion carried.

The county equalization meeting was recessed at 11:00 a.m.

The regular meeting was called back to order.

Todd Larson appeared before the board to discuss the culvert near his house on the county road that has not been allowing water to properly flow for years. He was under the understanding a few years ago that it was going to be replaced, and then another individual came in concerned with the size of culvert they were going to put in and he would be flooded. Then the project was completely put on hold. Larson would like to see this project looked at again, and taken care of. His property has been a holding pond for many years, and he would like to see the county take care of the water issues. Scott Smyth and Jeff Hopkins will look into this, and it will be readdressed at the next commission meeting at 11 a.m.

Scott Smyth appeared before the board to let them know that the new bid opening for the Virgil Schultz Bridge project will be June 30th. He also, followed up on the discussion with Duffy Hansen and there is no additional funding through the DOT for a bridge or road in Island Township for the Fox Farm Bridge repair or alternative route.

Greg Schwab let the board know he has spoken to Ryan Lyons and Island Township is not going to be able to go south so they are now looking at going North by the Vets.

Brian Zimprich had submitted a letter asking the board for permission for him and Deb Lee to travel to the NDSU 4-H Conference in Memphis, TN November 15-19, 2021. They have money set aside in the 2021 budget for professional development to travel to the conference. They have learned many useful things from past conferences, that they have incorporated in Ransom County. Gilbert moved, seconded by Mathern to approve Zimprich and Lee to travel to attend the NDSU 4-H conference in Memphis. All aye. Motion carried.

Gentzkow asked the board what fee the county would like to charge for gaming permits. It has been a few years since the county has had any. In the past she believes the county was charging $50 per permit. According to the state it is at the discretion of the local government but may not exceed $100 per local site. The board discussed and would like to keep it at $50 per site. Schwab moved, seconded by Gilbert to charge $50 per site for gaming permits. All aye. Motion carried.

Justin Olson submitted two pull-tab gaming permits one to be located at the Silver Prairie Saloon and one at the Sandune both in McLeod, on behalf of the Lisbon fire department. Gilbert moved, seconded by Olerud to approve the permits pending the correct gaming permit fee. All aye. Motion carried.

Brent Dick appeared before the board to discuss concerns he had regarding the Huether Gravel Pit west of town off of HWY 27. He stated Knife River is a large corporation and he has some serious concerns with a large corporation coming adjacent to small town Lisbon to operate a gravel and asphalt pit twenty-four seven. The board informed Dick at this time there isn’t much the county can do. They did agree they will look into a few things to possibly regulate future gravel pits, however this one is already to far in the works.

Red River Communications submitted a utility permit along with the appropriate fee. Olerud moved, seconded by Mathern to approve the permit. All aye. Motion carried.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| County HWY | Township | Section |
| 53 | Sandoun | 11-SE |

Brian Zimprich contracted Greg Schwab about the lack of contact to his office since the change of email addresses. Nicole Gentzkow stated ITD is still working on getting the group employee email addresses set up. Once that is done it will make it much easier to make sure no one is left out. If commissioners could stop in offices that they are portfolio holders for and let them know about any changes for all staff after commission meetings it would also greatly help.

There being nothing further to come before the board, Chairman Hansen adjourned the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

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

Nicole Gentzkow Norm Hansen, Chairman

Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission