**Ransom County Board of Commissioners**

Regular Meeting – June 15, 2021

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

Chairman Hansen called for any additions/revisions to the agenda. Olerud moved, seconded by Mathern to approve the agenda with the addition of discussing reclassifying the Fox Farm Bridge. All aye. Motion carried.

Minutes from the previous regular scheduled commission meeting on June 1, 2021 were reviewed. Gilbert moved, seconded by Olerud to approve the minutes with corrections. All aye. Motion carried.

Bills in the amount of $244,681.02 were then considered. Gilbert moved, seconded by Olerud to approve with some changes. All aye. Motion carried.

Joe Mathern spoke to the board on behalf of Joe Reinke the VSO officer who holds the shared thirty-two hour per week position in Ransom and Sargent County. Reinke would like to see this position become a 4o hour per week position, he feels there is to much work for it to not be five days a week. The board discussed. They asked Mathern to set up a meeting with Sargent County to see how they feel about increasing the number of hours per week. Mathern will let the board know at an upcoming meeting.

Neil Olerud has been contacted by Ron Carlson to have the Fox Farm Bridge reclassified so that a school bus is allowed to cross it. Olerud wanted to know what it would take to have the state come down and look into reclassifying the bridge. Hansen stated the commission had turned the issues with Fox Farm Bridge over to Island Park Township, and he personally doesn’t want to get involved as they are working on a solution for those residents.

Lance Gulleson with Farmers Union appeared before the board to go over the Fire and Tornado policy which is up for renewal July 1, 2021. Gulleson let the board know the premium will be going up fourteen percent. Gulleson has reviewed the counties coverage and feels we are adequately covered but would still like to run numbers to see if the county should possibly look at increasing our replacement coverage due to how expensive it is to build right now. Gulleson will run numbers and come to the commission meeting on July 6 to present to the board.

Kirsten Gilbert – emergency manager, appeared before the board to ask if the board happened to remember where the water came from in 2009-2010 Sheldon summer flood event. KLJ who is currently working on the counties hazard mitigation plan is trying to learn a little more about this flood event, to prep for future if possible. The board thought that event was occurred due to heavy rains which caused overland flooding.

Kristie Reinke – tax director, appeared before the board asking them to grant an abatement for Bob Smith based off an appraisal he provided. The appraisal would keep his property at the value it was listed at previously before Reinke increased the value this year. Olerud moved to grant Smith the abatement, seconded by Schwab. All aye. Motion carried.

Gentzkow presented a letter the county had received from North Dakota Emergency Services informing the county that the new fee structure for the 911 fees for the 2021-2023 biennium for the 25-state radio PSAP Counties will be $1.36 per line per month. The increase will take effect on July 1, 2021. Gilbert moved, seconded by Olerud to approve the $1.36 per line. All aye. Motion carried.

Gentzkow asked on behalf of another department head if when they have conventions and are asked to bring gift baskets to be auctioned off, if they can use some money out of their budget to purchase items. The board discussed. They agreed department heads can purchase items out of the travel line item for the gift baskets for their annual conventions. A fifty-dollar limit was set.

An off-site liquor permit was presented along with the appropriate fee for the Ranch Rodeo which was going to be hosted in McLeod June 26, 2021. The board was willing to approve to approve the permit pending the townships approval.

Todd Larson appeared before the board to continue the discussion on the culverts near his property on the county road. Fallon Kelly States Attorney was also present for the discussion. Scott Smyth with KLJ was present and let the board know that when KLJ did a study on this site a few years back they had recommended putting in three seventy-two-foot culverts or two one hundred and three by seventy-five-foot arch pipes. Larson said he thought three seventy-two-foot pipe culverts would take care of the issue. Fallon Kelly said as long as the county is putting something back to the natural state then they can’t be held liable. Previously when KLJ gave the county estimates on getting culverts put in at this location three seventy-two foot culverts would have cost around twenty four thousand dollars for just materials. As long as the project was under $150,000 the county would not have to go through a bid process. Hopkins will look into getting a quote to see how much this will cost. Olerud would like to see the county reach out to Daleyn Baasch for a quote.

Scott Smyth presented amendment I to the agreement for the cost share with the increased dollar value for the Maple River Bridge Road Stabilization for an additional $18,592 for a grand total of $ 50,267 through the State Water Commission. Olerud moved to approve the amended cost share agreement, seconded by Mathern. All aye. Motion carried.

Being nothing further to come before the board, Chairman Hansen adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission