RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting – March 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.

Agenda – the agenda was reviewed, storm day policy, and Kristie Reinke were added to the agenda. Olerud moved, seconded by Hansen to approve the agenda with additions. All aye. Motion carried.

KLJ – Scott Smyth appeared before the board to ask if they would like to go through an RFP or bid process for the Anslem Bridge. He also let the board know there will be a thirty percent increase in federal funding on the program sheet which will be roughly an additional $60-$70K per year. Hansen moved, seconded by Gilbert to hire KLJ to do the design portion of the Anslem Bridge and go with the RFP process. All aye. Motion carried.

Highway Department – Schwab asked Hopkins if he has found out any more info on the 1500 gallons of fuel that is unaccounted for. Hopkins let the board know he is still going through fuel reports. Hopkins is also working on getting in touch with DRN to get a quote to have cameras installed. Hopkins let the board know he thought the county should start the process for the next motor grader lease to make sure the machine gets here in time. Mathern would like to look into the miles put on each grader before a decision is made on leasing or buying a new grader.

Minutes – Minutes from the previous regular scheduled commission meeting on February 15, 2022 were considered. Gilbert moved, seconded by Hansen to approve minutes with corrections. All aye. Motion carried.

Manual Warrants – In the amount of $14,788.69 were reviewed. Gilbert moved, seconded by Hansen to approve the manual warrants. All aye. Motion carried.

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| CASS COUNTY ELECTIC COOP | 2,642.57 |
| JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 9,027.64 |
| LIBERTY BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC. | 91.71 |
| LISBON, CITY OF | 278.75 |
| MARCO | 667.98 |
| SOUTHEAST WATER USERS | 56.67 |
| VOYAGER FLEET SYSTEMS, INC. | 85.90 |
| WEX BANK | 1,937.47 |
| Total | 14,788.69 |

Farmers Union Insurance – Jon Guzman appeared before the board to ask if they have put anymore thought into the disability insurance he presented last fall. The board asked Guzman to represent in June.

Tax Director – Kirstie Reinke appeared before the board to introduce Lonnie Rotenberger. Rotenberger will be a full-time employee for the tax department.

Expiring Levies- Gentzkow let the board know if they wanted to put a measure on the ballot for expiring levies that needed to be discussed, and the wording needed to be decided. Discussion was had. In 2024 the farm to market levy is no longer going to be a levy the county can use. Currently the county has the authority to levy up to ten mills under the farm to market levy, and ten mills for road and bridge. In 2022 the county levied 4.96 mills under farm to market, and 7.90 mills under road and bridge. Gilbert moved, seconded by Schwab to put the following measure on the ballot for the 2022 Primary Election:   Ransom County currently levies a total of 7.9 mills for the County Road and Bridge Fund levy.  Current levying authority beyond 10 mills will be expiring and a majority vote is required to continue a maximum levy of 30 mills for Road & Bridge.  Should the Ransom County Commissioners have the authority to levy up to 30 mills in the County Road & Bridge Fund, per NDCC Chapter 57-15-06.7(5)?

Yes – means you are in favor of levy authority up to 30 mills for Road & Bridge

No – means you are NOT in favor of levy authority up to 30 mills for Road & Bridge

All aye. Motion carried.

Hansen moved, seconded by Schwab to allow Auditor Nicole Gentzkow with the help of State’s Attorney Fallon Kelly to educate about the expiring levies in the Enderlin Independent and the Ransom County Gazette. The expense for advertising will be paid out of the advertising budget. All aye. Motion carried.

NDSU Extension – Brian Zimprich let the board know that Deb Lee’s last day is Friday March 1, 2022. Zimprich has a few large events coming up that he could use Lee’s assistance with, and asked the board if she could come back to help out. Gilbert moved, seconded by Hansen to hire Deb Lee to help out with the special events as needed, or she is willing. All aye. Motion carried.

Buildings and Maintenance – Randy Gallagher appeared before the board to let them know the rewire/cabling is pretty much all complete. The transmission went out in the snow blower and the spout cable broke so he is having it repaired at RDO. Gallagher also let the board know he is having a few health issues and asked for permission to hire someone to help with snow removal. Gallagher had talked to Todd Wallner who could assist with the snow removal. The board all agreed to let Gallagher hire out the snow removal as needed. Gallagher also asked the board if they had any projects in mind for the 2022 renovations budget.

Board of Health – Robin Shelver submitted a letter of interest to serve on the Ransom County Health Board. Gilbert moved, seconded by Hansen to appoint Shelver to the Ransom County Health Board. All aye. Motion carried.

Storm Policy – The storm policy was once again discussed due to the storm on February 22, 2022. There was a no travel advisory in place for Ransom County, however the courthouse remained open with normal business hours. Mathern let the board know he feels he made the wrong call and he should have closed the courthouse that day. Mathern came in later that week to help Gallagher with snow removal, and let the board know it is a big task. In the future Mathern stated he will make sure to have a late opening or close the courthouse.

Game and Fish – Gentzkow presented the new online licensing permit for North Dakota Game and Fish. The contract will begin March 15, 2022 and will expire on April 30th 2023. The contract was reviewed by Fallon Kelly, he didn’t see any objections to it. Olerud moved, seconded by Hansen to approve he new contract with North Dakota Game and Fish. All aye. Motion carried.

Attitudes – Olerud mentioned he would like to see some change in the attitude at the courthouse, and would like to see the Village utilized since they are a service the county is paying for.

Upcoming – The HR people will be here for the next commission meeting on March 15th right away at 9:00 a.m. and the pancake feed will be April 29, 2022.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

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Nicole Gentzkow Joe Mathern

Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission