**RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Special Meeting – March 9, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Chairman Norm Hansen. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members present: Connie Gilbert, Neil Olerud, Greg Schwab, Joe Mathern, and Norm Hansen. Jill Mulder was also present.

The agenda was reviewed. Mathern moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Schwab. All aye. Motion carried.

Hansen let the board know he had been approached by Lyle Bopp to let him know that Jill Mulder the shared HR coordinator between Ransom and Sargent County has announced to the Sargent County Board she would like Sargent County to consider terminating the Joint Human Resource Director contract with Ransom County. Mathern would like insight on why this happened.

Jill Mulder, HR coordinator stated she feels like she is spreading herself too thin working for both counties. She feels each county needs their own HR person.

Discussion was had. The Sargent County Teller had the February 2, 2021 approved commission minutes with Mulders statements that she would like to work only in Sargent County, and feels there is too much to be done in both counties for a shared position. Mathern moved to terminate the contract with Sargent County as of today March 9, 2021, seconded by Olerud. Hansen called for a role call vote: Hansen – no, Gilbert – no, Olerud – yes, Mathern – yes, Schwab – yes. Motion carried.

Darren Benneweis, Sheriff appeared before the board along with Deputy Ward Kuehn, Jorge Gonzalez, Andrew Beerman, and office deputy Janelle Mairs and Lynn Gonzalez. Benneweis was frustrated with being under the microscope al the time. Benneweis pointed out multiple different situations that have occurred due to lack of communication or direction. There are many different gray areas, and when employees ask about things the response from the board is usually “well that is just how it has always been”, however nothing is written in the employee hand book. The county handbook has not been updated since 1998, and is very vague. Each officer took turns speaking in support of Benneweis. The board and Benneweis agreed that open communication needed to place, and policies needed to be clearer so everyone knew what was expected.

With nothing further to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Hansen at 3:50 p.m.

