RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting – November 2, 2021

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

The agenda was reviewed. Gentzkow let the board know that Scott Smyth would be unable to make it, however Jeff Hopkins had been added to the agenda at 10:00 a.m. to replace Smyth. Olerud moved, seconded by Schwab to approve the agenda with changes. All aye. Motion carried.

Minutes – Minutes from the previous regular scheduled commission meeting on October 19, 2021 were reviewed. Schwab moved, seconded by Olerud to approve the minutes. All aye. Motion carried.

Manual Warrants – Manual warrants in the amount of $10,422.75 were then reviewed. Olerud moved, seconded by Schwab to approve the manual warrants. All aye. Motion carried.

Christmas Party – The employee Christmas party is scheduled for December 4, 2021 at 6p.m. at the Silver Prairie Saloon in McLeod, ND. Schwab moved to approve the Christmas party, seconded by Olerud.

Security Handbook – Bea Roach, clerk of court appeared before them board to let the know she has updated the security handbook. Roach passed out copies and collected signatures from members present from the security committee at the commission meeting. Roach will work on getting the other signatures, and handbooks passed out.

Security – Sheriff Darren Benneweis appeared before the board to ask them if they would be willing to hear a presentation from Patriot Security about getting some kind of security system for the Courthouse. Benneweis is also looking to see if he can find any grants to help get a security system with Patriot Security.

State’s Attorney Fallon Kelly arrived.

Delinquent taxes – Benneweis asked the board whose budget should be used when a property due to delinquent taxes needs to be secured. Discussion was had on the procedure of when and if a property needs to be secured in the future what steps to follow. Upon notification from the auditor of a delinquent property the county inherited due to delinquent taxes, the sheriff’s office will check to see if the property is vacant or an eviction notice is needed. If the property is vacant, Tony Kelsen will be hired to secure the property. If someone is residing at the property, the sheriff or auditor will contact the State’s Attorney to get the eviction process started. Schwab moved to have Kelson secure the properties in the future if needed, and to take the cost out of auditor’s miscellaneous budget, Olerud seconded the motion. All aye. Motion carried.

Todd Larson Culverts – Hopkins appeared before the board to let them know Daylon Baasch is almost done installing the culverts on the county road near Todd Larson’s. Hopkins had to close the road, due to the rain, while Baasch was installing the culverts for a few days. Once it dries up, the road crew will go out there and gravel the area.

Hopkins let the board know they have the snow equipment on, and are ready for winter when it decides to show up.

Eagle View – Sheriff Darren Benneweis talk to tax assessor and would like to look into getting Eagle View. Benneweis thinks it would work well for the 911 coordinator along, and when they have search warrants. Benneweis stated it may also be useful tool for the fire department when they do controlled burns. Mathern stated if we can get the cities on board, the program could be up and ready to use by spring of 2022. Schwab moved, seconded by Olerud to have Eagle view come to Ransom County to give another presentation. All aye. Motion carried.

Brenna Welton and Kristie Reinke arrived.

Conflict of Interest – Fallon Kelly states attorney discussed conflict of interest when it came to employees, and commissioners. Discussion was had. A new policy regarding conflict of interest sent from Chuck Horter with the NDACo was presented. Fallon briefly reviewed; he didn’t see any problems if the county wanted to adapt the new policy prepared by Chuck Horter regarding conflict of interest.

Emergency Manager Salary – The board discussed if Kirsten Gilbert still wanted to do the highway secretary position. If she no longer wanted to be highway secretary, it was discussed if she would then be a twenty, or thirty-two hour per week employee. Hopkins stated he hadn’t checked with Ron Sveum to see if he would be willing to take the highway secretary position. Kirsten Gilberts salary was discussed. Tanya Wieler reviewed Kirsten Gilberts proposed 2022 salary per Kirsten Gilberts request. After a review of Kirsten Gilberts duties, it was found she should be paid fifty percent of the emergency manager wage and fifty percent road book keeper salary. Mathern would like to leave her duties as is for the time being. Olerud motioned to leave Kirsten Gilbert as the emergency manager and highway secretary at the new salary presented to the board on October 20, 2021 from Tanya Wieler with an explanation of the change. Schwab seconded the motion to pay Kirsten Gilbert $4,332.50/month. All aye. It was noted the board went with the second salary which is a decrease to her 2021 salary due to the fact that had it of come in higher Kirsten Gilbert would have demanded to be paid the additional money.

Salary Survey – Kristie Reinke, tax director let the board know the employees wanted the salary survey. Reinke would like to see a plan or policy put in place to follow from year to year. Reinke would like to see a policy be in place allowing only a certain amount of time for an employee to dispute their pay.

Auditor’s Office - Nicole Gentzkow has hired Jenna Olerud for the deputy auditor position and would like to have Joe Mathern as her portfolio holder going forward due to Neil Olerud’s connection. Olerud moved, seconded by Schwab to appoint Chairman Joe Mathern as portfolio holder for the auditor’s office. All aye. Motion carried.

Remodel - Randy Gallagher appeared before the board, Mathern asked him if it would be possible to add on to the court house to allow for better security. Gallagher let the board know they would have to come up with a plan and then present it to the historical society.

ILG – Randy Gallagher currently has 23 employees participating in the ILG classes. Gallagher has just finished doing the office and shop inspection sheets, and is working on implementing a step wisely campaign that has been successful in reducing injuries and claims in other counties.

Multi Hazard Mitigation – Kirsten Gilbert had sent a letter regarding the multi hazard mitigation to Gentzkow and Mathern that needed to be signed stated the plan had been completed. Olerud moved for Mathern to sign the document, seconded by Schwab. All aye. Motion carried.

Police Vehicle- Darren Benneweis appeared before the board again to ask permission for him to have the authority to buy a police vehicle if he finds one, without having to come to the board. Due to the vehicle shortage, they are very hard to find. Benneweis doesn’t want to lose his chance of getting one due to delay on waiting for board approval. Olerud moved, seconded by Schwab to authorize Benneweis to purchase a vehicle under fifty thousand dollars if he finds one in 2022.

 Being nothing further to come before the board, Chairman Mathern adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission