RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting – August 3, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Norm Hansen. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members present: Connie Gilbert, Greg Schwab, Joe Mathern, and Norm Hansen. Neil Olerud joined the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

The agenda was reviewed. The board added budget to the agenda to be discussed during the down time. Gilbert moved, seconded by Mathern. All aye.

Minutes from regular scheduled commission meetings on July 6, and July 20, 2021 were reviewed. Along with budget minutes from June 15, and July 20, 2021. Gilbert moved to approve the minutes with corrections, seconded by Mathern. All aye. Motion carried.

Manual warrants were then reviewed. Gilbert moved, seconded by Mathern, to approve the manual warrants in the amount of $9,515.27. All aye. Motion carried.

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| 7/23/21 | ACH 1129 | Cass County Electric Coop | $127.25 |
| 7/23/21 | ACH 1130 | Cass County Electric Coop | $409.60 |
| 7/20/21 | ACH 1131 | Great America Financial  | $297.39 |
| 7/20/21 | ACH 1166 | Great America Financial | $445.47 |
| 7/11/21 | ACH 1132 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $146.06 |
| 7/11/21 | ACH 1133 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $200.00 |
| 7/11/21 | ACH 1134 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $26.19 |
| 7/11/21 | ACH 1135 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $59.24 |
| 7/11/21 | ACH 1136 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $569.88 |
| 7/14/21 | ACH 1137 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $34.32 |
| 7/14/21 | ACH 1138 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $12.99 |
| 7/14/21 | ACH 1139 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $272.96 |
| 7/14/21 | ACH 1140 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $104.52 |
| 7/14/21 | ACH 1141 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $55.00 |
| 7/14/21 | ACH 1142 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $55.00 |
| 7/14/21 | ACH 1143 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $201.85 |
| 7/14/21 | ACH 1144 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $11.99 |
| 7/14/21 | ACH 1145 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $19.39 |
| 7/14/21 | ACH 1146 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $759.98 |
| 7/14/21 | ACH 1147 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $379.99 |
| 7/14/21 | ACH 1148 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $22.45 |
| 7/11/21 | ACH 1149 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $167.81 |
| 7/11/21 | ACH 1150 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $61.99 |
| 7/14/21 | ACH 1151 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $60.00 |
| 7/14/21 | ACH 1152 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $73.87 |
| 7/14/21 | ACH 1153 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $38.50 |
| 7/14/21 | ACH 1154 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $22.50 |
| 7/14/21 | ACH 1155 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $15.99 |
| 7/14/21 | ACH 1156 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $224.99 |
| 7/14/21 | ACH 1157 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $115.10 |
| 7/14/21 | ACH 1158 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $10.95 |
| 7/14/21 | ACH 1159 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $107.49 |
| 7/11/21 | ACH 1160 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $25.20 |
| 7/14/21 | ACH 1161 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $29.03 |
| 7/14/21 | ACH 1162 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $30.06 |
| 7/14/21 | ACH 1165 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $16.25 |
| 7/11/21 | ACH 1124 | Lisbon, City of | $157.75 |
| 7/11/21 | ACH 1125 | Lisbon, City of | $191.58 |
| 7/14/21 | ACH 1126 | Lisbon, City of | $29.50 |
| 7/14/21 | ACH 1127 | Lisbon, City of | $10.00 |
| 7/11/21 | ACH 1118 | Marco | $152.14 |
| 7/14/21 | ACH 1120 | Marco | $685.10 |
| 7/10/21 | ACH 1123 | Marco | $187.51 |
| 7/20/21 | ACH 1163 | Marco | $140.60 |
| 7/20/21 | ACH 1164 | Marco | $341.00 |
| 7/20/21 | ACH 1128 | ND GAME AND FISH  | $123.00 |
| 7/20/21 | ACH 1119 | Southeast Water Users  | $57.42 |
| 7/20/21 | ACH 1121 | Wex Bank | $2028.42 |
| 7/20/21 | ACH 1122 | Wex Bank | $200.00 |
| TOTAL |  |  | $9,515.27 |

Suzanne Anderson – Treasurer, presented a copy of the daily cash balances to the board. The money market account has a balance of $3,857,469.23, there are $2,571,184.16 in CD’s, and the checking account has $628,899.22, as of the end of June 30, 2021.

North Dakota DOT submitted a bill for $11,472.93 which is 19.07% of Ransom County’s share of bridge inspection/load rating services provided by Stantec Consulting Services. Per Scott Smyth with KLJ this was the first year the DOT has out sourced bridge inspections.

Gentzkow presented a notice of opportunity for public hearing from the State of North Dakota Public Service Commission regarding Great River Energy/Nexus Line, LLC. The board and Fallon Kelly States Attorney discussed. If the board would like to voice any concern, they need to file a written request identifying their interest in the proceeding and the reasons for requesting a hearing. Comments and requests for the hearing must be received by August 23, 2021. If deemed appropriate, the North Dakota Public Service Commission can determine the matter without a hearing.

A permit was submitted along with the appropriate fee for the Cowboy Up Charity being held in McLeod, ND. Gilbert moved, seconded by Schwab, to approve the permit. All aye.

Hansen let the board know he has gotten a call regarding a resident building a dam on private property. Hansen stated the dam could potentially affect a county road. Hansen asked Fallon Kelly if the county can do anything about this, if it is on private property. Kelly stated the Sheriff could go out and investigate under the open fields exception, to see what is really going on. If the dam is causing issues the waterboard needs to be involved. The sheriff will be notified. Schwab will notify the waterboard of any findings.

Various line items of the budget were discussed.

Discussion was had on combining the Auditor and Treasurer’s offices. Olerud and Schwab are in favor of combining the two. Currently there are 19 counties who have these two offices combined. Gentzkow reached out to the auditor/treasurer’s association and asked for positive and negative feedback from counties that are combined. Every county who has the positions combined, stated they have not found any negatives. Some counties stated combining the position helped strengthen the internal accounting control. Mathern stated after learning more about it, and doing some research, he would be open to seeing the offices combined. Hansen stated he is still against it as the auditor is not always in. Gilbert would like to see the offices stay separate. Fallon Kelly advised if the board were to decide to combine positions, they would need to hold a public hearing.

Fox Farm Bridge- Ryan Lyons, Ron Carlson, and Duffy Hansen, appeared before the board to conference call with ND DOT to discuss the Fox Farm Bridge. The board called ND DOT and spoke with Bryan Fuchs, Paul Benning, and Steve Salwei, regarding funding. Funding could be available for a bridge or a road, but it would only be provided to the county. Bridges are considered county responsibility per century code. Fuchs let the board know that a new Senate bill is being discussed which could have increased funding for North Dakota bridges. However, no one knows when the money would be disbursed if it passes. The state would not be willing to help fund a twenty-four-foot-wide bridge. If state funding was provided it would be an 80/20 cost share.

Alternative routes were discussed. Ryan Lyons stated they haven’t made any progress with the land owners going south. The township officers and county commissioners aren’t in favor of taking land by eminent domain, if it can be avoided. Greg Schwab and Joe Mathern, along with Ryan Lyons are going to set up a meeting with the land owners going south. Lyons will also talk with the Veterans Home and the land owners who have property along the route going north as a backup plan.

Scott Smyth with KLJ appeared before the board and let them know the Severance Land permit has been signed. Smyth emailed the cost share agreement and permit to the state so he could get it signed off on so Gowan Construction could proceed with the Virgil Schultz project. Smyth was informed that the Governor has appointed a new director of the State Engineering Department. The new director has put a stop to all previously approved cost share agreements, until they can be reviewed. Smyth has let the department know it is urgent the cost share agreement be approved. The contractor bid the Maple River and Virgil Schultz slope reconstruction projects together as one price. Smyth will talk to Gowan Construction to see if they will honor the price bid if the Virgil Schultz project doesn’t get approved. The county’s share could go up $45,000 if the state doesn’t approve the cost share agreement. Olerud asked Smyth to communicate with Gowan Construction and see what options the county has.

Veteran Service Officer – Joe Mathern is going to check with Lyle Bopp in Sargent County to see if they are willing to cost share Joe Reinke fifty percent in 2022.

Tax Department - Mathern would like the board to look into getting Eagle View. Mathern stated it allows the tax department to assess properties without leaving their desk. The county struggles to find employees, we need to start finding new ways to get the work done. Technology needs to be a way of the future.

Being nothing further to come before the board, Chairman Hansen adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission