RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting – November 16, 2021

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

Agenda – The agenda was reviewed. Norm Hansen asked to be added to miscellaneous along with Connie Gilbert, Schwab would also like to discuss hiring an HR person. Schwab moved, seconded by Olerud to approve the agenda. All aye. Motion carried.

Minutes – From the previous regular scheduled commission meeting on November 2, 2021 were considered. Olerud moved, seconded by Schwab to approve the minutes from November 2, 2021 commission meeting. All aye. Motion carried.

Bills- The bills were then reviewed. Olerud moved to approve the bills, seconded by Hansen. All aye. Motion carried.

Emergency Manager – Kirsten Gilbert appeared before the board and read a letter from Debbie at North Dakota Emergency Services explaining how the EMPG grant works. Hansen questioned why the board was willing to lose $15,000 from the EMPG grant that they had been approved for, and had collected previous years. Schwab mentioned nothing has changed regarding Kirsten Gilbert’s job. It was either done incorrectly before, or the county wasn’t reporting correctly. Kirsten Gilbert is doing the same job as before, except it will now be reported accurately to the state as a shared position.

KLJ – Scott Smyth appeared before the board to let them know the Corp of Engineers was out to look at the Anslem bridge in October and the project should have funding in 2022 or 2023, no exact date has been given yet. The Anslem bridge will be a 65/35 cost share agreement, this will need to be budgeted for in upcoming year. Smyth will try to attend a few of the Corp meetings to get more details. Smyth also let the board know that the new HB 1505 passed which will allow $75,347,571 to be distributed to counties for roads and bridges. This will make it more likely for funding to be available for Fox Farm bridge, and possibly the Painter bridge.

State’s attorney Fallon Kelly arrived

Drug testing – Sheriff Darren Benneweis appeared before the board to let them know he would like to see them implement drug testing for all county employees on a quarterly basis. The county currently has a drug policy in the handbook. Randy Gallagher found a program through the association of counties that we could go through to have employees randomly tested. The test would cost $63 per test.

Jailing – Benneweis presented a new jailing contract for the Barnes County jail. Per the contract the charges would be $85 per night.

Patrol Vehicle – Benneweis purchased a new patrol vehicle from Nelson Auto Center in Fergus falls, MN through the state bid program. Benneweis will be trading the 2017 Blue ford explorer with 96,000 miles for $8,300 and purchasing a 2022 Ford F150 for $35,909.96 for a total of $27,609.96 after trade.

Gentzkow presented an exempt and non-exempt list of employees prepared by Tanya Wieler at Dakota Dynamics and four different employee category fact sheets.

Handbook- Multiple revisions to the handbook were discussed from Chuck Horter with the NDACo. The board will review and discuss at a later date.

Salary Survey – Questions on guidelines for how to handle the salary survey going forward were discussed. COLA was also discussed, should there be a cap for top paid employees?

South East Regional Meeting – Will be Thursday December 2, 2021. The tour will start at 4pm in Sheldon at PGA, the business meeting will be in Enderlin at 5pm at the VFW, and dinner will follow.

Time Clock – Nickela Runck deputy auditor, let the board know she is waiting for CPT to move ahead with the time clock. She is hoping have some departments on it by next pay period.

HR – The board discussed hiring an outside firm to assist with HR needs as they arise.

Storm days – The storm policy was discussed and reviewed. It was left as is.

Being nothing further to come before the board, Chairman Mathern adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

ATTEST:

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Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission