**RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Meeting – September 21, 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.

The agenda was reviewed. Mitch Baumgartner Deputy Coroner and five county meeting recap were added to the agenda. Olerud moved, seconded by Schwab to approve the agenda with the additions. All aye. Motion carried.

Minutes from the previous regular scheduled commission meeting on September 7, 2021 were reviewed. Schwab moved, seconded by Olerud to approve the minutes with corrections. All aye. Motion carried.

Suzanne Anderson appeared before the board to introduce Kathie Erickson as the new Ransom County Treasurer as of September 20, 2021. Anderson stated Erickson is catching on very quickly. Erickson will be attending Motor Vehicle training in Bismarck the last week in September and the NDACo convention beginning of October. Anderson will stick around through October, and then will consult as needed after that.

Bills were then reviewed. Gilbert moved, seconded by Olerud to approve bills. All aye. Motion carried.

Jeff Hopkins – highway superintendent, appeared before the board to let them know he had gone and talked to some local banks in town about leasing a motor grader. Stock Growers Bank offers a lease, with a balloon payment at the end where you will then own the grader. Bank North goes through Kinetic leasing. Jamie with RDO also has a company through RDO the county could use if they want to purchase the grader with payment options. Discussion was had. Schwab moved, seconded by Olerud to buy a motor grader out right using the CD that is coming up for renewal in January 5, 2022 worth $305,345.79. All aye. Motion carried. Gilbert mentioned she doesn’t mind doing it this one time, but doesn’t want to make a habit of using the cd’s.

Shelly Schwab – recorder, gave the board an update on the new county website. She has been working with Mike Witt to get everything transferred over, however it is a working progress so still a month or two out.

**10:00 a.m. Budget Hearing**

Chris McFarland appeared before the board to discuss his property valuation increase. Gentzkow explained this meeting was to discuss the budget, not valuations. Mathern asked McFarland for his parcel numbers to have Reinke review when she returned from State Equalization and someone would be in touch with McFarland.

Nicole Gentzkow let the board know that Kevin Bishop and Katie Birklid both agreed to serve another three-year term to be on the Ransom County School District Reorganization Committee. Gilbert moved, seconded by Olerud, to appoint Bishop and Birklid to another three-year term. All aye. Motion carried.

Brian Midthun from Enderlin has agreed serve the rest of Glen Bartholomay’s term which ends in 2022 on the Ransom County School District Reorganization Committee. Gilbert moved, seconded by Olerud, to appoint Midthun to the Ransom County School District Reorganization Committee. All aye. Motion carried.

Sticklestad Learning Center submitted an offsite permit along with the appropriate fee that had been signed off on by the township for approval. Mathern moved, seconded by Olerud to approve the offsite permit. All aye. Motion carried.

Neil Olerud let the board know that Mitch Baumgartner is no longer in the area, he has taken another job. Olerud has spoke to Dani Dahlstrom and she is happy to help out and cover while Ransom County is without a funeral home.

Ron Carlson joined the meeting. The board asked him if he had any updates. He let them know his business insurance has been extended another year, due to them not having agents in the field to avoid close contact.

Jon Guzman – with Farmers Union appeared before the board to discuss different options of disability insurance they cover. Currently there is no specific plan to help cover for lost pay from Covid 19 unless the employee is hospitalized and in ICU. Guzman stated typically most plans only cover the employee since they are the only one collecting an income from the employer not the family members. Guzman was going to run some numbers on different insurance plans and come to the next commission meeting to present to the board.

Scott Smyth with KLJ appeared before the board to discuss the County Federal Aid Program Sheet for 2022. He asked the board if there were any other projects, they would like to see added to the program sheet. Smyth advised waiting to combine projects together could help save a little money.

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| **County Federal Aid Program 2022** | **Federal Aid Funds Available:** **2022 (Est. Allotment) $196,710****2022 (Est. Total) $30,671** |
| *Project No./ Type of Work* | *Project Location* | *Length* | *Estimated Total Cost* |
| SC-3705/Mill & Overlay | CR 58: Hwy 27 South 3 Miles (Englevale Road) | 3 Miles | $750,000 |
| SC-3711/Mill & Overlay | CR 57: Hwy 27 south 3 miles (Elliot Road) | 3 Miles | $750,000 |
| SC-3727/Mill & Overlay | CR 54: Hwy 27 north 5 miles (Sheldon Road) | 5 Miles | $1,250,000 |
| **Federal Bridge Program** |
| *Project No./Bridge No.* | *Project Location* | *Estimated Total Cost* | *Federal Aid* |
| Br No 37-117-15.0 | 2mi S of Lisbon (Has not been approved for funding) | $1,100,000 |  |

Joe Mathern asked the board if there was a place the county could go to see all the federal and state grants available. Mathern is worried there could be money out there the county is unaware of, that we are leaving on the table. Mathern asked fi the board thought we should hire someone or appoint someone who all they did was search for grants and write them.

Darren Benneweis – Sheriff, appeared before the board to ask if he could hire a part time non benefitted employee to help as needed. This employee could help reduce overtime. Benneweis stated Covid numbers are on the rise, if one of his employees are out due to it, this employee would really help. Olerud moved, seconded by Schwab to allow Benneweis to hire officer on a part time basis with no benefits at $25.00 per hour. All aye. Motion carried.

There being nothing further to come before the board, Chairman Mathern adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission