RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting – October 16, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Vice Chairman Norm Hansen. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members present: Connie Gilbert, George Bunn, Steve Dick, and Norm Hansen. Absent: Neil Olerud.

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

Minutes from the previous commission meeting on October 6, 2020 were considered. Gilbert moved, seconded by Bunn to approve with corrections. All aye. Motion carried.

Bills and payroll were then reviewed. Bunn moved, seconded by Dick to approve bills and payroll.

Olerud arrived at 10:00 a.m.

Joey Reinke – VSO, appeared before the board to introduce himself. Reinke is a veteran himself, and is looking forward to working with local veterans in the area. He will be in Sargent County on Monday’s, Ransom County on Tuesday’s, Veterans Home on Wednesday’s, and the Enderlin VFW on Thursday’s. He is training with the VSO from Richland County. Reinke asked the board if he could get a county paid cell phone, so he can be more available for the Veterans when not in the office. Dick moved, seconded by Bunn to approve a county paid cell phone. Reinke also asked about getting adobe, to help process paperwork faster by allowing electronic signatures. Gilbert moved, seconded by Hansen to approve the purchase of Adobe. All aye. Motion carried.

Jill Mulder - Humor Resource Director, appeared before the board to introduce herself. She will be working in Sargent County on Monday, Tuesday, and half a day Wednesday’s, then in Ransom County half a day Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. She will rotate and be in Ransom County every third Tuesday for commission meetings.

Kirsten Gilbert – Emergency manager, appeared before the board to have the commissioners complete a multi hazard mitigation survey.

Brenna Welton – Public Health Administrator, appeared before the board to ask permission to hire a Tobacco Coordinator. The current tobacco coordinator we had, has accepted another position. The position will stay the same and still be shared with Sargent County. Welton would like to hire Cayla Wiltse. Wiltse has been helping out as a temp with public health and is working very well. Welton stated she was an RN so she will be able to help in other areas if needed. Wiltse will be stationed out of Ransom County. All expenses would be covered by the grant. Welton suggested Wiltse be hired at $25 per hour. Bunn moved, seconded by Dick to approve Welton to hire Cayla Wiltse as the tobacco coordinator. All aye. Motion carried.

Welton also mentioned they are working with Deb Lee from the NDSU Extension office to help keep elderly in their own home. The program is currently called Aging in the Community, but they are looking for a new name. NDSU Extension would like to rent an office from the Ransom County Public Health building to house the Aging in the Community employee. The employee will only be working sixteen hours per week. They are willing to pay $80 per month for rent, which would include an office and phone use. Hansen mentioned he doesn’t want the employee to have a key to the public health building, as this isn’t a county employee. The board would like to see them work hours that public health is open, due to confidentiality. Olerud moved, seconded by Hansen to allow Aging in the Community to rent an office in the Ransom County Public Health building pending Fallon Kelly and Lance Gulleson’s approval. All aye. Motion carried.

Derek Johnson joined the commission meeting via telephone to go over the quarterly financials for the Ransom County Housing Authority. They are averaging 78-82 vouchers per month, the goal is to increase that to 88 vouchers monthly. All finances were in order, and looked good. Olerud moved, seconded by Gilbert to approve the Ransom County Housing Authority financial reports. All aye. Motion carried. Johnson introduced the new brand housing authority logo. They wanted to have a consistent look across all housing authorities.

Lynn Lamb appeared before the board to let them know he is working on putting together a mud bog event. It will be similar to what Lidgerwood host every wear. It will have four wheel drive trucks and will offer camping. They are working with other area mud bog facilities to get information and legal paperwork. The property they are looking at buying for the mud bog is in Island Park Township. The property will be put in a LLC, and have a million dollar insurance policy on it. The location of the mud bog would be a couple hundred yards off a county road. Howie’s Mud fest and Vinnies Mud bog typically attract 3000-4500 people on average. Lamb says he isn’t sure what the event would bring in the first year, but once up and going they think this could bring in a lot of people and revenue for the community. The board advised Lamb to meet with Island Park Township officers to see if they had any concerns. Lamb will meet with the commission again, once more details get finalized.

Dennis Nelson from Litchville appeared before the board on behalf of several land owners with property on Bear Creek. They are concerned culverts aren’t installed correctly and water is backing up in Lamoure and Barnes County due to this. The culverts they are concerned about are on county road 136. Nelson stated the creek needs a major clean out, which would be at land owner expense. Nelson feels that if land owners pay for the clean out, and the culvert is inspected to make sure it is installed correctly, water will start flowing like it should again. Hopkins said that culvert was installed in 2009. Hopkins has talked to Dalen Bosch and he estimated it would cost roughly $10,000 to lower it. The culvert is a 7ft diameter by 10ft long. The county will work with the water board to see if the culvert is in the correct location.

The meeting with the ND DOT will be on Thursday November 5, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. via zoom. The board would like to have the commission meeting that day at 1:00 p.m. to accommodate for the election and the DOT meeting.

Ron Carlson appeared before the board to discuss some information he had gotten from Swingen Construction Company out of Grand Forks, ND. Jason Odegard with Swingen stated the imbuements on the land are bad. The most cost effective way to fix this bridge, would be to use the current bridge, and extend it fifteen to twenty feet east and west. Pylons would need to be twenty five to thirty feet with a cap and raised two and a half feed. Carlson said Odegard thought FEMA funds should help in repairing the current bridge structure. Carlson stated with the current bridge they have no fire protection, or school bus access. He is struggling to keep his insurance for his business, due to no fire protection. The board advised Carlson to talk to Kirsten Gilbert, the FEMA coordinator. Carlson will come back to the commission meeting on November 5th with a quote to repair the Fox Farm Bridge using the current bridge that is there.

The State Fair Board sent a letter asking if the county had a delegate this year to go to the annual meeting. The commissioners do not have a delegate that wishes to attend the meeting this year.

Darren Benneweis appeared before the board and let them know the air boat is worth around $35,000. He would like to sell it and get a boat. Gilbert motioned to sell the airboat, seconded by Hansen. All aye. Motion carried. Benneweis will reach out to Stutsman County and see what they are willing to pay for the air boat.

There being nothing further to come before the board, Chairman Olerud adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Nicole Gentzkow Neil Olerud, Chairman

Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission