RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting – December 15, 2020

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

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

Minutes from the previous commission meeting on December 1, 2020 were considered. Gilbert moved, seconded by Hansen. All aye. Motion carried.

Bills and payroll were then reviewed. Hansen moved, seconded by Mathern to approve bills and payroll. All aye. Motion carried.

Scott Smyth with KLJ appeared before the board to get the design copy signed. Smyth also appeared before the board to introduce himself to the new commissioners.

Randy Gallagher appeared before the board to discuss getting a sign for Joey Reinke outside the social service building where his office now is. Gallagher would also like to get a plaque outside of the new human resource office in the court house. Along with redoing the directory to list the correct office in the courthouse after moving the VSO office and human resources. Gallagher also mentioned that the new human resource office has lots of nail holes, and needs a paint job. The board approved Gallagher to get the new signs and do some painting in the human resource office. Gallagher will take it out of the 2021 renovation budget.

Courtroom Facility grant – Gallagher has submitted a request to the courtroom facility grant for more outlets for all the new technology in the courtroom. Ryan Kenyon estimated it will cost around $1200 to add some more outlets.

Gallagher also gave an update on what the county received this year from the workforce safety program. The highway department received some safety vest and glasses, the auditor’s office got an ergonomic keyboard, the sheriff’s department got three office chairs.

Olerud then handed the meeting over to the auditor. Auditor Nicole Gentzkow called for nominations for Chairman. Gilbert nominated Hansen, Mathern moved that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Hansen as Chairman. All aye. Motion carried. Hansen then called for nominations for Vice Chairman, Olerud moved to nominate Mathern as Vice Chairman. Gilbert moved that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Mathern as Vice Chairman. Olerud, seconded the motion. All aye. Motion carried.

Darren Benneweis – sheriff appeared before the board to discuss the quote he got from Nelson Dodge for a new 2021 Dodge Durango. It will have carpet, unlike the other sheriff’s vehicles the county owns, and a hemi motor. The vehicle up for trade is the silver Ford Explorer, Nelson valued it at $5600. Benneweis was happy with the trade price. After the trade the new Dodge Durango will be $31, 542. Olerud moved, seconded by Gilbert to approve the quote on the Dodge Durango. All aye. Motion carried.

Benneweis mentioned the radio in the Ford Explorer being traded in is shot. The last time the county replaced a radio, it was around $18,000 in 2018. Gentzkow suggested the county pay for the radio out of technology, since that is an account that can handle it.

Benneweis informed the board that Officer David Boelke has turned in his letter of resignation. He is still willing to help out when needed to cover weekend shifts. Benneweis has posted the job opening, and plans to start interviews next week. He is hoping to offer the new officer $45,000. As of now he has four applicants who have applied.

Health insurance and stiffens were discussed again. Neil Olerud and Joe Mathern are willing to meet with Jill Mulder to find out some more information on the pros and cons of giving a stiffen to employees who do not take the county insurance plan. It will be readdressed at the first commission meeting in February 2021.

Silver Prairie Saloon turned in an application for a beer and liquor license, along with the appropriate fee. Gilbert moved, seconded by Mathern to approve the beer and liquor license. Olerud abstained. All aye. Motion carried.

Sand Dune turned in an application for a beer license, along with the appropriate fee. Olerud abstained. Gilbert moved, seconded by Mathern to approve the beer license. All aye. Motion carried.

Olerud mentioned he would like to see Ransom County do something similar to other counties and waive the beer and liquor license fee this year due to the struggle of Covid and loss of revenues. Lots of discussion was had on this. Greg Schwab was in favor of reducing the fee fifty percent. Hansen was willing to consider a loan, and not making the entities pay it all at once. Gilbert and Mathern didn’t want to be unfair to other businesses. Gilbert motioned to leave the liquor and beer license as is, seconded by Mathern. All aye. Motion carried.

NDSU Extension has asked Kirsten Gilbert if they are allowed to let people in to do pestiside testing. The board discussed. If social distancing and mask are required the board doesn’t have an issue with it.

Human Resource job duties were discussed.

A local gaming permit for Lisbon Gymnastic program along with the appropriate fee was presented to the board. Olerud moved, seconded by Mathern, to approve the gaming permit. All aye. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:54 p.m.

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Nicole Gentzkow Norm Hansen, Chairman

Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission