RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting – April 7, 2020

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

The agenda was reviewed. Dick moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Bunn. Olerud called for a roll call vote: Gilbert – yes, Bunn – yes, Dick – yes, Hansen – yes, Olerud – yes. Motion carried.

Minutes from the regular scheduled commission meeting on March 17, 2020 were considered. Gilbert moved, seconded by Dick to approve the minutes. Olerud called for a roll call vote: Gilbert – yes, Bunn – yes, Dick – yes, Hansen – yes, Olerud - yes. Motion carried.

Manual warrants in the amount of $9,176.24 were reviewed. Gilbert moved, seconded by Hansen, to approve the manual warrants. Olerud called for a roll call vote: Gilbert – yes, Bunn – yes, Dick – yes, Hansen – yes, Olerud – yes. Motion carried.

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| 3/23/20 | ACH 223 | Cass County Electric Coop | $155.03 |
| 3/23/20 | ACH 212 | Cass County Electric Coop | $1727.23 |
| 3/20/20 | ACH 222 | Great America Financial  | $273.90 |
| 3/20/20 | ACH 215 | Great America Financial | $384.20 |
| 3/20/20 | ACH 182 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $71.41 |
| 3/10/20 | ACH 183 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $125.71 |
| 3/10/20 | ACH 184 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $310.35 |
| 3/10/20 | ACH 185 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $300.00 |
| 3/10/20 | ACH 186 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $107.91 |
| 3/10/20 | ACH 187 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $188.17 |
| 3/14/20 | ACH 188 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $68.99 |
| 3/14/20 | ACH 189 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $79.99 |
| 3/14/20 | ACH 190 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $100.00 |
| 3/14/20 | ACH 191 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $1390.00 |
| 3/14/20 | ACH 192 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $37.97 |
| 3/14/20 | ACH 193 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $249.78 |
| 3/14/20 | ACH 194 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $23.98 |
| 3/14/20 | ACH 195 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $52.74 |
| 3/14/20 | ACH 196 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $569.88 |
| 3/14/20 | ACH 197 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $51.78 |
| 3/14/20 | ACH 198 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $27.14 |
| 3/14/20 | ACH 199 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $35.99 |
| 3/10/20 | ACH 201 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $53.75 |
| 3/10/20 | ACH 202 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $11.99 |
| 3/14/20 | ACH 203 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $4.10 |
| 3/14/20 | ACH 204 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $180.00 |
| 3/10/20 | ACH 217 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $285.50 |
| 3/10/20 | ACH 218 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $595.00 |
| 3/14/20 | ACH 219 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $186.98 |
| 3/10/20 | ACH 220 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $40.01 |
| 3/14/20 | ACH 221 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $40.01 |
| 3/10/20 | ACH 208 | City of Lisbon | $162.65 |
| 3/10/20 | ACH 209 | City of Lisbon | $26.60 |
| 3/10/20 | ACH 210 | City of Lisbon | $29.50 |
| 3/10/20 | ACH 211 | City of Lisbon | $10.00 |
| 3/24/20 | ACH 207 | Marco | $110.01 |
| 3/22/20 | ACH 214 | Marco | $137.67 |
| 3/22/20 | ACH 216 | Marco | $137.67 |
| 3/11/20 | ACH 213 | Southeast Water Users | $80.13 |
| 3/22/20 | ACH 182 | ND Game and Fish | $24.00 |
| 3/16/20 | ACH 213 | Southeast Water Users | $56.04 |
| 3/11/20 | ACH 206 | Tesoro Fleet Services  | $613.50 |
| 3/28/20 | ACH 224 | Total Administrative Services Corp | $115.02 |
| Total  |  |  | $9176.24 |

Jeff Hopkins joined the commission meeting. Dick mentioned he would like KLJ to inspect the gravel pits. Dick moved, seconded by Bunn, to have pits inspected for a quality inspection. Discussion was had. There is some concern about the legality and cost. The motion was tabled until we get more info. Jeff Hopkins will call the pit and ask what class of gravel they bid.

The Ballinger corner was discussed. Hopkins stated water is completely across the road. Hopkins closed the county road, and Galen Dick with Hanson Township also closed the township road. Steve Dick talked to the Ransom County Water Board and they said there are three options, to raise the road, close the road, or pump the water. Hopkins has done some research on pumping the water, it will take a large amount of pipe. If the county decided to go that route, it will cost $1500 per week for the pump, $1.50 for pipe times 3000 per week, and $900 for set up and $900 for tear down. Hopkins will look into what if any permits are required. Hopkins is willing to work with Hanson Township to keep the pump going if that is what the county decides to do. Olerud mentioned he would like to see pit run put in, at this area to help raise and fix the road. Kirsten Gilbert was going to look into past history with FEMA on this site, to see what was done or advised. Gilbert advised as of right now there is no way to know if there will be any FEMA money available for the flooding. Ransom County doesn’t have enough damage at this time to declare an emergency declaration. The state has not declared an emergency declaration either as of now. This will be readdressed during the next commission meeting, after some more research has been done.

Nickela Runck joined the commission call to discuss TASC. The two companies she is leaning towards are Discovery Benefits out of Fargo and Ameriflex whose home base is in Texas. Runck has checked around and some surrounding counties use Discovery Benefits and are very happy. Dick motioned to give TASC our thirty day notice to cancel, and go with Discovery Benefits. Hansen seconded the motion. Olerud called for a roll call vote, Gilbert – yes, Bunn – yes, Dick – yes, Hansen – yes, Olerud – yes. Motion carried.

The City of Sheldon would like to purchase three lots that the county got back due to unpaid taxes. The City of Sheldon would like to purchase the lots for any unpaid specials. The board would like a little more info on what if any specials are on these lots, and this will be readdressed.

Nicole Gentzkow asked the board if they would approve for employees who can work from home to work from home. Some employees have come into the auditor’s office and expressed some concern and fear about COVID-19 and working in the office. Kirsten Gilbert advised the Governor is strongly encouraging any and all employees who can work from home do so, to limit contact. Chelsey Jones stated public health is trying to work from home and see how it goes this week. Jones stressed the importance of distancing due to the possibility of being exposed and a carrier of COVID -19 before symptoms show up. Gilbert motioned, to have employees who can work from home work from home daily. If an employee needs to come into the office, they need to stager employees to limit exposure. Phones will need to be taken home or transferred to you cell phone. Employees will be paid as usual, since work is still being done. Department heads will need to check in with employees daily. Motion was seconded by Bunn. Roll call vote was done- Gilbert – yes, Bunn – yes, Dick – yes, Hansen – yes, Olerud – yes. Motion carried.

Gilbert moved to suspend motor vehicle until further notice, seconded by Dick. Olerud called for a roll call vote: Gilbert – yes, Bunn – yes, Dick – yes, Hansen – yes, Olerud – yes. Motion carried. A note will be placed on the door regarding motor vehicle, and the website will state it is closed until further notice.

Two lots were sold to The City of Lisbon from the County earlier this year. The deed has been drawn up, and just needs to be signed by the chairman. Bunn moved, seconded by Dick, to have Olerud sign the deed of the two lots. A roll call vote was done: Gilbert – yes, Bunn – yes, Dick – yes, Hansen – yes, Olerud – yes. Motion carried.

Nicole Gentzkow informed the board that Shelly Schwab’s father has passed away, and asked for permission to send flowers on behalf of the county. Gilbert moved, seconded by Dick, to send flowers. A roll call vote was done: Gilbert – yes, Bunn – yes, Dick – yes, Hansen – yes, Olerud – yes. Motion carried. The flowers will be paid for out of the advertising fund.

There being nothing further to come before the board, Chairman Olerud adjourned the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

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Nicole Gentzkow Neil Olerud, Chairman

Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission