RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting – August 4, 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, George Bunn, Steve Dick, and Neil Olerud.

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

Minutes from the previous schedule commission meeting on July 21, 2020 were considered. Bunn moved, seconded by Hansen, to approve the minutes with corrections. All aye. Motion carried.

Manual warrants in the amount of $ were reviewed by the board.

Bea Roach – clerk of court appeared before the board to discuss some upcoming jury trials she has. She is going to have a lot on her plate, and is wondering if the door could be unlocked to get all of the jurors in. Discussion was had. The board decided to have the front door unlocked for the jury trial, and see how much traffic the other offices got. They will touch base, at the next meeting and discuss further protocol.

Jeff “Ivan” Hopkins- road super intendent appeared before the board to discuss a gravel bid that had been accepted this year. He just noticed they photo copied the paperwork from 2019. The language on the gravel bid forms had changed in 2020. The old form wasn’t caught the day of bid opening. Hopkins was wondering if it was ok to legally still use that individual. The board advised Hopkins to get ahold of Fallon to find out if there are any legal issues.

Barnes Rural Water District submitted a utility permit along with a photo copied check, the original is in the mail. Dick moved, seconded by Bunn, to approve the permit pending the arrival of the check. All aye. Motion carried.

Nicole Gentzkow – auditor gave an update on renting the expo for the election. She spoke to Paulette Laudert and got the expo for November 2, 3, and 4th. The cost of the expo for all three days will be $450.

Norm Hansen let the board know that Julie Ness from Lisbon is willing to take over Tammy Jacobson unexpired three year social service zone board term. Gilbert moved, seconded by Bunn, to appoint Julie Ness to the social service zone board. All aye. Motion carried.

Nicole Gentzkow let the board know that Tyler Modlin is still willing to serve on the Ransom County Park board. There is still one open position. Gentzkow will ask Modlin if he knows of anyone who would be interested in serving on it with him.

George Bunn is portfolio holder for the VSO office. He plans to hold interviews for the VSO position on August 18, 2020. Bunn and Olerud from Ransom County will be on the board along with Bill Anderson and one other Sargent County Commissioner. State’s Attorney Fallon Kelly will also be on the VSO interview board. The starting wage for the VSO position was discussed. The salary will be $35,000 a year, which is $21.03 per hour. The individual who is hired for the VSO position will qualify for the county raise in January 2021.

Neil Olerud let the board know that Scott Gilbert is now the Vice Chair for the Weed board.

Scott Smyth and Matt Lange with KLJ appeared before the board to give estimates on three different road options to replace the fox farm bridge. Building a road is about fifty percent cheaper than building a new bridge. The prices for the roads range from $500,000 - $620,000 depending on what direction they go. Smyth figured in $3000 per acre for right away the county would need to purchase. The ruble from the Veterans Home was discussed. Bunn moved, seconded by Dick, to not sue ruble from the Veterans Home for the Fox Farm Bridge. All aye. Motion carried.

The preliminary budget hearing date was set for 9/8/2020 at 9:00 a.m. in the Ransom County Commission Room.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

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Nicole Gentzkow Neil Olerud

Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission