RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting – September 7, 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, Greg Schwab, Neil Olerud, Norm Hansen, and Joe Mathern.

The agenda was reviewed. Olerud moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Hansen. Mathern asked the board for roll call votes moving forward. Gilbert -yes, Hansen- yes, Schwab-yes, Olerud-yes, and Mathern-yes. Motion passed.

Minutes from the previous regular scheduled commission meeting were considered. Gilbert moved, seconded by Mathern to approve minutes with corrections. Gilbert -yes, Hansen- yes, Schwab-yes, Olerud-yes, and Mathern-yes. Motion passed.

Manual warrants in the amount $28,580.10 were reviewed by the board. Olerud moved to approve the warrants in the amount of $28,580.10, seconded Hansen. Gilbert -yes, Hansen- yes, Schwab-yes, Olerud-yes, and Mathern-yes. Motion passed.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 8/23/21 | ACH 1187 | Cass County Electric Coop | 418.09 |
| 8/23/21 | ACH 1205 | Cass County Electric Coop | 127.11 |
| 8/20/21 | ACH 1195 | Great America Financial  | 422.71 |
| 8/20/21 | ACH 1217 | Great America Financial | 292.72 |
| 8/11/21 | ACH 1178 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 299.99 |
| 8/11/21 | ACH 1179 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 149.99 |
| 8/11/21 | ACH 1180 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 179.99 |
| 8/11/21 | ACH 1181 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 49.99 |
| 8/11/21 | ACH 1182 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 6.69 |
| 8/14/21 | ACH 1183 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 27.99 |
| 8/14/21 | ACH 1184 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 99.99 |
| 8/14/21 | ACH 1185 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 82.00 |
| 8/14/21 | ACH 1186 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 92.65 |
| 8/14/21 | ACH 1189 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 90.91 |
| 8/14/21 | ACH 1190 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 79.00 |
| 8/14/21 | ACH 1191 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 205.99 |
| 8/14/21 | ACH 1192 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 145.92 |
| 8/14/21 | ACH 1193 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 491.98 |
| 8/14/21 | ACH 1194 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 78.99 |
| 8/14/21 | ACH 1197 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 36.69 |
| 8/14/21 | ACH 1198 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 36.69 |
| 8/11/21 | ACH 1199 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 50.77 |
| 8/11/21 | ACH 1200 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 387.49 |
| 8/14/21 | ACH 1201 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 217.38 |
| 8/14/21 | ACH 1202 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 17.92 |
| 8/14/21 | ACH 1203 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 35.21 |
| 8/14/21 | ACH 1204 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 54.99 |
| 8/14/21 | ACH 1208 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 32.98 |
| 8/14/21 | ACH 1209 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 25.00 |
| 8/14/21 | ACH 1210 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 50.95 |
| 8/14/21 | ACH 1211 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 14633.21 |
| 8/14/21 | ACH 1212 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 569.88 |
| 8/11/21 | ACH 1213 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 133.29 |
| 8/14/21 | ACH 1214 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 172.80 |
| 8/14/21 | ACH 1215 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 25.90 |
| 8/14/21 | ACH 1216 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 21.99 |
| 8/11/21 | ACH 1220 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 161.15 |
| 8/11/21 | ACH 1221 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 108.08 |
| 8/14/21 | ACH 1222 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 12.99 |
| 8/14/21 | ACH 1223 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 3118.95 |
| 8/11/21 | ACH 1224 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 1882.00 |
| 8/14/21 | ACH 1225 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 37.32 |
| 8/10/21 | ACH 1226 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 37.32- |
| 8/20/21 | ACH 1227 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 85.18 |
| 8/20/21 | ACH 1228 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 80.02 |
| 8/20/21 | ACH 1229 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | 85.18 |
| 8/20/21 | ACH 1173 | City of Lisbon | 158.57 |
| 8/20/21 | ACH 1174 | City of Lisbon | 336.51 |
| 8/20/21 | ACH 1175 | City of Lisbon | 10.00 |
| 8/14/21 | ACH 1177 | City of Lisbon | 29.50 |
| 8/10/21 | ACH 1219 | City of Lisbon | 65.50 |
| 8/14/21 | ACH 1167 | Marco  | 140.60 |
| 8/14/21 | ACH 1188 | Marco | 116.06 |
| 8/10/21 | ACH 1196 | Marco | 256.18 |
| 8/10/21 | ACH 1218 | Marco | 187.51 |
| 8/10/21 | ACH 1176 | ND Game and Fish | 19.00 |
| 8/14/21 | ACH 1168 | Southeast Water Users | 52.07 |
| 8/10/21 | ACH 1169 | Wex Bank | 172.03 |
| 8/14/21 | ACH 1170 | Wex Bank | 19.11 |
| 8/14/21 | ACH 1206 | Wex Bank | 1474.27 |
| 8/14/21 | ACH 1207 | Wex Bank | 163.80 |
| TOTAL |  |  | $28,580.10 |

Tim Meyer- Mayor of the City of Lisbon, Rick Taylor – Mayor of Sheldon, and two representatives from the City of Fort Ransom appeared before the board to let the county know if they didn’t plan to use the ARPA funds they would like the county to consider giving the money to the cities. The City of Lisbon would put the money in their street/sewer/water fund for upcoming projects. The City of Sheldon needs to upgrade their water sewer system in the near future. The City of Fort Ransom also is in the process of upgrading their sewer lift station which is going to be around $80,0000. The board let the City representatives know they plan to accept the ARPA funds but no decisions have been made on how to spend the money at this time.

Rick Taylor – City of Sheldon Mayor asked for some clarification from Jeff Hopkins and the board why the Sheldon Bridge was reclassified to a twenty-six-ton bridge. Hopkins did some research and the state has started outsources with another company to do bridge inspections. The new signage has caused some confusion. The bridge is still rated up to 80,000lbs, however for narrow wheel base vehicle and tandem trucks it is only rated at 26 tons. Hopkins is working with KLJ to get a sign that details the information clearer. Rick Taylor also asked the board if they could give any insight on if HWY 46 would continue to stay unrestricted in the future. Plains Grain and Agronomy is doing a study looking into building a new grain facility in Sheldon across from the old school to the north. It is three miles from HWY 46 south on the east side of Sheldon. Before they invest fifteen million dollars into a facility, they need to make sure they will continue to have access. The trucks coming in on the roads will be loaded at 80,000 – 88,000 whatever is legal for the road.

Jeff Hopkins – highway superintendent got a letter from James Styron with North Dakota Department of Transportation rail/highway crossing safety manager letting the county know that the crossing on county road 58 in Englevale, ND has reached the level in the pool of crossings to be federally funded for signalization. The rail safety funds administered by the NDDOT Rail Section are 90% Federal funds and 10% local match. Styron is wondering if the county commissioners would be willing to sponsor the 10% local match. Styron estimated the county share would be in the range of around $16,000-$18,000. If this project moves forward, construction will be in 2022, and the County won’t see a bill until late into 2022. Gilbert moved for Gentzkow to send an email to Styron letting him know the County is willing to pay the 10% local match for the crossing. Seconded by Olerud. Gilbert -yes, Hansen- yes, Schwab-yes, Olerud-yes, and Mathern-yes. Motion passed.

At the last meeting Hopkins asked about a resident putting in plastic culverts on county road 136. The discussion was brought up again. The board would like to stay consistent with steel culverts. Schwab moved, seconded by Hansen to allow two eighteen inch by forty foot metal culvert and the resident pays for the approach and culvert. The county will pay for the third culvert if it is rusted out, it will be replaced with the same size that is currently in there according to the specs. Gilbert -yes, Hansen- yes, Schwab-yes, Olerud-yes, and Mathern-yes. Motion passed.

 Fallon Kelly arrived at 10:10 a.m.

**10:00a.m. Motor Grader Bid Award**

Hopkins appeared before the board to let them know that all the specs were met in the bid that RDO had submitted. The county could lease the grader for $48,604.93 annually for five years with a buy out option of $167,512, or a purchase price of $348,363.87. Discussion was had if the county should lease or buy, the price to lease keeps increasing. Hopkins stated he isn’t opposed to keeping the grader for ten years. Olerud moved, seconded by Schwab to reject all bids for the motor grader. Gilbert -yes, Hansen- yes, Schwab-yes, Olerud-yes, and Mathern-yes. Motion passed.

Different lease options were discussed. Fallon Kelly advised the County could not take out a load more than one year unless it was a bond. Olerud moved, seconded by Hansen to give Hopkins ten business days to find a better lease. If he couldn’t then sign the Kinetic lease agreement. Gilbert -yes, Hansen- yes, Schwab-yes, Olerud-yes, and Mathern-yes. Motion passed.

Kathy Donovan, Richard Donovan, Jamie Iverson, Christy Dick, Jackie Schwab, and Leonard Toyne appeared before the board to discuss the ARPA funds that the County can receive. Englevale is in need of a new water system they are currently getting sand in their water and have no pressure. The water system they have now was put in during the late 1980’s and needs to be updated. They have fifteen houses on the well and three business, right now each household and business is required to pay $300 per year for the well maintenance. Donovan is asking the County to help financially get Englevale’s well updated using ARPA funds.

Charlie Armstrong – Ransom County Coroner appeared before the board to let them know that he is happy to still be the coroner until the county finds another. The board all agreed they would like to have Armstrong remain the Ransom County Coroner as he has always done a good job for the county.

Scott Smyth with KLJ appeared before the board to present an amendment to owner – engineer agreement amendment No. 2003-00888-1 for the Maple River Slope Repair rebidding, additional construction engineering services. The nature of the amendment was for additional services to be performed by engineer, and modifications to payment to engineer. The original cost was $10,000 the new adjusted agreement amount is $13,000. The second amendment to owner – engineer agreement amendment no. 2003-00889-1 for the Virgil Schultz Slope Repair rebidding, additional construction engineering services. The nature of the amendment was for the additional services to be performed be engineer, and modifications to payment to engineer. The original agreement amount was for $6,000 the new adjusted agreement amount is for $13,000. The third amendment I to the agreement for cost share reimbursement Ransom County Virgil Schultz Bridge Bank Slope Stabilization is to increase the cost share with the State Water Commission and Ransom County from $18,754 to a total cost-share of up to $55,285.

Gilbert moved to have Chairman Mathern sign the three engineer agreement amendments presented by Smyth, Hansen seconded the motion. Gilbert- yes, Hansen- yes, Olerud – yes, Mathern – yes, Schwab – no. Motion passed.

The board recessed for lunch at 12:10 p.m.

The meeting was called back to session at 1:30p.m.

Covid leave was discussed. The CARES ACT no longer provides eighty hours of paid leave to any employee who is out due to COVID 19. Olerud moved, seconded by Schwab that employees will be allowed eighty hours of paid time off due to COVID 19 leave for themselves or immediate family member if they haven’t used up the prior eighty hours provided by the CARES ACT. The County will pay for health insurance benefits after sick and vacation time is exhausted with proof of Covid. Gilbert – yes, Olerud – yes, Mathern – yes, Schwab- yes, Hansen – no. Motion carried.

The ARPA funds were discussed. Hansen moved, seconded by Gilbert to have Gentzkow accept the ARPA funds for Ransom County. Gilbert -yes, Hansen- yes, Schwab-yes, Olerud-yes, and Mathern-yes. Motion passed.

Gentzkow reminded the board the Southeast Regional Meeting was Thursday September 16th in Grand Rapids at 5p.m.

The board discussed if they should have a Christmas party this year. It is the commissioners turn to host the party. Hansen moved, seconded by Gilbert to have a Christmas party in 2021. The board discussed hosting the Christmas party at the Silver Prairie in Mcleod this year. Olerud will look into get prices and dates.

An offsite liquor permit and the appropriate fee was submitted for the Bohnsack Ranch Rodeo and Dance happening at in Owego Township. The township had signed off on the permit. Hansen moved to approve the permit, seconded by Gilbert. Gilbert- yes, Hansen – yes, Mathern – yes, Schwab – yes. Olerud abstained from voting. Motion carried.

Being nothing further to come before the board, Chairman Mathern adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission