RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting – January 21, 2020

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

The agenda was reviewed. Auditor Nicole Gentzkow asked to add Scott Smyth with KLJ at 11:00 a.m. Hansen moved, seconded by Gilbert, to approve the agenda with the addition. All aye. Motion carried.

Kirsten Gilbert – Emergency Manager appeared before the board to present the Hazard Mitigation Contract that would cost $26,479.20. Once the contract was signed KLJ would start the process and get meetings going. The higher number of participants from the county, city, and townships, would help decrease the cost. Gilbert said the county has a grant that will cover about seventy five percent of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Bunn moved, seconded by Hansen to sign the contract to hire KLJ to do the Hazard Mitigation plan. All aye. Motion carried.

Minutes from the January 7, 2020 regular scheduled commission meeting were considered. Gilbert moved, seconded by Hansen, to approve the minutes with corrections. All aye. Motion carried.

Bills and Payroll were then reviewed by the board. Gilbert moved, seconded by Bunn, to approve bills and payroll after Gentzkow looked into a few that were being questioned. All aye. Motion carried.

Ming Elhard with the housing authority for LaMoure, McIntosh, and Ransom County, appeared before the board to let them know she would be retiring in the next 2 months. She stated that when she started with the housing authority in 2001 she had seventeen clients in Ransom County. In 2019 she currently has over eighty one clients who she assists. Elhard has a very good working relationship with the Cass County Housing Authority and would like to see Ransom County contract with Cass County once she retires. Elhard stated they would not take over, however they would manage it. Blake and Derek with The Housing Authority of Cass County introduced themselves, and explained how their program works. With them managing the housing authority and not taking it over, it would leave the control local. They would shift all the financial work to their office in West Fargo, and have an employee in the Ashley, ND office to assist clients face to face. They would charge ninety six percent of the administrative fee that is paid to the housing authority from HUD, so it wouldn’t cost Ransom County any money. Bunn moved, seconded by Gilbert, to contract with The Housing Authority of Cass County pending Fallon Kelly’s approval. All aye. Motion carried.

Randy Gallagher – buildings and grounds appeared before the board to share his renovation plans for 2020. He plans to put new flooring in the auditor’s office, and shorten the counter top. The new flooring can be installed in February. He would like to fix the side walk in front of Social Services where the water and ice cause issues. The estimate to do the area in front of the social service building to the corner would be around $7,600. Gallagher is going to talk to the city to see if they will pay a portion of the sidewalk. Brenna Welton would like some painting, and new carpet if there is money remaining. Bunn stated he would like to leave the renovations up to Gallagher as he sees fit. Gallagher also gave an update on the courtroom facility grant. All three grants the county applied for were approved.

Gentzkow did some research on how money should be dispersed to ambulance services. LaMoure is asking for back pay for the few years they did not request any money, and did not receive any. Due to how the county levies for emergency services out of the general fund not an ambulance levy, all disbursements of money to the ambulance services is left up to the board. The board discussed, and decided no back pay would be given to LaMoure for the few years they did not receive money. Olerud moved, to pay LaMoure County $1500 a year, and Sargent County $4500 per year. The remaining amount would go to First Medic in Lisbon. Gilbert seconded the motion for discussion. Olerud was in favor, Gilbert, Hansen, Bunn, and Dick opposed. Motion failed. Bunn moved to give LaMoure $1000, and Sargent $3000 for the 2020 budget. In the future a request would be due in July at preliminary budget time. Hansen seconded the motion. Bunn, Hansen, Gilbert, and Dick were in favor. Olerud opposed. Motion carried. Bunn moved to pay Sargent County $3000 for 2019 when they had requested, it was approved at budget time, and no amount had been set. All aye. Motion carried.

Scott Smyth with KLJ appeared before the board to let them know the contractor on HWY eight was requesting they reconsider the nine days of liquidated damages that had previously been reduced to four and a half days. They are requesting the county forgive all liquidated damages. Hansen moved to uphold the discussion made in 2019 to charge the four and a half days of liquidated damages. Gilbert seconded. All aye. Motion carried.

The Corps of Engineers had received funding to start the feasibility study on the Anslem Bridge. The study typically takes around nine months to complete, however the Corp would try to minimize as much as possible due to the dire need to fix the bridge. Smyth asked the board if he would like them to add this to the application to the State Water Commission. If the Corp didn’t assist in fixing the bridge and they went with the State Water Commission the county would be responsible for fifty percent of the cost. If the Corp did accept the project of fixing the bridge they would pay for eighty percent, the county would be responsible for twenty percent. If the Corp and the State Water Commission both assisting, the Corp would pay eighty, the County would pay ten, and the State Water Commission would pay ten percent. The contract to the State Water Commission can always be amended if needed depending on the decision from the Corp.

Smyth said there is some erosion North of Preston Church on the county road, and near Hock’s bridge. Gentzkow gave a bridge inspection to Smyth to review from the ND DOT.

A contract for the Human Resource person shared with Sargent County was reviewed by the board. The contract stated the employee would be a Sargent County employee contracted with Ransom County. Bunn moved, seconded by Hansen to approve the contract pending Fallon Kelly’s approval. Bunn and Hansen will meet with Sargent County to discuss more.

Bunn asked Gentzkow to get some info from Pam Maloney at Sargent County regarding Home Rule.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

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

Nicole Gentzkow Neil Olerud

Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission