Ransom County Board of Commissioners

Regular meeting – March 17, 2020

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

The agenda was reviewed, Nicole Gentzkow auditor asked to add Scott Smyth with KLJ. Gilbert moved, seconded by Hansen to approve the agenda with addition. All aye. Motion carried.

Nicole Gentzkow let the board know that the Five County Commission meeting scheduled for April 2, 2020 had been postponed.

Minutes from the March 3, 2020 regular scheduled commission meeting were reviewed. Bunn moved, seconded by Dick, to approve minutes with corrections. All aye. Motion carried.

Fallon Kelly, States Attorney joined the meeting.

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

Jeff “Ivan” Hopkins road superintendent appeared before the board to discuss the RDO motor grader bid we had received. The bid from RDO had been accepted at a previous commission meeting. However, after reviewing the lease paper work Hopkins noticed a decrease in hours compared to past leases. The 2020 lease allowed 5000 hours for five years, the previous leases were 6000 hours for five years. After doing some research, talking to RDO and talking to the blade operators Hopkins feels comforter able signing the lease for 5000 hours.

**9:45 a.m. – Gasoline, Diesel Fuel, & Propane Bids:**

The following bids were received:

* Lisbon Oil Company- Lisbon, ND (gasoline & diesel fuel)

Dick moved, seconded by Hansen, to accept the fuel bid. All aye. Motion carried.

**10:00 a.m. – Gravel, Clay, & Chips:**

The following bids were received:

* Bear Creek Gravel, Inc. – Englevale, ND
* Bernard Mahrer Construction, Inc. – Rutland, ND
* Dick’s Construction, LLC – Englevale, ND
* Lesmeister Gravel, Inc. – Lisbon, ND
* Mark Sand & Gravel Dakota Co. – Fergus Falls, MN
* Camas Sand and Gravel – Wheatland, ND
* Jody Hoenhause – Lisbon, ND

All bids were in proper form. Bunn motioned to accept all bids and Hopkins can choose at his discretion who to use based on price at the time. Dick seconded the motion. All aye. Motion carried. Olerud mentioned he would like to see Hopkins pick based on quality not price.

Darren Benneweis, sheriff appeared before the board to discuss that Tim Peterson with the Highway Patrol will be coming to rewrite the weight and permit ordinance. Benneweis would like to see the county educate on the new ordinance once it is in place instead of just ticketing. Currently if an individual is legal weight for state roads, then Benneweis says they are good with the county as well.

Benneweis also stated he would like to get rid of the air boat. Currently there is only one person in the county who is able to operate it, and they are not an employee. He would like to see the county purchase something that could be used more often and is more of a necessity. There is another county who is interested in purchasing the air boat.

Benneweis gave an update on the ALICE training him and Deputy George Gonzalez attended. They are now certified to be training instructors. Benneweis would like to do a violent critical incident training in the courthouse.

Fallon Kelly, states attorney was asked to appear before the board to discuss some payroll concerns. Kelly didn’t want to address individual concerns in an open meeting. He also wanted to meet with the individuals and learn more about it before commenting. Kelly stated there are two ways to pay people, salary or hourly. Wage per hour should be all employees who are not elected. Salary should be the elected officials. Currently the county is paying all employees the hourly wage, times number of hours per year, divided by twelve months. This allows employees to get the same amount of money every month. Kelly will meet with individuals who have concerns and get back to the board.

Kirsten Gilbert – emergency manager, Chelsey Jones – Public Health Nurse, and Brenna Welton – director of public health appeared before the board to discuss COVID – 19 and go over a Health Emergency Declaration Category B. This would allow the county to file for FEMA assistance if the Governor and President declare an Emergency Declaration. Hansen moved, seconded by Gilbert, to have the Chairman sign the Health Emergency Declaration. All aye. Motion carried.

Scott Smyth with KLJ appeared before the board to let them know KLJ has placed travel restrictions on them, and he will not be attending anymore meetings in person until further notice.

Smyth followed up on a question asked if there was a time requirement to spend the Prairie Dog money. He stated there was no time line, but the state will be watching to see if counties are using the money.

Smyth said he called on the railroad crossing 4 miles west of Sheldon and asked the railroad to come do some maintenance. They told him, they would notate it, but didn’t know how soon it would get done. Smyth encouraged anyone who drives that route to call it in. The more reporting they get on it, the faster it will get addressed.

Lyle Bopp asked that Ransom County assign two commissioners to be on the human resource manager interview panel. Norm Hansen and Neil Olerud agreed to be on the panel.

There being nothing further to come before the board, Chairman Olerud adjourned the meeting at 11:24 a.m.

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

Nicole Gentzkow Neil Olerud, Chairman

Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission