RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting – March 3, 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.

The agenda was reviewed. Auditor Nicole Gentzkow asked to add Shelly Schwab, recorder to the agenda at 11:00 a.m. Gilbert moved, seconded by Dick to approve the agenda with the addition. All aye. Motion carried.

Minutes from the February 18, 2020 regular scheduled commission meeting were considered. Bunn moved, seconded by Dick to approve minutes with corrections. All aye. Motion carried.

Manual warrants in the amount of $6,185.31 were considered. Gilbert moved, seconded by Hansen to pay manual warrants. All aye. Motion carried.

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| 2/23/20 | ACH 176 | Cass County Electric Coop | $229.00 |
| 2/23/20 | ACH 172 | Cass County Electric Coop | $2462.90 |
| 2/21/20 | ACH 170 | Great America Financial  | $273.90 |
| 2/21/20 | ACH 171 | Great America Financial | $384.20 |
| 2/20/20 | ACH 179 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $27.57 |
| 2/20/20 | ACH 180 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA  | $44.54 |
| 2/10/20 | ACH 165 | City of Lisbon | $159.30 |
| 2/10/20 | ACH 166 | City of Lisbon | $26.60 |
| 2/10/20 | ACH 167 | City of Lisbon | $29.50 |
| 2/10/20 | ACH 168 | City of Lisbon | $10.00 |
| 2/21/20 | ACH 174 | Marco | $110.01 |
| 2/22/20 | ACH 175 | Marco | $178.62 |
| 2/22/20 | ACH 178 | Marco | $137.67 |
| 2/16/20 | ACH 173 | Southeast Water Users | $56.04 |
| 2/11/20 | ACH 169 | Tesoro Fleet Services  | $1015.07 |
| 2/28/20 | ACH 177 | Total Administrative Services Corp | $115.02 |
| 2/27/20 | ACH 164 | Voyager Fleet System | $188.12 |
| 2/27/20 | ACH 181 | Voyager Fleet System | $737.25 |
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| Total  |  |  | $6185.31 |
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Sargent County called in for a conference call to discuss job description for the shared Ransom Sargent County human resource person. Lyle Bopp stated there can be one job description with all the possible duties the employee will do. Then each county can decide what from the list they would like the individual to do. It does not have to be the same in both counties. Bunn moved, seconded by Dick, to accept the job description Sargent County had provided. All aye. Motion carried.

Kirsten Gilbert, emergency manager appeared before the board to ask which commissioner would like to be appointed to attend the hazard mitigation meetings. Connie Gilbert volunteered to be the primary person, Norm Hansen said he would be the secondary contact.

Kirsten Gilbert also mentioned she has ordered binders for the road crew, and plans to pay for them out of FEMA funds. These binders should help them stay more organized with all the requirements from FEMA. Gilbert gave an update on the water levels. Gilbert stated the City of Enderlin plans to sign a declaration at their council meeting.

Kirsten Gilbert stated she has had some phone calls asking when bid bonds will go back. The date on the bid bonds go through the end of March. The board discussed and these will not be returned until the end of the contract date.

Nickela Runck, deputy auditor discussed some issues the employees have been having with TASC. Some staff have made the comments they no longer want to use this benefit if the county is going to continue going through TASC. Runck discussed a few companies she had been in contact with and their fees. Lance Gulleson was checking to see if one of the companies would be willing to waive their annual administrative fee.

Bea Roach, clerk of court said currently there is $100,090 of delinquent debt. Counties are now allowed to use a collection agency to collect delinquent debt. Roach said she thinks she does a good job collecting debt, and doesn’t see the need to use a collection agency.

Roach also discussed how the State of North Dakota Office of State Court Administrators determine weighted case load statistics. Roach would like to continue with the option where commissioners may elect to enter into a funding agreement for the 2021-2023 biennium to receive reimbursement for providing clerk services. Based on the data, Ransom County requires .78 FTE(s) to provide clerk services.

Kristie Reinke, tax director appeared before the board to ask for permission for Deputy Teresa Haecherl to work overtime. Reinke would like to have Haecherl attend the equalization meetings. Reinke plans to start shifting some of her workload to Haecherl. She will be working approximately ten to twenty hours extra a month, depending on work load that month.

Reinke also informed the board there are forty two new applicants who could be eligible for the farm exemption. If all farmers who are eligible turn in paperwork, it could be a seven million five hundred dollar tax revenue loss for the county. The worksheet is due March 31, 2020 by state guidelines, Reinke asked the board if they would back her if she enforced this deadline. Dick moved, seconded by Hansen, to support Reinke on the farm home exemption worksheet deadline of March 31, 2020. Hansen, Gilbert, Dick, Bunn, approved. Olerud Opposed. Motion carried. It would be roughly 3.61% difference in the residential values, and would have a large impact on school districts, and the county. Reinke said it shouldn’t drastically hurt everyone in 2020, however agriculture land will likely go up 3% the following year.

The social service zone board terms were assigned to the members serving for Ransom County. Olerud moved to appoint Nancy Farnham to the one year term, Norm Hansen to the two year term, and Tammy Jacobson to the three year term. Bunn seconded the motion, all aye. Motion carried.

A manual warrant was presented for The Lisbon Bissell Golf Course in the amount of $83.15. Hansen moved, seconded by Gilbert, to approve the manual warrant. All aye. Motion carried.

Tom Jacobson, president of the Liquor Pigs motorcycle club in Elliott appeared before the board to let them know he would like to start utilizing the establishment they have. He is looking for guidance on how to get permits and info to do everything correctly. He is wondering who he needs to talk to in order to get a permit. The board advised Jacobson to get in touch with Fallon Kelly to see if he has any information.

Scott Smyth with KLJ appeared before the board to give a final seal coat project estimate. The project was estimated to cost $393,000 and came in at $363,000. Gilbert moved, seconded by Hansen, to have Olerud sign the final contract. All aye. Motion carried.

Smyth also gave an update on the railroad crossing in Englevale owned by Red River Valley Railroad, it is scheduled to be completed in 2021.

Smyth stated he has finished entering all the asphalt roads and will get started on entering information on the gravel roads. Smyth is wondering going forward if the county would like to continue having KLJ enter the information, or someone with the county. The board would like to see Jeff Hopkins and Smyth communicate and keep updating the information in the GRITS program. The more information we have available in the GRITS program the more federal funding the county will be eligible for.

Shelly Schwab and Cindy Morin appeared before the board to discuss some payroll discrepancies. Discussion was had. No decisions were made.

 There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

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Nicole Gentzkow Neil Olerud, Chairman

Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission