RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting – May 5, 2020

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

The agenda was reviewed. Nicole Gentzkow asked to add Randy Gallagher at 10:30 a.m. Gilbert moved, seconded by Hansen. Olerud called for a roll call vote: Hansen – yes, Gilbert – yes, Bunn – yes, Dick – yes, Olerud – yes. Motion carried.

Minutes from the regular scheduled commission meeting on April 21, 2020 were considered. Hansen moved, seconded by Dick to approve minutes with corrections. Olerud called for a roll call vote: Hansen – yes, Gilbert – yes, Bunn – yes, Dick – yes, Olerud – yes. Motion carried.

Manual warrants in the amount of $15,851.34 were reviewed. Gilbert moved, seconded by Dick, to approve the manual warrants. Olerud called for a roll call vote: Hansen – yes, Gilbert – yes, Bunn – yes, Dick – yes, Olerud – yes. Motion carried.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 4/23/20 | ACH 234 | Cass County Electric Coop | $1650.84 |
| 4/23/20 | ACH 338 | Cass County Electric Coop | $196.93 |
| 4/20/20 | ACH 230 | Great America Financial  | $909.56 |
| 4/20/20 | ACH 341 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $32.31 |
| 4/20/20 | ACH 342 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $198.63 |
| 4/10/20 | ACH 343 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $193.95 |
| 4/10/20 | ACH 344 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $6.70 |
| 4/10/20 | ACH 345 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $56.81 |
| 4/10/20 | ACH 346 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $91.66 |
| 4/10/20 | ACH 347 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $5.69 |
| 4/14/20 | ACH 348 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $205.86 |
| 4/14/20 | ACH 349 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $124.67 |
| 4/14/20 | ACH 350 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $18.21 |
| 4/14/20 | ACH 351 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $25.13 |
| 4/14/20 | ACH 352 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $27.62 |
| 4/14/20 | ACH 353 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $45.40 |
| 4/14/20 | ACH 354 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $364.73 |
| 4/14/20 | ACH 355 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $10.89 |
| 4/14/20 | ACH 356 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $16.29 |
| 4/14/20 | ACH 357 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $25.45- |
| 4/14/20 | ACH 358 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $190.00- |
| 4/14/20 | ACH 360 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $145.95 |
| 4/10/20 | ACH 361 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $79.90 |
| 4/10/20 | ACH 362 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $822.10 |
| 4/14/20 | ACH 363 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $569.88 |
| 4/14/20 | ACH 364 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $138.28 |
| 4/10/20 | ACH 365 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $485.35 |
| 4/10/20 | ACH 366 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $48.78 |
| 4/14/20 | ACH 367 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $104.99 |
| 4/10/20 | ACH 368 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $484.50 |
| 4/14/20 | ACH 369 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $28.10 |
| 4/14/20 | ACH 370 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $1750.00 |
| 4/14/20 | ACH 371 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $627.00 |
| 4/14/20 | ACH 372 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $ 37.44 |
| 4/14/20 | ACH 373 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $22.23 |
| 4/14/20 | ACH 374 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $62.54 |
| 4/14/20 | ACH 375 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $440.00 |
| 4/14/20 | ACH 376 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $33.98 |
| 4/14/20 | ACH 377 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $64.83 |
| 4/10/20 | ACH 378 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $35.10 |
| 4/10/20 | ACH 379 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $179.97 |
| 4/10/20 | ACH 380 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $442.77 |
| 4/10/20 | ACH 381 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $40.01 |
| 4/10/20 | ACH 382 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $40.01 |
| 4/10/20 | ACH 383 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $40.01 |
| 4/10/20 | ACH 384 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $40.01 |
| 4/10/20 | ACH 385 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $654.82 |
| 4/10/20 | ACH 386 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $83.81 |
| 4/14/20 | ACH 387 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $204.41 |
| 4/14/20 | ACH 388 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $3.25 |
| 4/08/20 | ACH 389 | JP Morgan Chase Bank NA | $560.38 |
| 4/08/20 | ACH 390 | JP Morgan Chase Bank NA | $41.46 |
| 4/14/20 | ACH 391 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $20.99- |
| 4/14/20 | ACH 392 | JPMorgan Chase Bank NA | $206.41 |
| 4/07/20 | ACH 393 | JP Morgan Chase Bank NA | $7.97- |
| 4/10/20 | ACH 226 | City of Lisbon | $160.18 |
| 4/10/20 | ACH 227 | City of Lisbon | $26.60 |
| 4/10/20 | ACH 228 | City of Lisbon | $29.50 |
| 4/10/20 | ACH 229 | City of Lisbon | $10.00 |
| 4/10/20 | ACH 340 | City of Lisbon | $78.03 |
| 4/24/20 | ACH 225 | Marco | $313.60 |
| 4/22/20 | ACH 231 | Marco | $634.20 |
| 4/22/20 | ACH 232 | Marco | $129.87 |
| 4/22/20 | ACH 235 | Marco | $137.67 |
| 4/12/20 | ACH 233 | Southeast Water Users | $57.02 |
| 4/12/20 | ACH 336 | Tesoro Fleet Services  | $692.81 |
| 4/28/20 | ACH 359 | Total Administrative Services Corp | $230.04 |
| 4/13/20 | ACH 339 | Voyager Fleet Systems, INC.  | $896.08 |
| Total  |  |  | $15,851.34 |

The City of Sheldon is interested in purchasing three lots that the county acquired due to delinquent taxes. Block 22, Lot 14 of Original Sheldon. Block 13, Lot 13 and 14 of Rudd and Sheldon addition. The total for past due specials on all three parcels is $2458.62. Gilbert moved, seconded by Hansen, to deed the lots back to the City of Sheldon once the specials had been paid. Olerud called for a roll call vote: Hansen – yes, Gilbert – yes, Bunn – yes, Dick – yes, Olerud – yes. Motion carried.

The City of Lisbon is in the process of purchasing two lots from the county that were acquired due to delinquent taxes. The board had made the decision to sell the lots for one dollar per lot to The City of Lisbon. When the deed went to be recorded it was discovered there were past due specials, from 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019. Gentzkow asked the board if the county was willing to pay these specials or if The City of Lisbon should be responsible for the specials. Hansen moved, seconded by Bunn to have the city pay the specials. This is the procedure the county has always followed in the past, and they would like to continue doing it this way. Olerud called for a roll call vote: Hansen – yes, Gilbert – yes, Bunn – yes, Dick – yes, Olerud – yes.

Roberts County Sheriff’s Office sent a letter of increase to the county for housing inmates. Ransom County uses Roberts County jail for juveniles. The current cost is $195 per day and will be increasing to $200 per day effective June 1, 2020. Gilbert moved, seconded by Hansen to pay $200 per day to house juveniles at the Roberts County Jail. Olerud called for a roll call vote: Hansen - yes, Gilbert – yes, Bunn – yes, Dick – yes, Olerud – yes.

ND Highway Patrol sent a letter letting the county know that spring load restrictions are here, and the North Dakota Highway Patrol will again be enforcing them. If the county would like to enlist the North Dakota Highway Patrol’s assistance during this period for load restrictions in 2020 we need to send a letter stating it. Hansen motioned, seconded by Dick, to sign a letter requesting assistance from the ND Highway Patrol with Sheriff Darren Benneweis blessing. Olerud called for a roll call vote: Hansen - yes, Gilbert – yes, Bunn – yes, Dick – yes, Olerud – yes.

North Dakota Emergency Services sent a letter letting the board know that there will be an increase for the upcoming 2021-2023 biennium 911 dispatching services provided by State Radio. In 2018 the fee evaluation determined the actual cost to provided services was $1.39 per line per month; however, the billed fee was set to $0.84 per line per month for the 2019-2021 biennium to reduce the sudden impact of the fee increase. The fee evaluation process using 2019 data determined the actual cost for State Radio to provide services to the counties is $1.36 per line per month. The county is currently getting $2.00 per line, so they won’t need to make any changes.

Kirsten Gilbert, emergency manager asked the board if we could start getting a plan put together of what things will look like when the courthouse does open. There have been many employees asking, and looking for guidance and answers. Kirsten Gilbert thinks it is important to have our plan in the paper, so the public knows what to expect when the court house opens. Bunn stated he would like to see anyone who comes into the building wear a mask. He would like to see all employees equipped with mask as well. Gilbert and Gallagher are working with some offices to get shields installed, to help limit exposure. Kristie Reinke joined the conversation, she said each office has different levels of contact with the public. She thinks it should be up to each office, of what they need to feel comfortable with for opening. She would like to see a supply closet with supplies that everyone has access to as needed. Darren Benneweis is providing gloves to all employees, he has ordered a case of each size. Benneweis is also working on getting 3 masks, and has plenty of hand sanitizer. Olerud asked Kirsten Gilbert to arrange a department head meeting to get details on what supplies people would feel comfortable having, for when the county does open to the public. A notification will be put in the paper stating requirements, before the courthouse opens to the public. Appointments will be required, a health questionnaire will be asked, and mask will be required.

Fallon Kelly presented an Asset Forfeiture Fund and Procedures policy the county needs to have in place before they can financially recoup any of the assets that were forfeited. The board would like to discuss at the next meeting, so they can review before signing.

Kirsten Gilbert, emergency manager gave an update that all preliminary damages for spring flooding is due to the state by May 8, 2020.

Randy Gallagher, grounds and building manager let the board know that Corey Adolf would be able to start working on the sidewalk to the north of social services the week of May 11, 2020 if the board approved. The project will be paid for out of the renovations budget. Gilbert moved, seconded by Hansen, to allow Gallagher to hire Corey Adolf to raise the sidewalk. Olerud called for a roll call vote: Hansen - yes, Gilbert – yes, Bunn – yes, Dick – yes, Olerud – yes.

Gallagher also asked the board when the construction on the roof starts, if he should allow the contractors to use the courthouse restrooms, or order a porta potty. The board agreed with everything going on with COVID – 19, and a porta potty would be best.

Jeff “Ivan” Hopkins let the board know the county roads are in pretty tough shape this spring. The road crew is out trying to get them fixed and passable.

Brent Gregor, Pat Thorson, Daran Sagvold, and Randy Quam joined the call to discuss County road 53 referred to as the McLeod road. They had been under the impression the road weight limit was 80,000 pounds. However, after a recent incident with the highway patrol they were informed it is only 65,000 lbs. Gregor, Thorson, Sagvold, and Quam are asked the county if they would be willing to have lower speeds on the road and raise the weight to 80,000 pounds. They all have farms, livestock, and heavy equipment they need to get in and out on that road, with the lower weight it would cause them to make a lot of extra trips. Which would cost them more money, and time. Most people were already hauling 80,000 pounds on this road, unaware of the lower weight limit and it has held up. Dick mentioned, he isn’t a fan of lower speeds and heavy weights, as some studies have shown it is best to get the weight across the road faster. Hopkins said the road has been being used for a 80,000 pound road and has stood the test of time. If it goes to 80,000 pounds, Hopkins and Benneweis want to see it a strict 80,000 pounds. They don’t want any overweight permits to be allowed, and would like the speed to be 35mps year round for trucks. Hopkins will watch the road, and if it begins to show signs of damage, the weight would need to be re-evaluated. Dick moved, seconded by Hansen, to allow the road to be 80,000 pounds, with a 35 mph speed limit year round for trucks, and no ten percent permits would be allowed. Olerud called for a roll call vote: Hansen - yes, Gilbert – yes, Bunn – yes, Dick – yes, Olerud – yes. The board asked if Gregor, Thorson, Sagvold, and Quam, would be alright with this decision. All agreed it was a good compromise, and were happy to have the weight limit increased.

There being nothing further to come before the board, Chairman Olerud adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

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Nicole Gentzkow Neil Olerud, Chairman

Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission