RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING – JUNE 16, 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, Steve Dick, and George Bunn.

Kirsten Gilbert – emergency manager appeared before the board to discuss a supplement EMPG grant that the county can apply for. The grant would be a fifty fifty match. The county is eligible for up to $4000. The grant would allow Gilbert to get all the supplies she would need to work from anywhere in the event of an emergency. Hansen moved, seconded by Bunn, to approve Gilbert to spend $4000 of the fifty fifty supplemental EMPG grant. All aye. Motion carried.

The agenda was reviewed. Auditor Nicole Gentzkow asked to add Scott Smyth with KLJ and Randy Gallagher to the agenda. Hansen moved, seconded by Gilbert, to approve the agenda with additions. All aye. Motion carried.

Minutes from the special meetings on May 26, and May 28, and regular scheduled commission meeting on June 2, 2020 were considered. Bunn moved, seconded by Hansen, to approve minutes from the special meetings on May 26, May 28, and regular scheduled commission meeting on June 2 with corrections. All aye. Motion carried.

Bills were then reviewed. Hansen moved, seconded by Gilbert to pay bills. All aye. Motion carried.

Fox Farm Bridge: Duffy Hansen, and Ryan Lyons, appeared on behalf of Island Park Township, Ron Carlson and Terry Thompson, along with Jeff Hopkins and States Attorney Fallon Kelly appeared to discuss concerns with Fox Farm Bridge. Ryan Lyons said the bridge is not safe for a school bus or semi to cross, and the township does not have enough money to replace a bridge. Ron Carlson and Terry Thompson expressed their concern with the erosion. They would like to see the county use the material from the Veterans Home to help slow erosion until a decision is made on fixing or replacing the bridge. Hopkins informed the board that the permit needed to use the rubble from the Veterans Home would take up to six months to get. Lots of discussion was had. Ryan Lyons asked the board to look into the three options: a new bridge, building a road going by the Veterans Home, or taking back land from land owners and building a road. Scott Smyth with KLJ joined the conversation and stated that whenever you put any kind of material into the water it can take up to 180 days to get a permit. The board asked Ryan Lyons and Ron Carlson to work with Ivan Hopkins and Scott Smyth. More discussion will be had in the future.

Jeff Hopkins appeared before the board to ask about zoning ordinance for tree setbacks after receiving a call from Bob Flath with NRCS. According to the 1994 Ransom County Zoning Ordinance on page 21, trees must be planted 160 feet back when located north and west of roads. 100 feet back when located south and east of roads. The NRCS is wanting to plant trees within an already established group of trees. They want to make sure they are obeying the zoning ordinances. Bunn moved, knowing this is an exception to our existing zoning ordinance we will allow these trees to be planted, because they are within existing trees. Hansen seconded the motion. All aye. Motion carried.

Hopkins informed the board the road crew currently is working their summer hours so Friday is their usual day off. With the fourth of July falling on a Saturday, Friday is the day the County will be off to observe the Holiday. Hopkins is wondering if the road crew would get Thursday off as their holiday. The board discussed and left it up to Hopkins if they wanted to take Thursday or Monday.

Scott Smyth appeared before the board to discuss the Corp of Engineers coming to do a site visit at the Anselm Bridge on June 29, 2020. Smyth will get ahold of the adjacent land owners before the site visit.

Derek Johnson with Cass County Housing Authority appeared before the board via Zoom to go over the quarterly Ransom County Housing Authority financials. He informed them they have hired a new program manager named Ashley, who works out of the Ashley, ND location. They have five new residents receiving assistance, with a total of 70 vouchers each month. They are working on bringing 80-90 families on the assistance program. Gilbert moved, seconded by Hansen, to accept the Cass County Housing Authority financial report. All aye. Motion carried.

Suzanne Anderson appeared before the board to discuss the restructuring motor vehicle is doing, and the different ways they will be doing business moving forward. Anderson let the board know the contract between Ransom County and motor vehicle is up, she asked the board if they wanted to continue to offer motor vehicle in Ransom County. The board all agreed they want to continue to offer motor vehicle. Gilbert moved, seconded by Dick, to renew the motor vehicle contract for five years. All aye. Motion carried. Going forward Anderson wants the hours to be 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Anderson also let the board know, the state has allowed local branches to increase charges up to ten dollars. Discussion was had regarding charges. Bunn would like to see Anderson set charges as she feels necessary.

Lisbon Fire submitted a gaming site authorization permit along with the appropriate fee to the board for consideration. Dick moved, seconded by Bunn to approve the gaming site authorization permit. All aye. Motion carried.

Payroll was presented to the board. Gilbert moved, seconded by Bunn to approve payroll. All aye. Motion carried.

Being nothing further to come before the board, Chairman Olerud adjourned the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission