RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting – January 15, 2019

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

The agenda was reviewed. Hansen moved, seconded by Gilbert, to approve the agenda with additions. All aye. Motion carried.

Minutes from the January 3, 2019 regular meeting were considered. Bunn moved, seconded by Hansen, to approve minutes with corrections. All aye. Motion carried.

Pledge of Securities: Treasurer Suzanne Anderson presented the security pledges and depositories. She indicated the county is over-pledged on all depositories. Hansen moved, seconded by Gilbert, to approve pledge of securities and to designate Sargent County Bank, Bank North, Bremer Bank, and Bank of the West as our depositories. All aye.

She informed the board that since changing to the money market account last June, the county has made $27,410 in interest. The CD’s will be coming due this summer, the board would like to pull the money from Bank of the West and put it in a local bank. Gilbert moved, seconded by Hansen, to pull money from Bank of the West in June and put it in a local bank.

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

State’s Attorney: Fallon Kelly appeared before the board to discuss specials, tax increment financing, and payment in lieu of taxes. He recommended that if the city doesn’t want to certify these that aren’t required by a statue; then the county will do the best they can to interpret what the city is requesting. The county will then send a letter to the city, stating what we plan to apply to parcel. It will then be up to the city to contact the county and notify them if there are any errors.

KLJ: Shawn Mayfield appeared before the board to give an update on the Todd Larson culvert. He stated per the study a single box culvert 14’ x 8’ or three 6’ pipes or equivalent size arch pipes would be needed. Mayfield recommends going with two larger arch pipes. The board agreed they would like to go with the pipe over box culvert. They asked Mayfield to create cost estimates for the next commission meeting.

Mayfield also gave an update on the Qual road which was recently converted to a FSA road by DOT. He stated that he drove the road along with Matt Lange an engineer with KLJ who has worked with Base One, and Jeff Hopkins. They all agree it makes sense to do the base one graveling project on this road. Doing the Qual road to the Milnor road would cost around $450,000-$500,000, to complete the project. The county has $292,000 left in state funds and the remaining would need to be covered by county funds.

Mayfield presented a short form of agreement between owner and engineer for the project on the Qual road. Engineering cost for KLJ to do this project would be $19,800. Olerud moved, seconded by Bunn, to sign the agreement for with KLJ for the Qual road. All aye. Motion carried.

Jeff “Ivan” Hopkins, highway superintendent appeared before the board to discuss purchasing a packer for the new road grader. He looked at two different sizes, one was 75 inches wide, and the other more popular one was 90 inches wide. He would prefer to go with the larger packer. Olerud moved, seconded by Gilbert to purchase the 90 inch. All aye. Motion carried.

Brenna Welton, Chelsey Jones, and Megan Larson from public health appeared before the board to discuss the wellness program. They stated participation is down, and would like to know what they can do to help get it up. With the wellness program the county can get a one percent discount on health insurance. In order to get the discount, employees have to participate in 2 events annually through the wellness program. The board all agreed they don’t want to lose the discount. Different activities through the wellness program were discussed. The board and public health are going to send out some information on the wellness program to hopefully help increase participation.

Welton and Jones also discussed how two nurses at public health will be taking a 12 week maternity leave around the same time this summer. They would like permission to hire a temp nurse. They would like to pay the temp $20/hour if a LPN, and $25/hour if a RN. They plan to advertise for this position on the Ransom County Public Health Facebook page, and the paper. They asked that the temp nurse get reimbursed for mileage, just like the current nurses do. The temp would be needed 24-40 hours per week, and the times would be flexible. The board didn’t have any issues with a temp nurse being hired to cover maternity leave.

Eric and Maria Overn appeared before the board to discuss purchasing the house at 403 Rose Street. They are willing to go pay the city for the outstanding water bill, and offer the county $3500 for the house. Olerud moved, seconded by Bunn to accept the bid, with the water bill being paid in full by the Overns. Dick called for a roll call vote; Hansen – no, Gilbert – no, Bunn – yes, Olerud – yes, Dick – yes. Motion passed.

Kirsten Gilbert, emergency manager appeared before the board to inquire about fuel and gravel bids. Previously the county has sent bid paperwork to all business who have bid it in the past. Gilbert wanted to know if it was necessary to do this, as we don’t do it for any other bid process. The board discussed, and decided to have gravel and fuel bids be posted and go out like all other bid processes. Bid opening for gravel and fuel will be March 19, 2019.

Hauge Memorial VFW 9067 in Wyndmere, submitted a local permit for a raffle, along with the appropriate fee. The raffle will be held at the Sand Dune in McLeod, ND from February 16, through April 27, 2019. Gilbert moved, seconded by Hansen to approve the gaming permit.

Nicole Gentzkow, auditor asked the board to place an ad in the paper for a deputy auditor. Gentzkow asked for the position to start at $13/hour, with a three month probation period at which time the employee could move up to $13.50/hour. Hansen moved, seconded by Gilbert, to all the ad and pay for deputy auditor position. All aye. Motion carried.

George Bunn read the resolution Bill Anderson had adopted at one of their commission meetings in December, and Richland County adopted back in September. He had asked Gentzkow to get a copy of the revenue restoration resolution for the next commission meeting so it could be reviewed.

Portfolio holders were discussed. The only changes will be Steve Dick will become the portfolio holder for the Auditors office. Neil Olerud will now become one of the portfolio holders for the highway department.

Peg Lesmann would like to continue to serve on the Ransom County Health Board for another five year term. Gilbert moved, seconded by Bunn to reappoint Peg Lesmann to the Ransom County Health Board. All aye. Motion carried.

Being nothing further to come before the board, Chairman Dick adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

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Nicole Gentzkow Steve Dick, Chairman

Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission