RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting – October 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, and Neil Olerud. George Bunn was absent.

The agenda was reviewed. Olerud asked for home rule to be discussed, Nicole Gentzkow, county auditor asked to add Kristen Gilbert, highway secretary, and Scott Smyth with KLJ to the agenda. Hansen moved, seconded by Gilbert to approve the agenda with additions. All aye. Motion carried.

Minutes from the October 1, 2019 regular commission meeting were considered. Gilbert moved, seconded by Olerud to approve minutes with corrections. All aye. Motion carried.

Cindy Morin, deputy recorder appeared before the board to introduce herself. She started in the recorder’s office on October 1, 2019.

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

Randy Gallagher, risk manager and Patrick Engelhart Safety Specialist, with NDACo appeared before the board to discuss some roadway worker safety policy suggestions. Engelhart suggested the county adopt a written policy requiring the use of appropriate high visibility garments, require all vehicles to be parked with the flow of traffic when stopped on or alongside a roadway. He also suggested they require the use of a light bar with traffic advisor technology, and empower all employees with stop work authority. Stop work authority establishes the responsibility and authority of any individual to stop work when an unsafe condition or act could result in an undesirable event. In general terms, the SWA process involves a stop, notify, correct, and resume approach for resolving the situation or condition.

Gallagher informed the board that the county will be receiving three stand up desk stations from the CEG this year. He also let the board know that the siding on the public health building has been completed.

The board discussed who would be the state fair delegate for the 2019 annual meeting being held in Minot, ND. A few names were suggested. Steve Dick was going to reach out to the individuals so a name could be submitted.

Starion Bond Services sent an updated paying agent and registrar’s agreement to be signed. Gilbert moved, seconded by Hansen to sign the updated agreement upon Fallon Kelly’s approval. All aye. Motion carried.

Kirsten Gilbert, highway secretary appeared before the board to discuss the notice to bidders for the motor grader bid. Jeff “Ivan” Hopkins would like the ad to run for three consecutive weeks. The board discussed, and will have the bid opening be November 19, 2019 at 10:30 a.m.

Gilbert also gave an update on the water levels in Ransom County. She said she had gotten a call from the Army Corp letting her know they will be increasing the flow at Bald Hill. Right now the river is a little high, but nothing to worry about yet.

Scott Smyth with KLJ appeared before the board to give an update on the seal coat project on the Sheldon road. The project is complete. The company went over a few days due to weather, however because some federal money was used for the project, the county will not be able to waive or reduce the liquidated damages.

Smyth presented a contract to the board to have KLJ update the GRITS program. It will be an hourly rate, Smyth is estimating it to be around $5000. Gilbert moved, seconded by Hansen to approve the contract pending Fallon Kelly’s approval. All aye. Motion carried.

Neil Olerud would like to see the county start the process to get home rule on the ballot for June 2020.

Being nothing further to come before the board, Chairman Dick adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

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Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission