Ransom County Board of Commissioners

Regular meeting – March 19, 2018

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

The agenda was reviewed, Gentzkow asked to add PGA to discuss Sheldon road restrictions. Gilbert moved, seconded by Hansen, to approve the agenda with additions. All aye. Motion carried.

Fallon Kelly, States Attorney joined the meeting.

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

**9:45 a.m. – Gasoline, Diesel Fuel, & Propane Bids:**

The following bids were received:

* Lisbon Oil Company- Lisbon, ND (gasoline & diesel fuel)

**10:00 a.m. – Gravel, Clay, & Chips:**

The following bids were received:

* Bear Creek Gravel, Inc. – Englevale, ND
* Bernard Mahrer Construction, Inc. – Rutland, ND
* Dick’s Construction, LLC – Englevale, ND
* Lesmeister Gravel, Inc. – Lisbon, ND
* Mark Sand & Gravel Dakota Co. – Fergus Falls, MN
* Camas Sand and Gravel – Wheatland, ND
* Jody Hoenhause – Lisbon, ND

All bids were in proper form. Gilbert motioned to table the bids to allow Kirsten Gilbert, highway secretary to compile the bids and bring them back to the next commission meeting, seconded by Hansen. All aye. Motion carried.

Shelly Schwab, recorder appeared before the board to give an update on what things the Recorder’s office was working on presently. She informed the board she plans to put the index file on the public computer. They are also scanning in more documents to put in Ndrin, as of right now it only goes back to 1960. Schwab has asked to add Heidi Johnson as a full time employee to help get all the updates online. The board all agreed to revisit Johnson as a full time employee at budget time.

Darren Benneweis, sheriff and Janelle Mairs, 911 coordinator appeared before the board to discuss an increase in the fee that has been $50 per month to $90 per month. The new fee will be effective as of February 1, 2019 and it would allow us to get e-dispatch through a narrative.

Benneweis requested that the two new computers they purchased come out of the 911 budget. He also has purchased some e plat books, he paid a small amount extra so they can be printed out if needed. He thinks the e plat books will be very helpful for all emergency responders, and townships if we have a flood. Benneweis would like to see the plat books be paid for out of 911 as well. Hansen moved, seconded by Bunn, to purchase two new computers, e plat books, and increase the 911 fee to $90 per month all out of the 911 budget. All aye. Motion carried.

Benneweis also informed the board they have purchased work phones through Verizon Wireless. The county will no longer reimburse any of the sheriff’s office for their cell phones, we will just pay the Verizon bill. Benneweis said the deputies were getting too many people calling their cell phones when they were not on duty to report incidents. Also, using their personal phone for business opens them up to having to surrender their phones for court. The sheriff’s department was able to get on a public service plan, which is $39.99 per month. It also allows emergency responders to have first access to the towers in an emergency if the towers are being bogged down. They were also able to get jet packs on the public service plan, which will save the county money.

Benneweis would like to see road block closures put on Highway 46 when no travel is advised. He said they have too many people trying to take 46 when the interstate is closed.

Kirsten Gilbert, emergency manager appeared before the board to discuss letters the State and FEMA were requiring to have signed contracts with townships. The letters stated that townships, state, FEMA, and county all agreed the emergency manager will take care of FEMA disbursements. If the contracts were not signed by the township and the Chairman of the board, and an emergency event happened, FEMA money would not be provided. To the townships without a signed contract.

Gilbert gave an update on the potential flood status for Ransom County. She also said Lake Ashtabula is at its lowest level to take more water if needed. Gilbert said there is a fifty percent chance this could be a top 10 run off year per the weather service.

Todd Larson, Tim Larson, and Greg Larson, appeared before the board to discuss the culvert the county plans to put in. They would like to see all culverts out there coincide and work together to keep water flowing. They will be present at the next commission meeting to talk with Shawn Mayfield about the culvert.

Rick Taylor from PGA appeared before the board telling them they are looking into making renovations to their Sheldon facility. However, they don’t want to drop a bunch of money on that facility if they are going to continue to have road restrictions 2-3 months out of the year. Taylor said they would be willing to obey a lower speed limit if they could lift the road restrictions. The board invited Taylor to come back to the next commission meeting to speak to our engineer on this.

Brian Zimprich, NDSU Extension agent appeared before the board to discuss the county getting a credit card. He stated this is their really busy time of the year, and they are exceeding their credit limit to charge which means they are having to expense things on their personal credit cards. Benneweis also would like to see the county get a credit card for department heads, so employees don’t have to pay for things themselves and wait a month to be reimbursed. The board asked Gentzkow to look into the state credit card and provide info at the next commission meeting.

There being nothing further to come before the board, Chairman Dick adjourned the meeting at 11:54 a.m.

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Nicole Gentzkow Steve Dick, Chairman

Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission