RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 16, 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. Auditor Nicole Gentzkow asked to add Lynn Johnson to discuss the Larson Culvert, and Kristie Reinke to discuss new hire. Gilbert moved, seconded by Olerud to approve the agenda with additions. All aye. Motion carried.

Minutes from the April 2, 2019 regular meeting were considered. Bunn moved, seconded by Hansen, to approve minutes with corrections. All aye. Motion carried.

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

Nickela Runck deputy auditor appeared before the board to go over the dental insurance survey. She said the survey came back a tie and was inconclusive. The board decided to leave policy as is for now.

Fallon Kelly arrived at the commission meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Don Eppler and Gwen Crawford appeared before the board to discuss the city Tif. Due to lack of paperwork some parcels that got split were missed in the Tif district. The city would like to have the county go back and pay the miss apportioned money from the Tif district to them. Discussion was had. Dick moved, seconded by Olerud to pay the mis-apportioned county money of $3031.38 back to the city immediately with agreement they would certify paperwork in the future. Dick called for a role vote, Dick – yes, Olerud – yes, Bunn – yes, Gilbert – yes, Hansen – yes. Motion carried. The city also informed the board money had been mis- apportioned and paid out to the school, according to Dr. Steve Johnson the school was unable to cut a check to the city. However, the school would be willing to pay the county, who in turn could pay the city. Fallon Kelly asked that the county invoice the school, and the school would then send the money.

Lance Gulleson and John Guzman with Farmers Union came and presented some quotes for voluntary insurance that the county currently offers through multiple different providers. They explained the rates can be locked in on dental and vision for three years. Life insurance is locked in for life. Guzman asked the board if they could do a panel board to explain the different policies they offer to the staff. The board agreed to allow them to do that.

Lynn Johnson appeared before the board to discuss the Larson culvert. He is concerned with the proposed way of fixing the Larson culvert. They are going to get flooded downstream with as fast as the water will be moving. He would like to see the water slowed down. He stated with the work done in Sargent County they have made the water move faster into Ransom County which has caused more issues.

Scott Olerud appeared on behalf of the water board. He stated Sargent County residents get assessed a special to help deal with the water problems. Ransom County residents didn’t want to be assessed a special. The water board knows there is a problem, but they don’t know where to get the money to fix it. Olerud stated they are asking for a little more time to do some research. Olerud plans to go up in a helicopter with the water board engineer in the coming days to see where all the water originates from. Olerud asked the board to only go with one of the two ninety inch culverts recommended at Todd Larson’s for now. The board will get ahold of Jeff Hopkins and ask him to only go with one culvert for the time.

Kristie Reinke tax director appeared before the board to inform them she has hired Darla Haecherl. She and Suzanne Anderson have agreed to share Haecherl in the tax director’s office and motor vehicle. Reinke stated she would like to see the wages in the tax directors office seriously looked at during budget time. She also requested Haecherl be considered a full time employee as of April 5 when Haecherl started in the tax directors office. Olerud moved, seconded by Hansen to put Darla Haecherl as a full time employee as of April 5, 2019. All aye. Motion carried.

Joe Mathern Enderlin City assessor appeared before the board to discuss farm home exemptions. He would like to see a penalty added to parcels that do not hand their paperwork in on time. He said it is a lot of work on the assessor to go out and do the valuations on the property, Reinke then has to put the property into the computer. Then the farmer may come in with the paperwork and all the work that was just done is wasted. Mathern would also like to see assessing fees go up per parcel, and then the money stay in the tax directors’ office to pay higher wages.

Ted Faye had called in asking about the county maintaining his driveway in exchange for clay. The board was not sure of any agreements made, but agreed Hopkins can decide what benefits our road and easement and make the decision.

Credit Card Policy was presented by Darren Benneweis and Nicole Gentzkow based off of Richland County’s policy. The board agreed to go ahead with the county credit card. All employees will need to sign the policy before having access to the credit card. If the credit card were to be used for unauthorized purchases the county would have the ability to take the money out of the employees next pay check. There also would be a penalty period where they would not be able to use the card.

Bethany Lutheran Sunday School presented a date change to the local gaming permit they had submitted previously due to the weather. Gilbert moved, seconded by Hansen, to allow the date change. All aye. Motion carried.

WELCA presented a local gaming permit for a raffle along with the appropriate fee. Bunn moved, seconded by Olerud to approve the gaming permit. All Aye. Motion carried.

An email was received from Mitch Calkins regarding the failing water system in Englevale. The board was running over on time and agreed to discuss at the next commission meeting.

Bunn moved, seconded by Hansen, to declare a snow emergency declaration for the storm on April 16th, 2019. All aye. Motion carried.

 Being nothing further to come before the board, Chairman Dick adjourned the meeting at 12:55 p.m.

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Nicole Gentzkow Steve Dick, Chairman

Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission