RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING – May 21, 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. All aye. Motion carried.

Minutes from the May 7, 2019 regular commission meeting were considered. Bunn moved, seconded by Olerud, to approve minutes with corrections. All aye. Motion carried.

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

Suzanne Anderson, treasurer, and motor vehicle department, appeared before the board to discuss the motor vehicle contract that is coming up in 2020. The state would like a letter of intent by the end of May 2019, letting them know if the county plans to continue with motor vehicle. They would like a five year commitment. Anderson said it is getting very complicated with all the new rules. Lots of private customers come in, and are unaware of the rules, and more people are getting turned away. Anderson stated only seven counties have a motor vehicle office. Counties aren’t making enough revenue to cover the expenses of running this department. The past few years Ransom County has made $48,000 in revenue. Discussion was had. Bunn moved, seconded by Olerud to send a letter of intent to the state motor vehicle division. All aye. Motion carried. Anderson said she would like for the county to review our fees when the contract comes up next year.

Jeff “Ivan” Hopkins appeared before the board to discuss county road 133 near the hog barn in Englevale being in really bad shape. Hopkins would like to pull some of the road out, and fill it with pit run in two spots. The board discussed, and told him to do what he needs to get the road in good condition.

Hopkins was contacted by Ray Hokum about the driveway to the Sydna shop. Currently the driveway is on Hokum’s land, sometime in the future Hokum would like to sell his property. Before he does that he would like the county to have the land surveyed, and trade some land so the county can own the driveway. Hokum suggested the county trade him some land to the north in exchange for the driveway. Hopkins will research with Fallon Kelly.

Hopkins also mentioned there has been some major erosion at the river near Fort Ransom. A big chunk of bank has fallen into the river, and it is getting close to the road. Board discussed. Olerud advised Hopkins to contact the water board.

Curtis Olafson with Aronnax appeared before the board to discuss the growing problem of opioids. Matt Daniel and Jonathan Novak with Ferrer Poirot Wansbrough law firm presented some opioids statistics. They asked the county if they would like to join the current litigation going against distributions, and pharmacies. The board discussed, and would like to have Fallon Kelly review the attorney’s retainer contract before they decide to join in the litigation.

A local gaming permit was received for Riding for Dreams along with the appropriate fee. Hansen moved, seconded by Dick, to approve the local gaming permit. All aye. Motion carried.

A local gaming permit was received for Cowboy Up along with the appropriate fee. Olerud moved, seconded by Bunn, to approve the local permit. All aye. Motion carried.

Correspondence regarding the Hellendale Drain was discussed. Steve Dick will bring it up at the water board meeting.

Englevale’s failing water system was discussed, the board is not in favor of the county paying for it.

Being nothing further to come before the board, Chairman Dick adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

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Nicole Gentzkow Steve Dick, Chairman

Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission