RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING – June 18, 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 Olerud to approve the agenda with additions. All aye. Motion carried.

Minutes from the regular scheduled June 4, 2019 commission meeting were considered. Bunn moved, seconded by Hansen, to approve the minutes with corrections. All aye. Motion carried.

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

Marcus Rondestvedt, Jason Enger, and Julie Cole appeared before the board to discuss the safety concerns on 130th AVE. Rondestvedt presented a petition signed by county and city residents along 130th AVE asking for the county and city to pay for dust control along that road. He stated there has been many near miss accidents with vehicles and pedestrians. Cole serves on the Public Safety Committee said she has been contacted by a few residents saying they are unable to be in their yards due to the amount of dust from traffic. The City of Lisbon’s engineer from Moore Engineering advised the city council to have the county ask their engineer about federal funds for 130th AVE since it could be used as a truck by pass. Discussion was had amongst the board. The board advised anyone else in the county who would like dust control on their roads are required to pay for it themselves. The boards are not willing to pay for dust control on 130th AVE. However, they will pay for the yardage in front of the county shop. Rondestvedt advised he would just like to get a conversation going between the city and the county to find a solution for this road. Enger added he would like to see something done before someone is seriously hurt, or killed on it.

Jessica Radtke with the USPS appeared before the board and asked them to post a no parking sign across from the social service building from 8:00 a.m. to noon. The post office has had a hardship request at a residence and needs vehicles moved in order to service that request. The board discussed, and thought this request would need to go to the city, as it is a city street. Olerud said he would be in favor of the county sending a letter to the city requesting they post a no parking sign at 204 4th Ave west from 8:00 a.m. to noon.

Becky Carow, social service director appeared before the board to give an update on the meeting she attended in Bismarck regarding the new social service redesign. As of right now Richland, Sargent, and Ransom will be one zoning district. It was discussed at the conference that Sargent and Ransom will each have three board members, and Richland will have four, based on population. Discussion was had. The board would like to meet with the commissioners in Richland and Sargent.

Fallon Kelly, states attorney appeared before the board to let them know he had to let one of his employees go. He hired a new employee at the end of April who has been doing part time states attorney work and has paid her out of his pocket. He asked the board to reimburse him the 20 hours per week they had been paying the previous employee. Gilbert moved, seconded by Olerud to reimburse Kelly for that employee at $14.25 per hour for one and a half months. All aye motion carried. Kelly also stated he will be hiring a part time person to do states attorney work and asked to start that employee at $14.25 per hour instead of the normal wage of $13.00 per hour that most county employees start at. Kelly told the board that is a much lower wage than paralegals normally start at. He said his employees have to learn the job quickly, in order to make it. Olerud moved, seconded by Bunn to pay Fallon Kelly’s new part time states attorney employee $14.25 per hour. A roll call vote was taken, Hansen – no, Gilbert- no, Bunn – yes, Olerud – yes, Dick – yes. Motion carried.

Scott Smyth with KLJ appeared before the board to let them know he and Jeff Hopkins were going to go look at areas near the Mennis Land, Roach Land, and Virgil Schultz bridge.

Shelly Schwab, recorder appeared before the board to ask where the coroner’s records were kept. Bea Roach said she has two books in her office, the books are from before 1992. Roach said she is not sure what changed after that, but she doesn’t have anything else. Fallon Kelly was going to research. The board decided it would be best to appoint the clerk of court the keeper of coroner’s records. Olerud moved, seconded by Gilbert to appoint clerk of court to be the keeper of the coroner’s records. All aye. Motion carried.

Teresa Haecherl appeared before the board on behalf of the personal committee asking if July 5th could be treated the same as the day after Thanksgiving this year. Olerud moved, seconded by Gilbert to close the court house on July 5th, 2019. All aye. Motion carried. The court house will be closed, employees can work if they choose, and otherwise they will have to use vacation.

Kirsten Gilbert, emergency manager appeared before the board and let them know that the president signed the disaster declaration for the flood of 2019. She stated when she originally took the emergency manager job, she told them if there was a disaster they would need to consider increasing her pay or hiring a part time applicant agent. Gilbert stated her work load will double now that this declaration was signed. She is requesting an extra $5000 per year until the close of the 2019 disaster declaration. Gilbert stated the funds would be able to come out of the FEMA account, which currently is sitting at $93,000. Hansen moved, seconded by Olerud, to pay applicant agent $5000 per year salary subject to all wage per hour benefit rules within the county for the lifetime of the 2019 disaster starting July 1, 2019. All in favor – Hansen, Gilbert, Bunn, and Olerud. Opposed – Dick. Motion carried.

Olerud moved, seconded by Hansen, to appoint Kirsten Gilbert as applicant agent. All aye. Motion carried.

Sand Dune in McLeod, ND requested an event permit along with the appropriate fee. Hansen moved, seconded by Bunn, to approve the permit. All aye. Motion carried.

Sticklestead in Fort Ransom requested an event permit along with the appropriate fee. Gilbert moved, seconded by Olerud to approve the permit. All aye. Motion carried.

McLeod Ag in McLeod requested a gaming permit along with the appropriate fee. Olerud moved, seconded by Gilbert to approve the permit. All aye. Motion carried.

Being nothing further to come before the board, Chairman Dick adjourned the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

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Nicole Gentzkow Steve Dick, Chairman

Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission