RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting – August 2, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Joe Mathern at 9:00 a.m. Roll call was done. Gilbert, Olerud, Beerman, Schwab, and Mathern present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

In attendance via zoom: Lonnie Rotenberger, Maria Prouty, Nickela Runck, Kathie Erickson, Shelly Schwab, Bea Roach, Cindy Morin, and Brenna Welton.

Agenda – Was reviewed. Gilbert moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Schwab. All aye. Motion carried.

Minutes – From the previous regular scheduled commission meeting on July 19, 2022 were reviewed. Gilbert moved, seconded by Olerud to approve the minutes with corrections. All aye. Motion carried.

Manual warrants – In the amount of $21,607.62 were reviewed by the board. Olerud moved to approve manual warrants with the correction to the Verizon bill, seconded by Beerman. All aye. Motion carried.

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| CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC  | 129.02 |
| INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT.  | 12,003.95 |
| JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA  | 898.55 |
| LAKE AGASSIZ REGIONAL DEV. CORP.  | 3,000.00 |
| LISBON, CITY OF  | 65.50 |
| MARCO  | 1,074.71 |
| VOYAGER FLEET SYSTEMS, INC.  | 136.93 |
| WEX BANK  | 4,298.96 |
| Total | 21,607.62 |

Offsite permits - Two offsite liquor permits for Stiklestad Learning Center were received along with the appropriate fee. The township had not signed off on the permits yet. Olerud moved to approved the permits pending the townships approval, Beerman seconded the motion. All aye. Motion carried.

Utility permit – Sundale Hutterian Association submitted a utility permit along with the appropriate fee. James Hofer let Joe Mathern know the Colony planned to completely trench the road open to lay pipe. According to the permit, no open trenching on any of the road surfaces is allowed. Discussion was had. The board denied the permit due to the wording of no trenching. They will only allow boring under roadways.

Election - Gentzkow asked the board to allow her to have a voting center in Enderlin and Lisbon for the November election. Gentzkow has had a few requests from Enderlin residents, that they miss having the option to vote in Enderlin. Enderlin is the second largest city in Ransom County and Gentzkow feels it is important to meet the needs of those residents. Gentzkow has already spoke to the Secretary of State’s office and they are working on getting the additional election machines needed for an added polling site in Ransom County. Olerud moved, seconded by Beerman to approve a second election site. All aye. Motion carried.

TextMyGov- Gentzkow let the board know she thinks textmygov would be a very good thing to have to get info out to county residents. Also, Enderlin has been requesting the county to get this and they would be willing to contribute some funds to help support it. The county got a quote previously from textmygov, the quote was $4800 the first year, and $3200 annually after that. There is a two-year commitment the first year, after the initial two years, the contract can be canceled by providing a 60-day written notice. After the initial two-year contract, the agreement will revert to a year-to-year contract. Gilbert moved, seconded by Beerman to sign a two-year contract with textmygov and use ARPA funds to pay for it. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Local Permit – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church submitted a local charity permit along with the appropriate fee for a pie auction to help raise money to replace the stained-glass windows in the church. Olerud moved to approve the permit, seconded by Schwab. All aye. Motion carried.

State’s Attorney Fallon Kelly Arrived

Ron Carlson, Ryan Lyons, Duffy Hansen, and Chad from True North Steel joined the meeting.

Fox Farm Bridge – Scott Smyth with KLJ appeared before the board to let them know he spoke to Bryon Fuchs, and the Fox Farm bridge was one of the top-ranking bridges to be selected to be 100% funded through the bridge program funding bill. However, it is still pending upper management review. Smyth asked the board with the new info; how much they would like KLJ to continue to look into options for the Fox Farm Bridge at the counties expense. Ron Carlson presented four different route options along with cost to the board. Schwab motioned to proceed with the bridge application funding, seconded by Beerman. All aye. Motion carried. Beerman moved to go with option B on Ron Carlson’s list of proposals which is a temporary road going south. Enderson Construction bid $52,950 to install the road, $23,000 to reclaim the road. The county would be responsible for contacting land owners and easement contracts. Schwab seconded the motion. Discussion was had. Roll call vote was taken: Gilbert – yes, Olerud – yes, Beerman – yes, Schwab – yes, Mathern – yes. Motion carried. Carlson told the board if residents don’t have access by October 1, 2022 the county will own their properties.

The board asked Chad from True North Steel to present his information. Chad stated if the county were to get a premanufactured module steel bridge from them it would take one day to install the bridge. Cost of steel are constantly changing so he recommends calling to get a quote.

Randy Gallagher – Let the board know that Kerry Peuser with Michael J. Burns Architects LTD. will be at the courthouse on Tuesday August 23,2022 at 10:00 a.m. to do a walk through to see what the commission would like to see for the addition. Gallagher also let the board know he has contacted Crossroads about getting a light on the roof to shine at the flag so he can leave it up at night. Gallagher let the board know there will be an employee pot luck on August 16, 2022 for Curt Mairs retirement and then an open house for the public. Gallagher also let the board know he got zero applicants for Curt Mairs job. However, Suzanne Anderson is willing to help out if the board is willing to go up on the pay. Anderson will do it three days a week, and in 2023 Kristie Reinke may take over.

Greg Schwab let the board know he contacted ND LTAP about training for the road department, and he is booked through the fall. However, would be happy to coordinate something for the future. Joe also talked to RDO about training for the future.

With nothing further to come before the board. The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 a.m. by Chairman Mathern.

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Nicole Gentzkow Joe Mathern

Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission