RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting – June 7, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Joe Mathern at 9:00 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members present: Connie Gilbert, Norm Hansen, Neil Olerud, Greg Schwab, and Joe Mathern.

Agenda – was reviewed by the board. Gentzkow asked to discuss Tracy Ekeren, Enderlin City Advocate’s request regarding TextMyGov.com. Olerud also had something to add to miscellaneous. Gilbert moved, seconded by Schwab, to approve the agenda with additions. All Aye. Motion carried.

Manual Warrants - In the amount of $11,095.19 were reviewed by the board. Olerud moved, seconded by Hansen to approve manual warrants in the amount of $11,095.19. All aye. Motion carried.

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| **Vendor Name** | **Amount** |
| CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP  | 1,597.65 |
| JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA  | 5,752.23 |
| LIBERTY BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC.  | 249.64 |
| LISBON, CITY OF  | 281.23 |
| MARCO  | 966.42 |
| SOUTHEAST WATER USERS  | 55.64 |
| WEX BANK  | 2,192.38 |
| Total | 11,095.19 |

Minutes – From the previous regular scheduled commission meeting on May 17, 2022 were considered. Gilbert moved to approve the minutes from May 17, 2022. Seconded by Olerud. All aye. Motion carried.

Olerud had a resident contact him about wanting to put a fence in, the resident wanted to make sure they were out of the right of way.

9:30 A.M. Motor Grader Bid Award –The county received two bids for motor graders, both with a purchase or lease option. Hopkins let the board know both bids had all the specs that were required. The John Deere motor grader was quoted $47,000 less than the butler machinery grader, and comes with a steering wheel which the operators prefer. Hopkins recommended the county go with the John Deere machine. Olerud motion to purchase the John Deere grader for $390,000.00 and figure out financing after consulting with State’s Attorney Fallon Kelly, seconded by Hansen. Mathern asked for a roll call vote: Gilbert – yes, Olerud – yes, Hansen – yes, Schwab – yes, and Mathern – yes. All aye. Motion carried.

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|  | Purchase Price | Lease payment x 5 | Interest | Balloon Payment |
| Butler | $438,266.27 | $56,499.43 | 4.29% | $220,000 |
| John Deere | $390,000 | $61,061.19 | ? | $185,030.00 |

Randy Gallagher – Risk manager, appeared before the board to go over the WSI and LMS checks the county received this year. The LMS check is for counties who successfully participate in WSI learning management system (computer-based training) program in 2021. The county received a five percent premium discount check which was $1,093.64. The second check was for premium safety discount which all counties participated in a mandatory claims management and drug free workplace training program in 2021 and NDACo received confirmation from WSI that counties passed the audit which means each county is eligible to receive a 5% premium discount. Ransom County received a check for $1,093.64.

10:00 a.m. Equalization - At 10:00 a.m., the regular commission meeting was recessed. The county equalization meeting was brought to order and turned over to tax director Kristie Reinke. See attachment for the equalization changes.

Reinke presented a list of proposed changes regarding properties that were missed between the township/city equalization and the county equalization.

Cities were discussed.

Gilbert moved to approve the changes in Elliott due to no representation from Elliott City at their scheduled equalization meeting. Hansen seconded the changes. All aye. Motion carried.

Olerud moved to approve the changes in Fort Ransom City, seconded by Gilbert. All aye. Motion carried.

Gilbert moved to approve the changes in Lisbon City, seconded by Olerud. All aye. Motion carried.

Hansen moved to approve the changes in Enderlin City, seconded by Olerud. All aye. Motion carried.

Townships were then discussed.

Ron Carlson appeared before the board with some concerns regarding his tax valuations and the Fox Farm Bridge. Carlson stated they are paying for amenities they don’t have access to. Carlson has done a lot of research and found that the county has zero obligation to provide any service to anyone who pays taxes according to the state tax commissioner and the public service commissioner.

Gilbert moved to approve all township changes, seconded by Olerud. All aye. Motion carried.

Reinke also presented the final sales ratio study for the year 2022 returned by the State Department of Equalization. The county needs to be in compliance which is anywhere from 90-100%.

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| Residential  | 93.4% |
| Commercial | 96.5% |
| Agland/Gravel Pit | 95.09% |

Olerud moved to approve residential at 93%, seconded by Gilbert. All aye. Motion carried.

Olerud moved to approve commercial at 96%, seconded by Gilbert. All aye. Motion carried.

Schwab moved to approve agland/gravel pits at 95%, seconded by Gilbert. All aye. Motion carried.

Reinke let the board know she has been contacted by the sheriff’s department and the mobile homes owned by the county in Stranders are going to be removed and scrapped at no charge to the county.

Daryl Karlgaurd- appeared before the board to let them know he had appeared before the City of Lisbon Council and opposed the increase to his carwash lots. The city was willing to decrease his taxable valuation on his building to offset the increase to his lot value. Karlgaurd was content with the compromise. Olerud asked Karlgaurd if there was anything else he needed from the County, Karlgaurd was only attending county equalization because he was told he needed to.

Jeff Hopkins – Highway superintendent let the board know he has gotten a complaint about the road wash out in fields. The individual who complained to him, stated the washout debris was county property and felt it was the counties responsibility to clean it up. The board discussed. Hopkins will talk to Fallon Kelly and get back to the board on this matter.

Local Gaming Permit- was submitted by Mcleod AG 4H along with the appropriate fee. Olerud moved, seconded by Hansen to approve the gaming permit. All aye. Motion carried.

Fox Farm Bridge – Joe Mathern let the board know he went and spoke to Louis Bergh one of the land owners. Bergh would possibly be willing to let the county use her land for a time period while a bridge was being built. However, she wants compensation, and it put back to the original condition. Bergh informed Mathern the North County trail runs along her land, and there is to be no traffic except foot traffic on the trail.

There being nothing further to come before the board, Chairman Mathern adjourned the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

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Nicole Gentzkow Joe Mathern, Chairman

Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission