RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting – May 17, 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. Schwab moved to approve the agenda as presented. Olerud seconded the motion. All aye. Motion carried.

Minutes – From the previous regular scheduled commission meeting on May 3, 2022 were considered. Gilbert moved, seconded by Olerud to approve minutes with corrections. All aye. Motion carried.

Bills – In the amount of $166,407.23 were reviewed. Olerud moved, seconded by Hansen for discussion only to exclude the $30,000 for the Water Board and to add $130.00 for the Post Office for the Auditor’s office PO box annual fee. All opposed, motion failed. Discussion was had. Gilbert moved, seconded by Olerud $130.00 for the Auditor’s office PO box annual fee, and First Medic’s monthly tax subsidy. All aye. Motion carried. Schwab moved to approve the bills as presented, seconded by Olerud. All aye. Motion carried.

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| **Vendor Name** | **Amount** |
| ACUITY SPECIALTY PRODUCTS, INC | 484.88 |
| ARAMARK UNIFORM SERVICES | 253.85 |
| AUTO VALUE | 346.49 |
| BARNES COUNTY CORRECTIONAL CENTER | 1,700.00 |
| BEAR CREEK GRAVEL | 1,197.84 |
| CARDINAL HEALTH 110, INC. | 6,521.00 |
| CASS COUNTY GOVERNMENT | 336.80 |
| CASS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE | 38.50 |
| CODE 4 SERVICES,INC. | 4,739.70 |
| COMPUTER EXPRESS | 3,430.47 |
| COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHOLOGY | 2,945.00 |
| CREEKSIDE REPAIR LLC | 66.00 |
| DAKOTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS | 557.99 |
| DAKOTA VALLEY ELECTRIC CO-OP. | 77.08 |
| DAKOTA WATER SOLUTIONS | 45.00 |
| DICKEY RURAL NETWORK INC. | 1,462.12 |
| EDISON, HEATHER | 87.00 |
| ERICKSON, KATHIE | 15.16 |
| FIRST MEDIC AMBULANCE | 4,966.67 |
| FP MAILING SOLUTIONS | 149.85 |
| GALLAGHER, RANDY | 451.64 |
| GILBERT, KIRSTEN | 50.00 |
| GONZALEZ, JORGE | 75.00 |
| GORDY'S GRILL & FILL | 22.26 |
| HEGLE, KELSEY | 71.37 |
| HOAG & SONS' | 129.15 |
| HOPKINS, ROBERTA | 353.80 |
| INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT. | 545.70 |
| INNOVATIVE OFFICE SOLLUTIONS, LLC | 463.32 |
| INTERCOMMUNITY TELEPHONE COMPANY | 75.00 |
| JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS | 100.00 |
| JOHN DEERE CREDIT | 40,354.98 |
| JONES, CHELSEY | 48.56 |
| KELLY, FALLON M. | 2,705.80 |
| KLJ ENGINEERING LLC | 238.44 |
| LAQUINTA INNS & SUITES | 86.40 |
| LARSON, MEGHAN | 72.25 |
| LEE, DEBRA | 1,518.27 |
| LEXIPOL LLC | 374.00 |
| LIBERTY BUSINESS SYSTEMS | 159.45 |
| LISBON OIL COMPANY | 10,056.32 |
| LISBON POSTMASTER | 960.00 |
| LISBON TRUE VALUE | 27.47 |
| MAIN STREET FARM AND HOME | 12.65 |
| MAIRS, JANELLE | 86.00 |
| MALEY, ANDREW | 160.00 |
| MARSHALL & SWIFT | 649.95 |
| ND DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION | 3,821.43 |
| ND SACCHO | 3,036.00 |
| ND WEED CONTROL ASSOCIATION | 275.00 |
| NORTHWESTERN EQUIPMENT, INC. | 646.00 |
| OTTER TAIL POWER CO | 962.98 |
| QUAL, ANGELA | 250.00 |
| QUALITY INN-BISMARCK | 423.00 |
| RADISSON HOTEL-BISMARCK | 172.80 |
| RAMKOTA HOTEL OF BISMARCK | 86.40 |
| RANSOM CO WATER RESOURCE DIST | 35,000.00 |
| RANSOM COUNTY GAZETTE- CASSELTON | 475.44 |
| RDO EQUIPMENT-FARGO | 1,252.94 |
| RDO EQUIPMENT-LISBON | 535.42 |
| RECORD KEEPERS, LLC | 49.00 |
| RICHLAND COUNTY CORRECTIONS | 1,705.00 |
| ROACH, BERNADINE | 93.46 |
| ROTENBERGER, LONNIE | 190.75 |
| SARGENT COUNTY DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT | 1,008.85 |
| TEAL'S MARKET | 4.98 |
| TRIZETTO PROVIDER SOLUTIONS | 113.47 |
| TRUENORTH STEEL | 31,337.12 |
| WASTE MANAGEMENT OF WI-MN | 598.48 |
| WELTON, BRENNA | 100.00 |
| WEX HEALTH, INC. | 58.50 |
| ZIMPRICH, BRIAN | 37.70 |
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| Total | 171,503.90 |

Fuel Bids – Greg Evenson appeared before the board to ask why his bid was rejected for not giving a discount. He was the only local business to submit a bid. Evenson presented some statistics regarding small communities, and the importance of retaining people and local businesses.

10:00 A.M. Motor Grader Bids

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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 |

Both Butler and John Deere are looking at a February to March delivery date depending on production. Hopkins will review the specs and bid award will be assigned at the next commission meeting on June 7, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

KLJ– Scott Smyth appeared before the board to go over a new round of federal funding for county bridges that could provide one hundred percent funding for off system bridges which is what Fox Farm is considered. There would be no cap to the dollar limit. Smyth said type, size, and location of the bridge could be determined at a later date. Smyth is going to submit the funding application for the Fox Farm Bridge and the Painter Bridge, the county will hopefully know by the end of July or August if one of the bridges has been chosen. Smyth presented a scope of service preliminary engineering Bridge # 37-117-15.0, structure replacement, and incidentals contract for $10,000 for the board to review and sign. Hansen moved, seconded by Gilbert to approve the preliminary engineering for the Fox Farm bridge. All aye. Motion carried.

Lee Albright – Greg Schwab spoke to Albright and doesn’t see the reason the county would need to do a hydrology study before adding more gravel to his road.

Lisbon Fire Department - submitted two gaming permits for electronic gambling machines along with the appropriate fee. One application was for the Sand Dune Bar in McLeod, the other was for the Silver Prairie Saloon in Mcleod. Gilbert moved to approve the gaming permits, seconded by Hansen. Olerud abstained from the vote. Mathern, Schwab, Hansen, and Gilbert were in favor. Motion carried.

Cost of Living – Was discussed. Gentzkow needs an idea of what to put in for cost of living so wages can be entered before the first preliminary budget hearing. Schwab motioned for a ten percent cost of living to be figured just for preliminary budget to see where that would put the budget. Mathern called for a second three times, motion failed due to lack of a second. The board decided to have Gentzkow figure the first copy of preliminary budget hearing paperwork with a ten percent cost of living increase. The ten percent is just for preliminary purposes, and being used since it is an easy number.

Load Pass – Was discussed. Gentzkow and Benneweis think load pass would be a benefit to the county. Benneweis would like to see all five commissioners on board if the county decides to go with it.

Motor Graders- Mathern presented a list of all the motor graders the county leases, the hours, and the yearly payments. In 2021 the county spent $181,165.54 on motor grader leases. None of the graders have more than 5,000 hours on them. Mathern doesn’t feel the county needs to purchase a new grader this year, the county needs to keep them until they have around 10,000 hours on them.

Software- Mathern has talked to Kathie Erickson and Nicole Gentzkow who have both discussed some concern about the current software program the county uses for finances. They have gone through many employees in the past few years, and just lost their programmer. There is no support on the financial side and it makes getting any help very difficult. They don’t have a manual, which leaves the county at their mercy waiting for help and assistance. The payroll system which the county signed on to use through CPT was purchased in October of 2020 and it still is not up and running completely. Mathern spoke to Pam Malone out of Sargent County and said they recently switched from CPT to Tyler Technologies and it was around $180,000. Gentzkow doesn’t know what the right answer is, or who the best company is, but thinks the county should at least discuss it throughout departments and the board. Mathern suggest the board plan to spend $250,000 on software if we switch to another company.

Dust Control- Mathern asked the board how they felt about the county buying a truck to do their own dust control throughout the county. The board was not in favor. Currently residents’ contract someone of their choice to come in and put dust control on the roads. Then notify Hopkins, or the blade operator so they know not to blade the road as often.

Liquor License – Should the county increase what they charge for liquor license or leave the same? Gentzkow will look into what other counties are charging and get back to the board.

HR- Discussion was had if the county should hire a full time HR person, or hire a firm and buy so many hours. Mathern will get some info on firms who offer HR service to counties.

130th Avenue- Mathern asked the board if they are interested in seeing 130th avenue going past the county shop turned into a truck bypass road. At the time there wasn’t much interest.

Courthouse Security- Was discussed.

Policy Manual – Still being worked on, meetings to review it will be set up at a later date.

Being nothing further to come before the board, Chairman Mathern adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

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Nicole Gentzkow Joe Mathern, Chairman

Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission