RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting – May 3, 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.

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

Tax Department – Kristie Reinke, tax director appeared before the board and passed out her letter of resignation as of 12/31/2022 she would like to step down as tax director. She would still like to work part time in the office three days a week if the board and new tax director will allow for the next year or two to help train. Reinke recommended that the office is busy enough to employee the tax director, two full time employees, and a part time employee. No decisions were made about hiring at the time, it will be discussed during budget meetings.

Manual Warrants – In the amount of $26,197.68 were reviewed by the board. Schwab moved, seconded by Olerud to pay manual warrants in the amount of $26,197.68. All aye. Motion carried.

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| CASS COUNTY ELECTIC COOP | 2,042.94 |
| JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA  | 17,820.78 |
| LIBERTY BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC. | 249.64 |
| LISBON, CITY OF  | 277.09 |
| MARCO  | 1,323.40 |
| ND GAME & FISH DEPARTMENT | 51.00 |
| SOUTHEAST WATER USERS  | 50.69 |
| WEX BANK  | 4,382.14 |
|  |  |
| Total | 26,197.68 |

Butler Machinery- Darin Underhill appeared before the board to introduce himself as the new sales representative. He wanted to see if the board had any questions before the bid opening on May 17, 2022 that he could answer. Underhill also let the board know just like John Deere Butler’s lead time is roughly ten to twelve months.

Emergency Manager – Kirsten Gilbert appeared before the board to give a flood update. She currently has fifteen townships who have reported rain damage to her for FEMA. She will not know if the Presidential FEMA declaration goes through until July 2022. Right now, she is encouraging townships and county to take as many pictures of damage as possible before fixing anything incase the declaration does go through. Kirsten Gilbert will know the county’s dollar thrush holder later this week when she has her state conference call. More than likely the Fox Farm Bridge will not qualify for any FEMA funds since it has been in rough shape for a significant amount of time and wasn’t just damaged due to the recent rain or flooding.

Fallon Kelly, States Attorney arrived.

Highway Department – Jeff Hopkins appeared before the board to let them know he has closed the Painter Bridge due to the abutments washing away. There are two bad spots on the Valley Road that he has also closed and three washouts along county roads 56 & 8 that are closed. Hopkins let the board know that the culvert along HWY 56 has washed out three times in fifteen years and possibly should be looked at by the County, township, and waterboard to see what can be done. Hopkins also let the board know he has leased a tractor from Green Iron for the season.

Lee Albright - Appeared before the board to let them know he lives at 12539 74th Street South East in Alleghany Township. T. 133, R.57, Section 12, SW1/4. Albright would like to see the county add more gravel to county road 8 to prevent the road from washing out and flowing into his yard. Albright stated there is a low spot in the road there and that is why the water is going over the road at his property. Fallon Kelly, States Attorney advised the board and Hopkins that before any changes could be made to the road to change the natural flow of the water, he suggested a hydrology study be done.

Scott Smyth – With KLJ appeared before the board to let them know that land owners near the Anslem bridge will be getting letters notifying them that crews will be out there working. Smyth is also going to spend some time driving around with Hopkins looking at flood areas.

Sheriff’s Department – Joe Mathern asked Darren Benneweis to touch base with Patriot One to see if they can come do an assessment of the courthouse grounds and give an estimate to the board.

Text My Gov- Darren Benneweis and Fallon Kelly were at the City of Enderlin council meeting and the city would be interested in sharing the cost of Text My Gov if the county were to go with it. Gentzkow will do a little more research, she was told it wasn’t an option before but will call back and ask again.

Jailing – Sheriff Darren Benneweis stated the relationship with boarding prisoners in Richland County has significantly improved. Benneweis would be interested in revisiting a contract with them.

First Medic Ambulance – Sklyer Tibbs, Bjorn Ringdahl, and Ken Krupich, appeared before the board to introduce Skyler the new manager in Lisbon. They also let the board know that they have made a change in the way they manage the Lisbon location. They are now licensed as BLS (basic life support) with ALS (advanced life support) capabilities. Lisbon was the smallest community in the state doing ALS, and with the statewide crisis of getting paramedics and EMT’s First Medic made the decision to change to BLS. Service will be one hundred percent the same, they are just managing their paramedics and calls differently.

Renaissance Zone Authority – Tracy Ekeren sent a letter to the board letting them know that the City of Enderlin is in the process of pursuing an extension of the Renaissance Zone for another five years. As required by the application/extension process a letter of approval from the Ransom County Commission in support of the Enderlin Renaissance Zone is required. Olerud moved seconded, by Hansen for Fallon Kelly to draft a letter of support similar to the previous letter supporting the Renaissance Zone renewal in the City of Enderlin. All aye. Motion carried.

Hanson Township – Fallon Kelly, State’s Attorney drafted a letter to LaMoure County Commissioners, Greenville Township, and LaMoure County State’s Attorney James Shockman regarding section line township road on the west side of NW1/4 of section 30, township 134, range 58 (Hanson Township). The letter stated as of July 31, 2022 Hanson Township will no longer maintain the roadway. Kelly asked for confirmation in writing of plans on taking over maintenance of the roadway in question. If no response is made, Hanson Township will erect a “Road Closed” sign on the East half of the roadway in question. Kelly wanted it noted that Hanson Township in no way is trying to wrong the one resident who lives at the end of this road. However, this resident is a LaMoure County resident, and all tax dollars they pay go to LaMoure County or Greenville Township. Hanson Township is hoping LaMoure county is willing to step up and maintain this road as they have for years.

Morale – At the commission meeting on April 19, 2022 it was discussed to bring the Village in for morale issues. The Board discussed. Gentzkow also let them know Jodi Bruns with Dickey County NDSU extension was highly recommended to give some classes to help with issues like this. The board asked Gentzkow to contact Bruns and The Village.

Fox Farm Bridge – Sheriff Darren Benneweis appeared before the board to let them know that the Fox Farm Bridge has been damaged due to the rain/flooding and four families have relocated. There is no way to get fire or medical services back there if they are needed. Benneweis would like to see this issue discussed immediately. A special meeting will be held Monday May 9, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the Fox Farm Bridge.

Exempt/Non-Exempt Employees – Tanya Wieler had prepared a list of employees who could be classified as exempt/nonexempt employees based off of U.S. Department of Labor wage and hour division. The board discussed and decided to add this to the special meeting agenda on Monday May 9, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

Being nothing further to come before the board, Chairman Mathern adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

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Nicole Gentzkow Joe Mathern, Chairman

Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission