RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting – April 18, 2023

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

Agenda – was presented. Mathern moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Bishop. All aye. Motion carried.

Minutes – from the previous regular scheduled commission meeting on April 4, 2023 were considered. Bishop moved, seconded by Mathern to approve the minutes with corrections. All aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner’s Audit Listing – was reviewed in the amount of $63,613.42. Mathern moved, seconded by Olerud to approve commissioner’s audit listing for the amount of $63,613.43 with the exception of the park board warrant for Dead colt so it could be looked into. All aye. Motion carried.

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| 8376 | 4/21/2023 | ASCHE, HOLLIE | 57.64 |
| 8377 | 4/21/2023 | GILBERT, KIRSTEN | 100.00 |
| 8378 | 4/21/2023 | HEGLE, KELSEY | 204.40 |
| 8379 | 4/21/2023 | HOPKINS, ROBERTA PO BOX 950 | 19.15 |
| 8380 | 4/21/2023 | JONES, CHELSEY | 124.10 |
| 8381 | 4/21/2023 | KELLY, FALLON M. | 2,170.03 |
| 8382 | 4/21/2023 | LARSON, MEGHAN | 145.45 |
| 8383 | 4/21/2023 | RANSOM COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION | 450.00 |
| 8384 | 4/21/2023 | WELTON, BRENNA | 411.44 |
| 8385 | 4/21/2023 | ZIMPRICH, BRIAN | 742.71 |
| 83022 | 4/21/2023 | A W DIESEL SERVICE | 102.32 |
| 83023 | 4/21/2023 | ANDREW S. MARQUART | 333.00 |
| 83024 | 4/21/2023 | ARAMARK UNIFORM SERVICES | 200.96 |
| 83025 | 4/21/2023 | CARDINAL HEALTH 110, INC. | 18,384.87 |
| 83026 | 4/21/2023 | COMPUTER EXPRESS | 1,736.06 |
| 83027 | 4/21/2023 | COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHOLOGY | 2,945.00 |
| 83028 | 4/21/2023 | DAKOTA VALLEY ELECTRIC CO-OP. | 110.54 |
| 83029 | 4/21/2023 | DICKEY RURAL NETWORK INC. | 1,681.00 |
| 83030 | 4/21/2023 | FANTASY FURNITURE | 20.92 |
| 83031 | 4/21/2023 | FORT RANSOM SODBUSTERS | 2,500.00 |
| 83032 | 4/21/2023 | GREEN IRON EQUIPMENT | 133.11 |
| 83033 | 4/21/2023 | HUETHER,SCOTT | 1,791.67 |
| 83034 | 4/21/2023 | INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT. | 1,621.95 |
| 83035 | 4/21/2023 | INTERCOMMUNITY TELEPHONE COMPANY | 75.00 |
| 83036 | 4/21/2023 | KUSTOM MACHINE, INC. | 122.50 |
| 83037 | 4/21/2023 | LISBON OIL COMPANY | 8.41 |
| 83038 | 4/21/2023 | MLGC | 569.88 |
| 83039 | 4/21/2023 | NDAAO | 530.00 |
| 83040 | 4/21/2023 | ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS LLC | 124.89 |
| 83041 | 4/21/2023 | PROUTY,MARIA | 40.00 |
| 83042 | 4/21/2023 | QUADIENT LEASING USA, INC | 868.86 |
| 83043 | 4/21/2023 | QUAL, ANGELA | 250.00 |
| 83044 | 4/21/2023 | QUILL CORPORATION | 27.99 |
| 83045 | 4/21/2023 | RANSOM COUNTY GAZETTE | 673.16 |
| 83046 | 4/21/2023 | RANSOM COUNTY SADD CHAPTER | 500.00 |
| 83047 | 4/21/2023 | RDO EQUIPMENT-FARGO | 8,033.21 |
| 83048 | 4/21/2023 | RECORD KEEPERS, LLC | 55.00 |
| 83049 | 4/21/2023 | SARGENT COUNTY DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT | 4,717.28 |
| 83050 | 4/21/2023 | SCH WELD DBA SUBWAY | 1,397.00 |
| 83051 | 4/21/2023 | SCHOOL NURSE SUPPLY, INC. | 7,046.00 |
| 83052 | 4/21/2023 | THE SUGAR PALLET | 26.00 |
| 83053 | 4/21/2023 | THOMPSON,TERRY | 358.33 |
| 83054 | 4/21/2023 | TITAN MACHINERY | 56.39 |
| 83055 | 4/21/2023 | TRIZETTO PROVIDER SOLUTIONS | 407.03 |
| 83056 | 4/21/2023 | WEX HEALTH, INC. | 63.00 |
| 83057 | 4/21/2023 | WILTSE,CAYLA | 1,677.17 |
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|  |  | **Total** | **63,613.42** |

Manual Warrants – in the amount of $11,797.55 were reviewed. Bishop moved, seconded by Mathern to approve the manual warrants in the amount of $11,797.55. All aye. Motion carried.

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| 3094 | OTTER TAIL POWER CO | 2,485.53 |
| 3095 | OTTER TAIL POWER CO | 48.08 |
| 3096 | OTTER TAIL POWER CO | 61.83 |
| 3097 | CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP | 1,829.50 |
| 3098 | OTTER TAIL POWER CO | 309.99 |
| 3099 | OTTER TAIL POWER CO | 36.48 |
| 3100 | OTTER TAIL POWER CO | 387.11 |
| 3102 | CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP | 128.06 |
| 3103 | LISBON, CITY OF | 167.71 |
| 3104 | LISBON, CITY OF | 16.00 |
| 3105 | LISBON, CITY OF | 39.50 |
| 3106 | LISBON, CITY OF | 70.15 |
| 3107 | MARCO | 137.38 |
| 3108 | MARCO | 10.00 |
| 3109 | LIBERTY BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC. | 258.09 |
| 3110 | LIBERTY BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC. | 90.05 |
| 3111 | LIBERTY BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC. | 156.46 |
| 3112 | LIBERTY BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC. | 7.77 |
| 3113 | LIBERTY BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC. | -258.09 |
| 3114 | MARCO | 137.38 |
| 3115 | MARCO | 10.00 |
| 3116 | SOUTHEAST WATER USERS | 54.37 |
| 3117 | BELL BANK | 15.00 |
| 3118 | BREMER BANK | 25.00 |
| 3119 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 14.99 |
| 3120 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 16.48 |
| 3121 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 17.98 |
| 3122 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 19.89 |
| 3123 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 12.69 |
| 3124 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 5.99 |
| 3125 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 204.97 |
| 3126 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 4.77 |
| 3127 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 19.99 |
| 3128 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 5.99 |
| 3129 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 43.00 |
| 3130 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 7.78 |
| 3131 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 5.99 |
| 3132 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 16.39 |
| 3133 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 1.03 |
| 3134 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 59.99 |
| 3135 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 4.01 |
| 3136 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 11.99 |
| 3137 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 5.99 |
| 3138 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 13.99 |
| 3139 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 16.39 |
| 3140 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 0.95 |
| 3141 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 9.57 |
| 3142 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 5.99 |
| 3143 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 64.92 |
| 3144 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 5.84 |
| 3145 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 14.00 |
| 3146 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 0.15 |
| 3147 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 86.20 |
| 3148 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 174.90 |
| 3149 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 69.99 |
| 3150 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 339.20 |
| 3151 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 167.21 |
| 3152 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 40.01 |
| 3153 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 42.40 |
| 3154 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 595.68 |
| 3155 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 9.98 |
| 3156 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 6.99 |
| 3157 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 3.98 |
| 3158 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 3.59 |
| 3159 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 7.98 |
| 3160 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 1.20 |
| 3161 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 4.99 |
| 3162 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 1.20 |
| 3163 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 31.02 |
| 3164 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 14.98 |
| 3165 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 10.99 |
| 3166 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 1.29 |
| 3167 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 24.87 |
| 3168 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 25.98 |
| 3169 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 13.89 |
| 3170 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 4.49 |
| 3171 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 9.99 |
| 3172 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 0.10 |
| 3173 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 2.49 |
| 3174 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 0.11 |
| 3175 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 9.49 |
| 3176 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 26.31 |
| 3177 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 68.06 |
| 3178 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 9.99 |
| 3179 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 14.99 |
| 3180 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 10.09 |
| 3181 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 21.87 |
| 3182 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 42.99 |
| 3183 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 11.99 |
| 3184 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 29.99 |
| 3185 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | -47.31 |
| 3186 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 47.99 |
| 3187 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 31.88 |
| 3188 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 56.64 |
| 3189 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 8.87 |
| 3191 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 23.65 |
| 3192 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 13.72 |
| 3193 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 13.59 |
| 3194 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 1.65 |
| 3195 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | -0.68 |
| 3196 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 13.39 |
| 3197 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 8.99 |
| 3198 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 7.93 |
| 3199 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 8.20 |
| 3200 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 88.20 |
| 3201 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 69.60 |
| 3202 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 96.00 |
| 3203 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 12.42 |
| 3204 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 35.26 |
| 3205 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 20.38 |
| 3206 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 17.62 |
| 3207 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 16.99 |
| 3208 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 242.15 |
| 3209 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 6.25 |
| 3210 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 21.41 |
| 3211 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 11.32 |
| 3212 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 10.03 |
| 3213 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 8.99 |
| 3214 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 19.45 |
| 3215 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 258.15 |
| 3216 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 6.25 |
| 3217 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 10.00 |
| 3218 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 51.57 |
| 3219 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 14.85 |
| 3220 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 181.28 |
| 3221 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 52.99 |
| 3222 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 94.75 |
| 3223 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 96.22 |
| 3224 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 96.22 |
| 3225 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 101.62 |
| 3226 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 56.71 |
| 3227 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 54.67 |
| 3228 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 58.01 |
| 3229 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 84.07 |
| 3230 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 81.60 |
| 3231 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 14.00 |
| 3232 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 14.00 |
| 3233 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | -1.03 |
| 3234 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | -0.95 |
| 3235 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | -4.01 |
| 3236 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 42.40 |
| 3237 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 37.99 |
| 3238 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 37.99 |
| 3239 | JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 9.97 |
| 3240 | MARCO | 198.35 |
| 3241 | MARCO | 10.00 |
| 3242 | MARCO | 106.53 |
| 3243 | MARCO | 235.26 |
| 3244 | MARCO | 156.98 |
|  |  |  |
|  | **Total** | **11,797.55** |
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Susanne Olson – appeared before the board to let them know she was very frustrated with the sheriff’s department serving a restraining order that she feels took longer than it should have. The restraining order was approved by a judge late Monday afternoon and not served to the individual until Thursday evening around 9p.m. Deputy Sheriff Ward Kuehn was in the meeting and let Susanne Olson know the sheriff’s department takes all restraining orders very serious however, many times the individuals they are trying to serve avoid being found when they know they are going to be served. The sheriff’s department is not allowed to look in house windows or break down doors to find the individuals they are looking for, nor are they able to sit on one home 24 hours as they have other calls to respond to. In the case Susanne Olson was referring to Deputy Sheriff Ward Kuehn was one of the officers who made multiple attempts to serve this individual.

Sheriff’s Department – Deputy Sheriff Ward Kuehn let the board know the Sheriff’s department was gifted a grant from his sister Shawn Kuehn who works for Bell Bank through a “pay it forward” grant. Bell Bank allows their employees to pick a nonprofit organization that is special to them and donate money. Shawn has chosen to donate $500 to the Ransom County Sheriff’s Department this year to help provide deputies with necessary supplies needed. Shawn also provided subway gift cards to the officers and some clerical staff.

Gaylen Dick – appeared before the board to ask if the county is able to tax gravel leaving the county. Dick told the board that Hanson township has a lot of township road miles to keep up with and they struggle financially to do this on the townships budget. Dick also thinks the assessing fee of $4 per parcel is too high. Discussion was had. Olerud and Schwab both would like to see some more discussion on the tax assessing charges.

Nickela Runck, Tiffany Bunn, Shelly Schwab, Heidi Engquist, Janelle Mairs, Maria Prouty, Gaylen Dick, Ryan Lyons, Ron Carlson, and Duffy Hansen and Lynn Gonzalez were all in attendance.

NFIP – Ryan Lyons let the board know they have a few residents in Island Park township who were declined flood insurance claims due to the township not being signed up for NFIP. In the past Lyons thought since the county had NFIP the townships didn’t have to sign up for their own policy. Township residences haven’t had issues with flood insurance paying out in the past. Ryan and Amanda Lyons reached out to the eleven townships who are in the flood zone and held meetings with the townships, emergency manager Kirsten Gilbert and FEMA representatives. Discussion was had. Lyons had suggested if the townships piggybacked under the counties NFIP they would need to have a joint powers agreement. Island Park does not want to give up their zoning rights. If the county were to allow townships to piggyback under the county plan the county would have to hire a full-time zoning planner. Kirsten Gilbert has done some extensive research with Barnes County and this would add a significant work load and liability.

Sundale Colony – James and Ben Hofer appeared before the board with Amber Boeshans with ND Livestock Alliance to start the discussion of a conditional use permit. They are planning to build a new hog barn, and a finishing barn. They will not be raising more hogs, just replacing they old barn with a bad roof, and relocating the finishing barn. Fallon Kelly will review the plans and specs submitted along with the permit and let them know if anything else is needed.

Fuel, Gas, and Propane Bids- One bid was received from Lisbon Oil, the bid was not properly marked identifying the envelopes. Schwab moved, seconded by Bishop to waive bid regulations and allow intern highway superintendent Adam Schultz to open the bid. A bid was received for Fuel and propane along with a license and cashier’s check. Olerud moved, seconded by Schwab to accept the bids. All aye. Motion carried.

Froemke residence – Benji, Bobbiann, and Reggie Froemke appeared before the board to discuss the water that has incapsulated their property. Discussion was had. Olerud moved, seconded by Bishop to pass a resolution asking, not ordering, Big Bend township to remove approach just east of Benji Froemke’ s residence as recommended by the water board’s engineer. All aye. Motion carried.

Fort Ransom Sod Busters- requested $2500 for the machine shed building out of the Ransom County Park Board budget grant line item. Tyler Modlin gave his blessing if there were no other request at the time. Olerud moved, seconded by Mathern to approve the $2500 for the Fort Ransom Sod Busters. All aye. Motion carried.

Highway Department – there were two applicants for the highway superintendent position and one applicant for the operator position. Schwab would ideally like to do interviews later this week, Kevin Bishop suggested creating an interview board. Discussion was had. The board decided to have both road portfolio holders (Olerud and Schwab) along with one road crew employee who would be picked by the majority of the road crew, and an individual from Tuller and Island Park Township sit on the interview board.

Lynn Gonzalez’s – was sitting in the commission meeting the majority of the morning since shortly after 9:15 a.m. The board had questioned her on if she was punched in while she was sitting in the commission meeting. The meeting was on zoom and she was not on the agenda. Gonzalez stated she was not punched in. Gentzkow had been notified earlier in the meeting that Gonzalez was punched in. Documentation was provided to the commissioners. About fifteen minutes later Schwab again asked Gonzalez if she was punched in and she replied she was not clocked in. The board corrected her and let her know she had punched in at 9:01 a.m. she changed her story and let them know she had no way of knowing when commission meetings are as they are no longer posted on the employee only door and an agenda was not posted on the commission room door. She stated she didn’t know there was a meeting until she was already punched in and looked at the cameras and saw everyone gathered in the commission room. She then argued with the board that punching out would have been too difficult and claimed she is not required to punch in or out. When corrected that clerical deputies are required to use the time card, Gonzalez let the board know Sheriff Benneweis hasn’t required her to do so. Discrepancies continue to be discovered on Lynn Gonzalez’s time card.

Meeting was recessed for lunch at 1:10 p.m.

Meeting was called back to order at 2:10 p.m.

Jorge Gonzalez’s was in attendance

Pancake feed – Will be hosted up at the county shop on April 28, 2023 from 7a.m. – 11 a.m.

Emergency manager/Auditor – Kirsten Gilbert and Nicole Gentzkow asked to hire a full-time shared employee between the two of them who could float back and forth. Kirsten Gilbert has $90,000 in the FEMA fund that is meant for wages to help pay for an employee while they are working in her office doing FEMA work. Mathern moved, seconded by Bishop to allow Kirsten Gilbert and Nicole Gentzkow to hire a full-time shared employee. All aye. Motion carried.

Neil Olerud asked Gentzkow if the meeting was recording. Gentzkow let Olerud know that she was not recording via zoom however Jorge Gonzalez was. Jorge Gonzalez came up to the commission table with his body camera in his hand stating he was not recording and to prove he wasn’t lying we could check for a light. However, he was recording on a handheld recording device located in his left chest pocket which was glowing red.

Tyler Technologies – Gentzkow asked the board to make a motion to dedicate funds to Tyler Tech so we can get the ball rolling, onboarding will take 18-24 months once a contract is signed. The estimated cost of switching right now is around $250,000. Olerud moved, Mathern seconded the motion. All aye.

5 County/Southeast Regional Meeting – will be scheduled in McLeod at 4p.m. on May 18, 2023. Gentzkow will reach out to the other counties and Legislators.

NDSU Extensions – Kevin Bishop brought up that Brian Zimprich would like the board to consider a twelve-passenger van at budget time for the judging team to use. They are getting so many kids involved in the judging that they have to take multiple vehicles. Zimprich has done a quick search and thinks the price will be around $33,000.

Employee Handbook – was reviewed. The board stopped at policy 701.

Sheriff’s Department – Sheriff Deputy Ward Kuehn appeared before the board to let them know he has spoken with Sheriff Darren Benneweis and Kuehn and Deputy Sheriff Beerman will be taking the drone out and flying over the flooded areas to get pictures for FEMA and the road crew.

Being nothing further to come before the board, Chairman Gilbert adjourned the meeting at 4:17p.m.

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Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission