RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting – March 5, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Chairman Kevin Bishop. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members present: Joe Mathern, Connie Gilbert, Greg Schwab, and Kevin Bishop. Absent: Neil Olerud.

Agenda – Was reviewed. Mathern added maps for patrol garage in Milnor, and Schwab added Arpa Funds. Mathern made a motion to approve the agenda with the additions. Seconded by Schwab. All aye. Motion carried.

Minutes – From the previous regular scheduled meeting on February 20, 2024 were reviewed. Mathern made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections. Schwab seconded. All aye. Motion carried.

Commission Audit Listing– In the amount of $848.00 was reviewed. Gilbert made a motion to approve the Hessler listing. Mathern seconded. All aye. Motion carried.

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| HESSLER, RAYMOND  | 848.00 |
| Total | 848.00 |

Manual Warrants – In the amount of $22,734.82 were reviewed. Schwab made a motion to approve the manual warrants. Gilbert seconded. All aye. Motion carried.

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| MARCO | 211.16 |
| MARCO | 10.00 |
| OTTER TAIL POWER | 415.78 |
| OTTER TAIL POWER | 2,667.26 |
| LISBON, CITY | 39.50 |
| LISBON, CITY | 171.86 |
| LIBERTY BUSINESS | 175.40 |
| MARCO | 289.60 |
| MARCO | 10.00 |
| MARCO | 4.31 |
| MARCO | 162.22 |
| LIBERTY BUSINESS | 267.81 |
| OTTER TAIL POWER | 44.28 |
| CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC | 2,070.99 |
| OTTER TAIL POWER | 71.28 |
| SOUTHEAST WATER | 70.28 |
| MARCO TECH- S | 631.57 |
| MARCO TECH- S | 10.00 |
| LISBON, CITY | 16.00 |
| OTTER TAIL POWER | 36.63 |
| CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC | 229.60 |
| JPMORGAN CHASE | 15,129.29 |
| Total | 22,734.82 |

Olerud arrived at 9:20

Commissioner Audit Listing – In the amount of $42,436.45 were reviewed. Gilbert made a motion to approve. Olerud seconded. All aye. Motion carried.

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| ABRAHAM GIRLS  | 50.00 |
| AXON ENTERPRISE INC.  | 649.01 |
| BALCO UNIFORM CO., INC.  | 2,557.64 |
| BARNES COUNTY CORRECTIONAL CENTER  | 595.00 |
| BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES  | 43.00 |
| BISMARCK HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER  | 192.60 |
| BRENT GREGOR  | 750.00 |
| BRUCE SMITH  | 671.77 |
| CASS COUNTY EXTENSION  | 50.00 |
| CODE 4 SERVICES,INC.  | 922.57 |
| COMPUTER EXPRESS  | 2,302.98 |
| DAHL, DAVID  | 58.35 |
| FIRST MEDIC AMBULANCE  | 18,750.00 |
| FOSTER COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL  | 50.00 |
| GALLAGHER, RANDY  | 74.00 |
| GILBERT, KIRSTEN  | 50.00 |
| GONZALEZ, JORGE  | 1,594.79 |
| GORDY'S GRILL & FILL  | 272.92 |
| HOPKINS, ROBERTA PO BOX 950  | 76.91 |
| HORSIN AROUND  | 100.00 |
| INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT.  | 1,681.00 |
| JESSICA HAUGEN  | 50.00 |
| KEVIN BLEEKER  | 750.00 |
| KOTACO  | 6.36 |
| LISBON TRUE VALUE  | 26.99 |
| LYONS, JEFFREY  | 36.75 |
| LYONS, MATTHEW  | 38.10 |
| LYONS, NATHAN  | 40.13 |
| MATHERN, JOE  | 57.00 |
| MLGC  | 569.88 |
| NAPOLEON FFA  | 100.00 |
| ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES  | 10.00 |
| ND COUNTY RECORDER'S ASSOCIATION  | 200.00 |
| ND DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION  | 329.91 |
| ND STATE RADIO COMMUNICATION  | 180.60 |
| NDSU AG COMMUNICATION  | 402.50 |
| OLSON, JERRY  | 58.35 |
| QUADIENT FINANCE USA INC.  | 4,067.56 |
| RANSOM COUNTY GAZETTE  | 853.60 |
| SCHWAB, GREG  | 47.55 |
| STANSBERY, DON  | 43.50 |
| UTKE, DAVE  | 63.75 |
| WEIDNER,SAMANTHA  | 58.61 |
| WEX BANK  | 2,444.05 |
| ZIMPRICH, BRIAN  | 508.72 |
| Total | 42,436.45 |

Adam Schultz – Schultz has an employee who has been out on a sick leave. He had asked the board for approval if this individual can receive donations for sick time. Gilbert made a motion to approve sick leave donations. Mathern seconded. All aye. Motion carried.

Volunteer Firefighter – Schultz is wondering where the county stands on if an individual is out all night tending to fires. He had brought up volunteer days for fighting fires all night. The board will review every situation when it comes up. They did agree to allow the individual to use sick leave instead of vacation.

Summer Help – The highway department expressed they would like summer help since they are down a person. Schultz is looking at hiring a high school or college student. The board questioned Schultz if he has the money in his budget. Olerud made a motion to hire someone starting at $20.00 an hour. If they need more help, they will see how it goes. Seconded by Mathern. All aye. Motion carried.

Schultz received a phone call from Ron Ballinger. Ballinger stated he would like to put a bridge over his pond at his winery. The board suggested that this will have to be between Ballinger and the contractor.

Schultz has asked the board if they are wanting to start looking at out shops. The board suggested to look at redoing the Sheldon shop first. They would like to see how much it will cost and where the new building will go.

A resident had asked Schultz if the county is willing to rent out the telehandler for tree trimming. Schultz and the board are not in favor of this due to liabilities.

Scott Symth – Smyth let the board that a pre-construction conference will happen Monday March 11, 2023 for both bridges. Contracts have been signed and the conference will be regarding a timeline. Smyth has been in communication with the DOT regarding the paving projects, and he let the board know they won’t be eligible for funding. There will be 1500 tons of milling left over after the paving has been completed. Smyth suggested to not keep it all. He will add a plan note to move 500 tons to the county, and they can decide later if they want it all.

Darren Benneweis – Provided a couple jail contracts. Barnes county increased their prices. Benneweis reached out to Wilkin County prison to see if they can house the county’s prisoners when needed. They agreed to keep the sentenced prisoners for $90 dollars a day.

Barnes County - Olerud made a motion accept Barnes County jailing contract at $100 dollars a day. Gilbert seconded. Discussion had. All aye. Motion carried.

Wilkin County – Schwab made a motion to approve Wilkin County at $90 dollars a day. Olerud seconded. All aye. Motion carried.

Sydna Shop – Mathern provided a map to the board that was regarding a parcel in Milnor. Raymond Holcomb is willing to give up 25 feet of his property as well as the county giving up 25 feet of their property in exchange. Olerud made a motion of exchanging land. Holcomb will get 25 x 184 square feet more or less and the county will receive 25 x 308 square feet. The county will provide a warranty deed upon survey being completed. Mathern seconded. Discussion was had. All aye. Motion carried.

Mathern is looking into estimates for adding a bathroom into the building and insulation around the slab.

Fallon Kelly arrived at 11:30

City of Lisbon – Tim Meyer, Ben Gemar, and Lydell Mairs had questions regarding the courthouse addition being in the paper. The city questioned if this is a want or need for the courthouse. Auditor Nicole Gentzkow and the county commission had stated there is an issue with the judge’s security along with the staff security. Sheriff Darren Benneweis stated they would like to keep their judgeship within the county. Benneweis stated that there is no room for the state’s attorney/ defense attorney to talk with their clients. Homeland Security had come into the courthouse and advised some changes need to be made. Mayor Tim Meyer is wondering what raising the mills will mean for the residents. The county would get a bond and they can only levy the dollar to service the bond. Gentzkow stated the pay off would be 20 years. The county applied for a courtroom facility grant, but was declined.

Arpa Funds – Will be put on the agenda for the next meeting. Gentzkow would like the board to think of projects to use the ARPA funds on. The funds will have to be used by 2026.

Courthouse Addition - A booth will be set up at the pancake feed on April 12, 2024 to discuss the courthouse addition. Additional meeting dates will be held on March 14, 2024 at the Ransom County courthouse at 7 p.m, Enderlin firehall at 7 p.m. March 21, 2024, Fort Ransom community building on March 26, 2024 at 7 p.m, and the Silver Prairie Saloon at 7 p.m. on April 9, 2024.

Assessment Proposal – Olerud made a motion to accept the proposal the townships made, .0005 of taxable valuation. Discussion was had. Gilbert seconded. All aye. Motion carried.

Being nothing further to come before the board, Chairman Bishop adjourned the meeting at 12:57 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission