**Ransom County Board of Commissioners**

Regular Meeting – May 7, 2024

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

Agenda – Was reviewed. Gentzkow asked to add and Neil Olerud asked to be added to the agenda, no subject was given. Gilbert moved, seconded by Mathern to approve the agenda with additions. All aye. Motion carried.

Minutes – from the previous regular scheduled commission meeting on April 17, 2024 were reviewed. Mathern moved, seconded by Schwab to approve the minutes with corrections. All aye. Motion carried.

Laurie Olerud joined the meeting at 9:15a.m.

Manual Warrants – in the amount of $20,771.43 were reviewed. Corrections were needed to a few account numbers. Olerud moved, seconded by Gilbert to approve the manual warrants in the amount of $20,771.43 with corrections. All aye. Motion carried.

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| LISBON, CITY OF | 39.50 |
| LISBON, CITY OF | 169.37 |
| LISBON, CITY OF | 66.50 |
| LIBERTY BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC. | 267.81 |
| OTTER TAIL POWER CO | 2,029.77 |
| OTTER TAIL POWER CO | 335.34 |
| MARCO | 118.50 |
| MARCO | 10.00 |
| MARCO | 203.50 |
| MARCO | 154.50 |
| MARCO | 162.22 |
| MARCO | 303.86 |
| MARCO | 10.00 |
| MARCO | 0.78 |
| MARCO | 211.16 |
| MARCO | 10.00 |
| MARCO | 33.35 |
| CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP | 218.39 |
| MARCO TECH- ST LOUIS | 631.57 |
| MARCO TECH- ST LOUIS | 10.00 |
| LISBON, CITY OF | 16.00 |
| OTTER TAIL POWER CO | 34.57 |
| OTTER TAIL POWER CO | 99.79 |
| OTTER TAIL POWER CO | 47.00 |
| SOUTHEAST WATER USERS | 69.59 |
| CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP | 58.86 |
| MARCO | 643.83 |
| MARCO | 30.00 |
| CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP | 6.12 |
| CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP | 48.33 |
| CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP | 302.64 |
| CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP | 1,113.02 |
| JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 13,315.56 |
|  | **20,771.43** |

Commission Audit Listing – in the amount of $192,588.62 were reviewed. Olerud moved, seconded by Mathern to approve the commission audit listing in the amount of $192,588.62. All aye. Motion carried.

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| ACQUISIGN, LLC  | 150.00 |
| ADVANCED ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL  | 51.74 |
| AMERICAN SOLUTIONS FOR BUSINESS  | 212.62 |
| ANDREW S. MARQUART  | 423.00 |
| BEERMAN, ANDREW  | 95.00 |
| CASS COUNTY GOVERNMENT  | 85.00 |
| CODE 4 SERVICES,INC.  | 8,279.61 |
| COMPUTER EXPRESS  | 5,754.96 |
| DACOTAH PAPER COMPANY  | 276.70 |
| DAKOTA WATER SOLUTIONS  | 116.00 |
| ELECTIONS SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE  | 1,934.70 |
| ELECTRO WATCHMAN INC  | 42,387.50 |
| ENDERLIN INDEPENDENT  | 60.00 |
| EVERBRIDGE INC.  | 5,498.22 |
| FIRST MEDIC AMBULANCE  | 12,500.00 |
| GALLAGHER, RANDY  | 27.81 |
| GENTZKOW, NICOLE  | 539.29 |
| GILBERT, KIRSTEN  | 100.00 |
| GORDY'S GRILL & FILL  | 532.09 |
| HOPKINS, ROBERTA PO BOX 950  | 194.49 |
| INTERCOMMUNITY TELEPHONE COMPANY  | 75.00 |
| J & M PRINTING, INC  | 622.19 |
| JOE KOKENGE  | 600.00 |
| KLJ ENGINEERING LLC  | 25,940.09 |
| KOTACO  | 11,390.60 |
| LISBON TRUE VALUE  | 402.51 |
| MAIN STREET FARM AND HOME  | 89.95 |
| MAIRS, JANELLE  | 95.00 |
| MAPLE VALLEY LOCKER, INC.  | 1,210.64 |
| MLGC | 569.88 |
| ND STATE RADIO COMMUNICATION  | 8,505.41 |
| NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE-7510  | 12,433.02 |
| OFFICE OF ADJUTANT GENERAL  | 143.00 |
| RANSOM COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION  | 300.00 |
| RANSOM COUNTY GAZETTE  | 37.50 |
| RDO EQUIPMENT-FARGO  | 5,969.94 |
| RECORD KEEPERS, LLC  | 37.50 |
| RIVERSIDE BUILDING CENTER  | 13.79 |
| SD LOCAL TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE  | 125.00 |
| STURDEVANT"S INC | 153.94 |
| TEAM LAB INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS  | 107.50 |
| THE TESSMAN COMPANY  | 599.38 |
| TRUENORTH STEEL  | 38,671.42 |
| US IMAGING  | 3,609.50 |
| VILLAGE FAMILY SERVICE CENTER  | 1,500.00 |
| WEIDNER,SAMANTHA  | 22.63 |
| ZIMPRICH, BRIAN  | 144.50 |
| Total | 192,588.62 |

Kirsten Gilbert – Emergency Manager appeared before the board to let them know homeland security grants have opened. She let the board know she would like to apply for lighting around the exterior grounds of the courthouse that will shine up, barriers along the west side of the building to prevent a car from going through the windows and into the basement, cameras for the backside of the court house that could be installed on the social service building, or public health building. Sheriff Darren Benneweis had requested Kirsten Gilbert apply for additional cameras in the old county shop that the sheriff’s department is utilizing, along with a door lock system. Mathern moved, seconded by Connie Gilbert to have Kirsten Gilbert go ahead and apply for the homeland security grants for all items she mentioned. All aye. Motion carried.

Brian Zimprich - appeared before the board and handed out flyers detailing what NDSU Extension all does. Zimprich let the board know that Ransom County has the top 10 highest 4H enrollment numbers in the state of North Dakota. Zimprich let the board know his office does not feel very supported by the commissioners as they have not been included in much discussion regarding the mill levy increase for their office.

Adam Schultz – Highway Superintendent appeared before the board and let them know road restrictions would be coming off on Thursday May 9. Schultz also discussed $500,000 being allocated out of ARPA funds to build new county shops. Discussion was had on needs for the new buildings along with dimensions. The Fort Ransom shop will be quoted at 50 x 70 with a bathroom, floor heat, floor drain, and aprons, along with large and small garage door. The Sheldon shop will be quoted at 40 x 60 with a bathroom, floor heart, floor drain, and aprons and a large and small garage door. The Sydna shop will get a cement floor, floor heat, drain, bathroom, and apron. Anything over $200,000 will need to be bid. Schultz let the board know the new grader will be coming in on 5/8/2024. The spare machine has been having some intermittent issues over the past year, RDO has found the issue. The chipper machine is repaired and back at the county shop.

Scott Smyth with KLJ appeared before the board to let them know the abutments for the Fox Farm bridge have been poured. The Anslem Bridge is scheduled to be closed on May 20, 2024. The McRitchie Bridge had to be advertised for adoptees, one person was interested, but has since backed out. A DocuSign document for the construction cost and bidding of the Englevale and Sheldon Road was reviewed and Olerud moved, seconded by Mathern to have Bishop sign the document. All aye. Motion carried. The McRitchie Bridge is on schedule to be bid in December.

Kevin and Kathy Bleecker appeared before the board to discuss a small section of land behind them owned by the county they would like access to so they can have access to their back yard. Bleecker’s would like to build to the west and south of their house and currently don’t have any access to get there from behind. Olerud moved, seconded by Mathern to give Bleecker’s continuous access to their property from the back as long as the city is all right with it. Discussion was had. All opposed the motion. The board advised the Bleecker’s to talk to Jerry Gemar to locate the pins and then come back to the commission meeting.

Laurie Olerud – let the board know the High Rollers Car Club will be stopping in McLeod on Wednesday May 8, 2024 and Olerud asked for permission to close Main Street of McLeod for two hours. Sheriff Darren Benneweis was present and gave his blessing for the road to be closed, along with the commission.

Neil and Laurie Olerud – Neil Olerud had questions on the special meeting held on March 27, 2024 discussing a matter regarding his daughter Jenna Olerud. Discussion was had.

Auditor Nicole Gentzkow let the board know the county needs a HR person more than ever and she recommends the county hire Tanya Weiler with Dakota Dynamics. Weiler charges $1500 per month to contract on as an HR advisor, she partners with NDACo, she works with LaMoure county and 10-12 other counties in the state of North Dakota. She was the person the county hired to do the pay plan, and comes with many high reviews. Mathern moved, seconded by Gilbert to hire Tanya Weiler with Dakota Dynamics. All aye. Motion carried.

ARPA funds were discussed. Gentzkow let the board know she had to submit a report by April 30, 2024 and if a significant amount of funds were not allocated the county could be at risk for losing funds. As of now Gentzkow obligated all the ARPA funds on 10 different projects the board has been discussing. If changes need to be made, they can be made.

Sheriff Darren Benneweis appeared before the board to let them know he has adjusted the schedule in his office trying to eliminate as much overtime. Benneweis asked the board if they would like to pay time and a half at anything above 160 hours or above 171 hours. Benneweis also let the board know he will not allow his office to take vacation time unless they request 30 days in advance. However, he will allow them to earn comp time and bank up to 50 hours per Calander year. If they need last minute time off, they will be required to use their comp time. Benneweis let the board know that Gross is officially fully trained. Schwab moved, seconded by Olerud to approve time and a half for any hours above 171 in a 28-day work schedule.

**NOTICE: COUNTY RIGHTS OF WAY**

Each year Ransom County must certify that it is maintaining the integrity and enforcing its rights of way easements on county Federal Aid Roads. If these rights of way are not enforced the County could lose the Federal funding which is the major revenue source for constructing, maintaining, repairing and improving these roads.

 The County right of way varies in width throughout the County roads system. If you are unsure of the width of the right of way through your property, please check with your state’s attorney (701-683-4123) or the county recorder (701-683-6115). Any obstructions such as fences (permanent or temporary), growing crops, rocks, machinery or other hazards located within a County Right of Way may be removed by Ransom County at the land owners’ expense without further notice to the owner or operator.

Ransom Co. Commission

By: Kevin Bishop, Chairman

Fallon Kelly

Ransom Co. State’s Attorney

Tel 701-683-4123

Clothing – Gentzkow asked the board for permission for all employees to purchase a top to have for meetings/work that would have a Ransom County logo on it. Mathern moved, seconded by Schwab to allow all employees to get a black business professional shirt with the county logo in white on it with a max value of $100. All aye. Motion carried.

Gentzkow was asked to ask the board if they would consider purchasing Lot 1 Block 5 of Burhytes first addition to pour an additional parking lot. The county gets complaints about lack of parking on a regular basis, and this may be the only option that ever comes up to expand a parking lot. Mathern moved, seconded by Olerud to approve the purchase up to $33,000 for Lot 1, block 5 Burhyte’s 1st Addition to make an addition parking lot for the Court House. All Aye. Motion carried.

The handbook was reviewed.

Being nothing further to come before the board, Chairman Bishop adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission