**RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Meeting – November 19, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Kevin Bishop. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members present: Connie Gilbert, Joe Mathern, Greg Schwab, and Kevin Bishop. Also present: Auditor Nicole Gentzkow, Lynn Kaspari with Ransom County Gazette, Pat Renner with Fallon Kelly’s office, and newly elected Commissioner Sye Olson. Absent: Neil Olerud.

Agenda – was reviewed. Gilbert moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Mathern. All aye. Motion carried.

Minutes – from the previous regular scheduled commission meeting on November 7, 2024 were reviewed. Mathern moved, seconded by Gilbert to approve the November 7, 2024 commission minutes.

All aye. Motion carried.

Olerud arrived at 9:23 a.m.

Bills – in the amount of $236,736.12 were reviewed. Mathern moved, seconded by Gilbert to approve the bills in the amount of $236,736.12. All aye. Motion carried.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ELLIOTT TOWNSHIP  | 9,574.37 |
| ERICKSON, KATHIE  | 245.22 |
| GILBERT, KIRSTEN  | 50.00 |
| HEGLE, KELSEY  | 174.87 |
| JONES, CHELSEY  | 80.40 |
| KELLY, FALLON M.  | 990.16 |
| LARSON, MEGHAN  | 175.88 |
| REINKE, JOSEPH  | 268.00 |
| RUNCK, NICKELA  | 45.56 |
| WEIDNER,SAMANTHA  | 278.32 |
| WELTON, BRENNA  | 223.50 |
| WILTSE,CAYLA  | 7.37 |
| ZIMPRICH, BRIAN  | 201.80 |
| ALICETON TOWNSHIP  | 1,946.53 |
| ALLEGHANY TOWNSHIP  | 2,252.56 |
| BALE TOWNSHIP  | 1,593.95 |
| BIG BEND TOWNSHIP  | 602.08 |
| CASEY TOWNSHIP  | 2,323.96 |
| COBURN TOWNSHIP  | 1,373.93 |
| ELLIOTT TOWNSHIP  | 1,921.74 |
| ENDERLIN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  | 23,906.00 |
| ENDERLIN PARK DISTRICT  | 2,638.59 |
| ENDERLIN RURAL FIRE DISTRICT  | 3,012.58 |
| ENDERLIN, CITY OF  | 20,077.19 |
| FORT RANSOM RURAL FIRE DISTRICT  | 686.88 |
| FORT RANSOM SCHOOL DISTRICT  | 4,343.70 |
| FORT RANSOM TOWNSHIP  | 1,854.96 |
| FORT RANSOM, CITY OF  | 994.01 |
| GARRISON DIVERSION CONSERVANCY DIST.  | 570.69 |
| GREENE TOWNSHIP  | 1,878.89 |
| HANSON TOWNSHIP  | 1,750.78 |
| ISLAND PARK TOWNSHIP  | 2,027.73 |
| ISLEY TOWNSHIP  | 1,324.36 |
| KINDRED PUBLIC SCHOOLS  | 354.91 |
| LEONARD FIRE DISTRICT  | 201.28 |
| LIBERTY TOWNSHIP  | 2,726.67 |
| LISBON FIRE DISTRICT  | 932.22 |
| LISBON PARK DISTRICT  | 4,719.26 |
| LISBON SCHOOL DISTRICT  | 23,331.73 |
| LISBON, CITY OF  | 19,658.74 |
| LITCHVILLE-MARION PSD #46  | 842.28 |
| MILNOR RURAL FIRE DISTRICT  | 297.42 |
| MILNOR SCHOOL DISTRICT  | 1,020.92 |
| MILNOR SCHOOL DISTRICT BUILDING FUND  | 255.29 |
| MILNOR SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL RESERVE  | 38.29 |
| MOORE TOWNSHIP  | 2,201.85 |
| NORTHLAND TOWNSHIP  | 677.10 |
| OAKES SCHOOL DISTRICT  | 13.86 |
| OWEGO TOWNSHIP  | 505.96 |
| PRESTON TOWNSHIP  | 2,417.52 |
| RANSOM CO HISTORICAL SOCIETY  | 136.99 |
| RANSOM CO SENIOR CITIZENS  | 548.03 |
| RANSOM CO WATER RESOURCE DIST  | 2,192.18 |
| RANSOM COUNTY JOB DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  | 685.03 |
| RANSOM COUNTY SOIL CONS. DIST. #37  | 1,044.08 |
| RED RIVER JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT  | 697.00 |
| ROSEMEADE TOWNSHIP  | 1,319.72 |
| SANDOUN TOWNSHIP  | 633.99 |
| SCOVILLE TOWNSHIP  | 542.52 |
| SHELDON, CITY OF  | 4,092.43 |
| SHENFORD TOWNSHIP  | 2,439.82 |
| SPRINGER TOWNSHIP  | 1,680.39 |
| STATE TREASURER  | 618.06 |
| SYDNA TOWNSHIP  | 1,858.51 |
| TRI-COUNTY DRAIN BOARD  | 81.36 |
| TULLER TOWNSHIP  | 2,321.24 |
| AUTO VALUE  | 33.98 |
| BLEECKER, KASEY  | 750.00 |
| BLEECKER,KYLE  | 750.00 |
| BRI-TON  | 43.90 |
| CARDINAL HEALTH 110, INC.  | 1,259.08 |
| COMPUTER EXPRESS  | 7,451.00 |
| COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHOLOGY  | 3,706.00 |
| DACOTAH PAPER COMPANY  | 283.61 |
| DAKOTA WATER SOLUTIONS  | 80.00 |
| DICKEY RURAL NETWORK INC.  | 1,745.27 |
| ENDERLIN INDEPENDENT  | 90.00 |
| FFF ENTERPRISES  | 12,845.25 |
| GORDY'S GRILL & FILL  | 491.47 |
| HALEON  | 515.76 |
| HENRICKS, TYLER  | 375.00 |
| INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT.  | 1,933.45 |
| KOTACO  | 6.44 |
| LANGLAND,MARIA  | 22.78 |
| LISBON TRUE VALUE  | 810.26 |
| LYONS, FDM  | 750.00 |
| LYONS,DARRIN  | 684.80 |
| LYONS,ETHAN  | 712.00 |
| LYONS,GRANT  | 712.00 |
| ND ASSOC OF COUNTIES- BISMARCK  | 3,040.00 |
| NDAE4-HYW  | 200.00 |
| NDEAFCS  | 125.00 |
| NORTHERN SALT INCORPORATED  | 12,125.52 |
| QUAL, ANGELA  | 250.00 |
| RANSOM COUNTY GAZETTE  | 67.20 |
| RDO EQUIPMENT-FARGO  | 4,247.04 |
| RICHLAND COUNTY CORRECTIONS  | 2,720.00 |
| RIVERSIDE BUILDING CENTER  | 17.87 |
| SARGENT COUNTY DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT  | 504.64 |
| SCHWAB, GREG  | 325.48 |
| STUTSMAN COUNTY CORRECTIONAL CENTER  | 1,600.00 |
| SWANSTON EQUIPMENT CORPORATION  | 832.66 |
| TITAN MACHINERY  | 869.29 |
| TRIZETTO PROVIDER SOLUTIONS  | 324.09 |
| TYLER TECHNOLOGIES INC.  | 580.25 |
| VALLEY PLAINS EQUIPMENT  | 100.47 |
| WELTON'S TIRE SERVICE  | 151.35 |
| WEX HEALTH, INC.  | 50.00 |
| WILKIN COUNTY JAIL  | 2,070.00 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM  | 31,391.78 |
| NDPERS,GROUP LIFE INSURANCE  | 711.66 |
| OFFICE OF STATE TAX COMMISSIONER  | 1,007.00 |
| ASSURITY  | 403.05 |
| BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF NORTH DAKOTA  | 49,193.60 |
| COLONIAL LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE  | 320.96 |
| COMPANION LIFE  | 2,480.60 |
| NATIONWIDE RETIREMENT SOLUTIONS,PEBSCO  | 9,974.30 |
| UNUM LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA  | 353.64 |
| WEX HEALTH, INC.  | 1,465.17 |

Shelly Schwab, recorder appeared before the board to let the board know she plans to spend some of the preservation fund which currently has $17,000 in it. Schwab plans to get the remaining 4000 documents scanned into Tyler Document. The scanning of the remaining documents is estimated to cost around $4000. Shelly Schwab would also like to purchase a historical module so the public can read the historical documents. The historical module is estimated to cost around $5000.

Shelly Schwab also mentioned she feels Kevin Bishop and Joe Mathern should pay the $20 late registration fee for the NDACo since there was plenty of time to get registered at a discounted price.

Randy Gallagher – appeared before the board and asked if a decision had been made on him continuing to do the risk manager position after retiring from head maintenance. The board let Gallagher know the auditor’s office was willing to take over risk manager. Gentzkow consulted with HR director Tanya Weiler and she felt the risk manager position would fit well with Nickela Runck in the auditor’s office.

Health Insurance was discussed again. The board made a phone call during the meeting to Blue Cross Blue Sheild rep Stacy Berube to discuss why the huge increase. Other policies and prices were discussed. The board agreed something needs to be done about the cost of health insurance and other options will be explored before 2026 enrollment.

Tim Splettstaszer with WSP appeared before the board to ask the county if they would be willing to donate the .72 acres back to the State of ND, since the state had given that land to the county. Schwab moved, seconded by Olerud to donate the .72 acres back to the state of ND to fix the road along the Sheyenne River along Little Yellow. All aye. Motion carried.

Darren Benneweis had Safe Point Weapons detection present to the board via Zoom. Safe Point had done an evaluation of the court house and determined they would need 3 lanes. Each lane cost $21,000 per year with and initial cost of $7700 the first year for install and delivery. Safe Point owns the equipment so if anything breaks, Safe Point would replace it. The initial contract would be a three-year contract totaling $196,700. Safe Point is based out of Fremont, California. The board discussed. No decision was made.

Bushes out front of the court house and the tree growing out of the back corner of the building were discussed. The bushes and tree have been mentioned on multiple security assessments, and will also block the new cameras. Mathern moved, seconded by Schwab to have the highway department remove the bushes and tree before snow falls. All aye. Motion carried.

Mother’s Room – the board discussed options of where a designated mother’s room could be located in the courthouse. Sheriff Darren Benneweis stated he thought the room on third floor near the bathrooms would be a good location. Currently attorney’s use that room to meet with clients, that room was deemed not safe when the county had a security assessment due to the window and hatch to the roof. Schwab moved, seconded by Mathern to make the room off the bathroom on third floor the designated mother’s room and would like a changing table purchased. All Aye. Motion carried.

Contribution check for Grand Father Status from Blue Cross Blue Sheild needed to be signed by the Chairman stating the county had not increased the employee portion of insurance by more than 5%. Olerud moved, seconded by Gilbert to have Bishop sign the ACA Contribution check for grand father status confirmation. All aye. Motion Carried.

A local gaming permit along with the appropriate fee was submitted by Lisbon Gymnastics. Schwab moved, seconded by Mathern to approve the Lisbon Gymnastics raffle permit. All aye. Motion carried.

Greg Schwab was asked about the City of Fort Ransom placing a bike path in the right of way or the easement. The board was unsure of the legality of this and wanted to consult Scott Smyth with KLJ.

Greg Schwab let the board know that Adam Schultz purchased a propane tank form Agtegra for $1500 so the county can now purchase propane from whatever company puts in the bid.

Sheriff’s department working dances was discussed. Schwab let Sheriff Benneweis know that the county would have to look into a better way of doing it. When the officer is not on the county’s clock they are not being insured by the county if something were to happen.

Burn ban was discussed. Gilbert moved, seconded by Olerud to eliminate the burn ban. All aye. Motion carried.

With nothing further to come before the board the meeting was adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Nicole Gentzkow Kevin Bishop, Chairman

Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission