RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting – December 3, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Kevin Bishop. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members present: Todd Anderson, Neil Olerud, Sye Olson, and Kevin Bishop. Along with Auditor Nicole Gentzkow, and Lynn Kaspari from the Ransom County Gazette. Absent: Greg Schwab.

Agenda – was reviewed. Olerud moved, seconded by Anderson to approve the agenda. All aye. Motion carried.

Minutes – from the previous regular scheduled commission meeting on November 19, 2024 were reviewed. Olerud moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Olson. All aye. Motion carried.

Manual warrants - in the amount of $14,518.16 were reviewed by the board. Olerud moved, seconded by Anderson to approve the manual warrants in the amount of $14,518.16 It was discussed to let the tax on Brian Zimprich’s out of state travel ride this time, but in the future, it will need to be paid back by Zimprich. It was also mentioned again that out of state travel needs to be approved by the board before travel occurs. All aye. Motion carried.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| MARCO | 211.16 |
| MARCO | 10.00 |
| LIBERTY BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC. | 267.81 |
| MARCO | 162.22 |
| OTTER TAIL POWER CO | 246.54 |
| MARCO | 303.86 |
| MARCO | 10.00 |
| MARCO | 0.79 |
| OTTER TAIL POWER CO | 917.95 |
| LISBON, CITY OF | 39.50 |
| LISBON, CITY OF | 173.51 |
| BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES | 28.29 |
| BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES | 52.89 |
| BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES | 42.41 |
| BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES | 47.84 |
| BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES | 41.24 |
| BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES | 29.59 |
| BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES | 36.13 |
| BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES | 43.25 |
| BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES | 22.01 |
| BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES | 10.00 |
| BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES | 22.10 |
| BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES | 51.15 |
| BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES | 44.13 |
| BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES | 44.64 |
| BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES | 46.36 |
| BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES | 40.94 |
| BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES | 99.00 |
| JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 9,784.18 |
| OTTER TAIL POWER CO | 35.12 |
| SOUTHEAST WATER USERS | 51.25 |
| OTTER TAIL POWER CO | 38.41 |
| MARCO TECH- ST LOUIS | 678.46 |
| MARCO TECH- ST LOUIS | 10.00 |
| MARCO | 133.96 |
| CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP | 176.13 |
| CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP | 41.33 |
| CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP | 5.00 |
| CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP | 48.29 |
| CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP | 223.44 |
| CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP | 133.92 |
| LISBON, CITY OF | 66.50 |
| LISBON, CITY OF | 16.00 |
| Total | **14,487.30** |

Commission Audit Listing – in the amount of $171,314.79 were reviewed. Olerud moved, seconded by Olson to approve the commission audit listing in the amount of $171,314.79. All aye. Motion carried.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| BRISS,MICHAELA | 180.00 |
| GILBERT, CONNIE | 45.56 |
| GONZALEZ, JORGE | 189.95 |
| HAECHERL, TERESA | 675.00 |
| KUEHN, WARD | 875.00 |
| OLERUD, NEIL | 68.34 |
| REINKE, JOSEPH | 657.00 |
| AGGREGATE INDUSTRIES | 1,397.96 |
| BARNES COUNTY CORRECTIONAL CENTER | 3,100.00 |
| BEAR CREEK GRAVEL | 232.65 |
| BRENT GREGOR | 750.00 |
| COMPUTER EXPRESS | 2,194.02 |
| DACOTAH PAPER COMPANY | 264.79 |
| FIRST MEDIC AMBULANCE | 6,250.00 |
| GARRYS GARAGE DOOR | 900.00 |
| GREGOR, ANISSA | 750.00 |
| GREGOR,TY | 750.00 |
| GRIGGS,JEROME | 750.00 |
| GRIGGS,JOAYNE | 559.00 |
| GRIGGS,WESLEY | 430.08 |
| INFORMATION SYSTEMS CORPORATION | 25,728.24 |
| INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT. | 210.60 |
| K & S CARPET CLEANERS | 358.30 |
| KLJ ENGINEERING LLC | 107,525.45 |
| KOTACO | 3,632.83 |
| LESMEISTER GRAVEL | 4,713.76 |
| MAIN STREET FARM AND HOME | 207.71 |
| NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES | 450.00 |
| NDACO RESOURCES GROUP | 255.00 |
| OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL-1250 | 1,650.00 |
| RANSOM COUNTY GAZETTE | 2,968.16 |
| SCHWAB, GREG | 200.00 |
| ST FRANCIS HEALTHCARE CAMPUS | 1,441.04 |
| TEAL'S MARKET | 6.98 |
| VESTIS | 162.06 |
| WILKIN COUNTY JAIL | 785.31 |
| Total | 171,314.79 |

Alison and Andrew from Cass County Electric appeared before the board to discuss the delinquent utility bill in the City of Elliott. Alison and Andrew let the board know that the street lights will be torn out of Elliott on main street and in yards if residence don’t take the bill over. Olerud moved, seconded by Olson to use general funds from interest to pay the City of Elliott’s past due utility bill, the county will try to get the money from the City of Elliott at a later time. The board decided to pay for the past due utility bill for the safety aspect on the county road. All aye. Motion carried.

Brian Orn, from Garrision Diversion, Steve Burian from Burian Consultants appeared before the board to answer any questions they may have on the new water pipeline being built for commercial infrastructure. The pipeline construction start date is 2032, completion date is 2042, it has been designed for drought protection through 2075. The pipeline is for commercial grade water only, it will not be drinkable water. If Ransom County were to sign the memoranda of commitment the first payment will be due in 2028. If at anytime Ransom County were to change their mind, Fargo or Grand Forks would be willing to buy Ransom County’s share. No decision was made.

Heather Bergemann appeared before the board with Chris Iverson from the Fargo Courts Division to discuss plans for the court room improvement grant application. Bergemann would like to see the courtroom flipped around so the Judge does not have to walk through the people he is prosecuting. Bergemann would also like to add a door from the Clerk of Court vault/storage room into the courtroom to add a more secure entrance for the judge. Iverson let the board know the court administration would pay for court staff chairs, technology, and wiring. However, this was not submitted in the current budget, and the state follows biennial budgets, so they could request for the next biennium. Bergemann suggested applying for the install of the door on this grant application and then applying next year to flip the court room. The rough quote to install a door from clerk of court to the court room is $4785. Olerud moved, seconded by Anderson to have Bergemann go ahead and apply to have a door installed pending approval from the state Historical Preservation Office. All aye. Motion carried.

Fallon Kelly appeared before the board to let them know he has an employee retiring and he would like permission to hire a new employee and have 1 month training with the current employee. Anderson moved, seconded by Olson to allow Fallon Kelly a month of overlap for training since this has been allowed in other offices in the past. All aye. Motion carried.

City of Elliott was discussed with Fallon Kelly. Kelly let the board know they city will indefinitely be a city until they dissolve. Kelly can look into the process of how they can dissolve, however this needs to be done by city residents. The county can not do it for them.

Scott Smyth appeared before the board to let them know there are no updates on the Flex funding project. The Englevale and Sheldon Road paving projects are complete, the county can expect a bill around $800,000.

The commission, Nicole Gentzkow, and Randy Gallagher then watched the yearly required work force safety video.

Liquor and beer licenses were submitted along with the appropriate fee for Stiklestad Lodge and Silver Prairie Saloon. A beer license and appropriate fee was submitted for the Sand Dune Saloon. Olson moved, seconded by Anderson to approve the liquor and beer license pending taxes have been paid. Olerud abstained from the vote. Anderson, Olson, and Bishop were in favor. Motion carried.

Mcleod Agriculture 4H Club submitted a local gaming permit along with the appropriate fee. Olerud moved, seconded by Olson to approve the local gaming permit. All aye. Motion carried.

Health insurance was discussed once again, Gentzkow is not sure the county can afford to cover the 19.1% increase. No changes were made.

Pers Public Safety Retirement Plan was discussed in 2026 the required amount is 19.27% for law enforcement. Currently the county is paying all of pers retirement.

With nothing more to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

ATTEST:

Nicole R. Gentzkow Kevin Bishop, Chairman

Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission