**RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Meeting – January 7, 2025

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

The agenda was reviewed. Lake Agassiz grant request was added. Schwab moved, seconded by Olson to approve the agenda with the addition. All aye. Motion carried.

Reorganization of the board – Bishop handed the meeting over to the auditor. Auditor Nicole Gentzkow called for nominations for chairman. Bishop nominated Greg Schwab, seconded by Anderson. Gentzkow called for additional nominations for chair another two times. Being no additional nominations, the vote was called. All Aye. Motion carried. Schwab then called for nominations for vice chair. Olerud nominated Anderson as vice chair, seconded by Olson. All aye Motion carried.

Minutes from the previous regular scheduled commission meeting on December 17, 2024 were reviewed. Bishop moved to approve the minutes with an addition to the City of Elliott discussion, Anderson seconded the motion. All aye. Motion carried.

Audit listing in the amount of 246,694.71 were reviewed. The Riverside bill was discussed. The board would like all offices to get quotes to secure their offices and compiled into one and be submitted to the board. Olson moved to approve the bills in the amount of 246,694.71, seconded by Bishop. All aye. Motion carried.

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| 9893 | 1/07/2025 | OTTER TAIL POWER CO | 45.92 |
| 9973 | 1/09/2025 | EDISON, HEATHER | 120.00 |
| 9974 | 1/09/2025 | RUNCK, NICKELA | 30.00 |
| 9975 | 1/09/2025 | WEIDNER,SAMANTHA | 5.86 |
| 9976 | 1/09/2025 | ZIMPRICH, BRIAN | 317.40 |
| 13807 | 1/09/2025 | AMERICAN SOLUTIONS FOR BUSINESS | 39.78 |
| 13808 | 1/09/2025 | ANDERSON, JORDAN | 750.00 |
| 13809 | 1/09/2025 | BARNES COUNTY CORRECTIONAL CENTER | 1,300.00 |
| 13810 | 1/09/2025 | BEAR CREEK GRAVEL | 2,253.35 |
| 13811 | 1/09/2025 | BRI-TON | 784.80 |
| 13812 | 1/09/2025 | CASUAL LIVING | 1,362.00 |
| 13813 | 1/09/2025 | CHI LISBON HEALTH | 4,995.65 |
| 13814 | 1/09/2025 | COMPUTER EXPRESS | 859.99 |
| 13815 | 1/09/2025 | DACOTAH PAPER COMPANY | 213.48 |
| 13816 | 1/09/2025 | DAKOTA WATER SOLUTIONS | 88.00 |
| 13817 | 1/09/2025 | ENDERLIN INDEPENDENT | 35.00 |
| 13818 | 1/09/2025 | FARMERS UNION INSURANCE | 66,160.00 |
| 13819 | 1/09/2025 | FIRST MEDIC AMBULANCE | 450.00 |
| 13820 | 1/09/2025 | GORDY'S GRILL & FILL | 6.99 |
| 13821 | 1/09/2025 | HENRICKS HEATING | 365.00 |
| 13822 | 1/09/2025 | KLJ ENGINEERING LLC | 107,525.45 |
| 13823 | 1/09/2025 | KOTACO | 13,698.71 |
| 13824 | 1/09/2025 | LAKE AGASSIZ REGIONAL DEV. CORP. | 7,200.00 |
| 13825 | 1/09/2025 | LANGLAND,MARIA | 30.00 |
| 13826 | 1/09/2025 | LYONS, MATTHEW | 309.74 |
| 13827 | 1/09/2025 | MIDSTATES EQUIPMENT & SUPPLY | 17,099.40 |
| 13828 | 1/09/2025 | MLGC | 569.88 |
| 13829 | 1/09/2025 | NAPA PARTS SUPPLY-LISBON | 865.44 |
| 13830 | 1/09/2025 | ND ASSOC OF COUNTIES- BISMARCK | 7,511.00 |
| 13831 | 1/09/2025 | ND COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ASSOCIATION | 31.50 |
| 13832 | 1/09/2025 | NDLTAP-UGPTI/NDSU | 300.00 |
| 13833 | 1/09/2025 | NEWMAN SIGNS | 9,948.00 |
| 13834 | 1/09/2025 | OLERUD, SCOTT | 120.00 |
| 13835 | 1/09/2025 | ONE CALL CONCEPTS, INC. | 15.00 |
| 13836 | 1/09/2025 | QUADIENT LEASING USA, INC | 868.86 |
| 13837 | 1/09/2025 | RIVERSIDE BUILDING CENTER | 1,320.36 |
| 13838 | 1/09/2025 | UTKE, DAVE | 750.00 |
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|  |  | Total | 248,346.56 |

Manual warrants in the amount of $22,609.83 were reviewed by the board. Bishop moved, seconded by Olson to approve the manual warrants in the amount of $22,609.83. All aye. Motion carried.

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| MARCO | 225.90 |
| MARCO | 10.00 |
| OTTER TAIL POWER CO | 266.05 |
| MARCO | 162.22 |
| MARCO | 303.86 |
| MARCO | 10.00 |
| OTTER TAIL POWER CO | 1,175.88 |
| LIBERTY BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC. | 278.99 |
| LIBERTY BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC. | 73.14 |
| OTTER TAIL POWER CO | 98.30 |
| LISBON, CITY OF | 39.50 |
| LISBON, CITY OF | 194.30 |
| LISBON, CITY OF | 66.50 |
| JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 16,413.53 |
| BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES | 36.84 |
| BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES | 30.51 |
| BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES | 38.44 |
| BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES | 36.44 |
| BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES | 19.89 |
| BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES | 10.00 |
| BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES | 46.70 |
| BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES | 30.48 |
| BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES | 34.40 |
| BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES | 43.22 |
| BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES | 30.38 |
| MARCO | 128.50 |
| CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP | 206.90 |
| MARCO TECH- ST LOUIS | 678.46 |
| MARCO TECH- ST LOUIS | 10.00 |
| OTTER TAIL POWER CO | 38.38 |
| SOUTHEAST WATER USERS | 58.46 |
| LISBON, CITY OF | 16.00 |
| CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP | 49.65 |
| CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP | 5.00 |
| CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP | 48.32 |
| CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP | 226.75 |
| CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP | 1,385.77 |
| OTTER TAIL POWER CO | 36.25 |
| OTTER TAIL POWER CO | 45.92 |
| **Total** | **22,609.83** |

Derek Johnson and Tanya Taylor was Ransom County Housing Authority appeared before the board to present the financials for October, November, and December 2024. Olerud moved, seconded by Bishop to approve the financials presented from Johnson and Taylor. All aye. Motion carried. Johnson and Taylor also presented the housing authority minutes from October 1, 2024. Bishop moved, seconded by Anderson to approve the minutes as presented. All aye. Motion carried. Derek Johnson asked the board to appoint Tanya Taylor as the new executive director of Ransom County Housing Authority. Anderson moved, seconded by Olson to appoint Tanya Taylor as the Ransom County Housing Authority new executive director. The next Ransom County Housing Authority meeting will be on April 1st, 2025 at 9:30n a.m.

Sheriff Darren Benneweis appeared before the board to discuss a new squad. Benneweis has reached out to Gateway Chevrolet multiple times without any call backs. Benneweis has been looking into a Chevy Tahoe or a pickup. The Tahoe’s are more expensive, but would allow for more room in the vehicle. The squad being replaced is for Officer Ward Kuehn who is one of the drone officers. Benneweis let the board know Dodge did not submit a state bid for police vehicles but they are decently priced. The board asked Benneweis to keep getting quotes, and asked Benneweis stay within the State of North Dakota. Benneweis also let the board know Officer Andrew Maley has returned from his National Guard deployment and is back to work as of the beginning of January. Benneweis asked the board how they felt about keeping Danny Gross on as a full-time officer. Schwab stated that was not the original deal, Gross was hired as a full time temporary employee just to cover while Andrew Maley was deployed. Olerud was fine with Gross staying on with Ransom County if Benneweis’s Sheriff’s budget could support it. Benneweis let the board know he did not have enough in his budget to keep Gross on. Olerud asked Benneweis if he had any interest in a jail with Richland County. Richland County is in the very beginning stages of research, but are reaching out to surrounding counties to see if anyone has an interest. Benneweis said he would be willing to talk to Richland, however currently Ransom County prefers to jail inmates in Barnes County.

Rick Mairs appeared before the board on behalf of Lake Agassiz. Mairs let the board know that Lake Agassiz helps with township zoning, livestock and agricultural planning. Lake Agassiz has grant writes who will do the research and write the grants at no cost. Lake Agassiz also offers very low interest loans. Mairs let the board know out of all counties who help support Lake Agassiz Ransom County gives the least amount of money. With all the programs Lake Agassiz has, the program pays for itself with little to no investment. Mairs asked the board to consider giving the full amount of money requested by Lake Agassiz in the future.

Adam Schultz road superintendent appeared before the board to discuss the closure of Hock Bridge due to the NDDOT identifying significant cracking of a non-redundant tension members, and issued a critical finding because of collapse. The federal highway administration requires NDDOT to address critical finding closures within seven days. Scott Smyth let the board know KLJ looked into the Hock Bridge back in 2013, Smyth will do a little more research for the next commission meeting. Adam Schultz let the board know they needed to get moving on the Sheldon shop. Schultz will get quotes and bring back to the board. Board discussed what to do with the old Sheldon shop, board decided it needs to be torn down. Discussion was had on what to do with the old Fort Ransom shop, no decisions were made. Smyth let the board know all the trees are cut down at the McRitchie Bridge, he is going to do one last check to make sure nothing is in the way for the contractors. Adam Schultz let the board know Ron Sveum is being awarded a level One Road Scholar award for his hours of education completed at the ND Association of County Engineers conference at the end of January. Schultz asked for permission to take Sveum to the conference with him to accept his award. Olerud moved, seconded by Bishop to approve Ron Sveum and Adam Schultz to attend the North Dakota Association of County Engineers for two and a half days. All aye. Motion carried.

Olerud moved, seconded by Bishop to give $4,200 to Lake Agassiz out of misc. advertising per the 2025 budget request. All aye. Motion carried.

NDIRF – sent correspondence for any interested candidates to fill the county or city seat open. Any interested candidate should apply by January 31, 2025.

Water Board – the auditors office sent letters out to Tim Huether, Mike Bunn, and Ron Hartl asking if they would like to continue to serve on the water board. Tim Huether and Ron Hartl would like to be done on the water board. Tim Huether referred David Dahl to take his position, and Ron Hartl asked the board to find an interested candidate to take his spot. Mike Bunn is willing to continue serving on the water board.

Kevin Bishop received a letter from Mike Martin concerned about taxes and lack of business left in Enderlin.

The board received correspondence from the Garrison Division for grant application deadlines due March 1, 2025. Board asked Gentzkow to pass onto the park board, and water board.

The board discussed the travel reimbursement policy that was handed out by Auditor Nicole Gentzkow. The policy will be discussed at the next commission meeting.

Randy Gallaghers maintenance position was discussed. Gentzkow suggested hiring a contract cleaning crew or part time maintenance and asking employees if they would be willing to vacuum their own offices and take out their own trash to try and save some money. Over the past few years some have funding sources went away and inflation has been hard. Gentzkow let the board know if it doesn’t work out having employees do a little more, and a contract service cleaning a few times a month, they would be in the same situation they are now, and need to hire. Gentzkow will have an all-employee meeting with employees to get some feedback and report to the board at the next meeting.

With nothing further to come before the board, Bishop moved, seconded by Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 12:30 p.m. All aye. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Nicole R. Gentzkow Kevin Bishop, Chairman

Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission