RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting – February 18, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Greg Schwab. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members present: Todd Anderson, Neil Olerud, Sye Olson, Kevin Bishop, and Greg Schwab. Also, present Auditor Nicole Gentzkow and Lynn Kaspari with Ransom County Gazette.

Agenda – was reviewed. Bishop moved, seconded by Olson to approve the agenda as presented. All aye. Motion carried.

Minutes from the special meeting on February 6, 2025 were reviewed. Bishop moved, seconded by Anderson to approve the special meeting minutes regarding the policy handbook. All aye. Motion carried.

Minutes from the previous regular scheduled commission meeting on February 4, 2025 were reviewed. Olerud moved, seconded by Olson to approve the minutes with corrections. All aye. Motion carried.

Nickela Runck, deputy auditor appeared before the board to discuss her new position handling WSI and letting the board know the county does not have an insurance policy to cover volunteers who are helping the county. Public Health has a co-op student who would fall under the volunteer policy that currently would not be covered if something happened. Runck spoke to the state and it is $250 per policy per Calander year for coverage. The county would need a vocational volunteer coverage for the co-op students that would cover up to 39 students per calendar year under this policy. Then there is also a standard volunteer coverage for anyone who is not a co-op student, and 29 people could be under this policy per calendar year. Runck had spoken to Brenna Welton about the county not having a policy and Welton had asked Runck to go ahead with the vocational policy and they would figure out what account to pay for it out of. Runck also let the board know if they go ahead with these policies and a volunteer gets injured while volunteering for the county one hundred percent of the individual’s medical cost would get covered and they would get disability benefits. Bishop moved, seconded by Olerud for Runck to sign the county up for the volunteer coverage and the vocational coverage at $250 per policy and pay for it out of the general insurance account. All aye. Motion carried.

Shelly Schwab appeared before the board to discuss the pancake feed the county has done the past 5 years in April in honor of National County Month. Shelly Schwab asked the board if they were willing to do a pancake feed in April of 2025. Discussion was had. Bishop moved, seconded by Anderson to have the county host a pancake feed on April 11, 2025 from 7am-11am. All aye. Motion carried.

Audit listing in the amount of $61,130.42 were reviewed by the board. Bishop moved, seconded by Anderson to approve the bills with the exception of the breakfast for Brenna Welton as it doesn’t meet the time guidelines per NDCC. All aye. Motion carried.

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| ASCHE, HOLLIE  | 52.34 |
| BRISS,MICHAELA  | 50.00 |
| GILBERT, KIRSTEN  | 100.00 |
| HAECHERL, TERESA  | 308.30 |
| HEGLE, KELSEY  | 240.10 |
| HOPKINS, ROBERTA PO BOX 950  | 7.99 |
| JONES, CHELSEY  | 56.00 |
| KELLY, FALLON M.  | 1,185.46 |
| LARSON, MEGHAN  | 174.65 |
| RANSOM COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION  | 500.00 |
| SCHWAB, SHELLY  | 267.40 |
| WEIDNER,SAMANTHA  | 406.56 |
| WELTON, BRENNA  | 219.00 |
| WILTSE,CAYLA  | 4.55 |
| A W DIESEL SERVICE  | 2,311.31 |
| BIRKLID, EUGENE  | 65.00 |
| BOBCAT OF GWINNER  | 110.50 |
| BRI-TON  | 15.50 |
| CARDINAL HEALTH 110, INC.  | 6,357.47 |
| COLE PAPER INC.  | 83.60 |
| COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHOLOGY  | 3,140.00 |
| DAKOTA PLAINS AG- GWINNER  | 1,680.00 |
| DICKEY RURAL NETWORK INC.  | 1,143.67 |
| DIFFERDING ELECTRIC LLC  | 940.00 |
| FAT MAN TRASH  | 220.50 |
| GORDY'S GRILL & FILL  | 96.87 |
| HENRICKS HEATING  | 105.00 |
| INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT.  | 2,111.80 |
| JAMES/VALLEY REGIONAL LODGE #4  | 74.00 |
| LISBON BODY SHOP  | 135.00 |
| LISBON TRUE VALUE  | 28.97 |
| LYNN JOHNSON LOCK & KEY SERVICE  | 493.00 |
| LYONS, JEFFREY  | 33.50 |
| LYONS, MATTHEW  | 39.10 |
| LYONS, NATHAN  | 40.50 |
| MATHERN, JOE  | 45.40 |
| MLGC  | 569.88 |
| NALBOH  | 250.00 |
| ND ASSOC OF COUNTIES- BISMARCK  | 28,331.44 |
| ND ASSOCIATION OF CO ENGINEERS  | 350.00 |
| ND LEAGUE OF CITIES  | 60.00 |
| ND SHERIFF'S & DEPUTIES ASSOCIATION  | 400.00 |
| ND 911 ASSOCIATION  | 100.00 |
| NDEMA  | 50.00 |
| NDSU AG COMMUNICATION  | 505.00 |
| NDSU EXTENSION PESTICIDE PROGRAM  | 60.00 |
| OLSON, JERRY  | 59.40 |
| PITNEY BOWES INC.  | 91.29 |
| PLAINJANS INC.  | 1,182.92 |
| QUAL, ANGELA  | 250.00 |
| RANSOM COUNTY GAZETTE  | 691.32 |
| RDO EQUIPMENT-FARGO  | 30.41 |
| RECORD KEEPERS, LLC  | 55.00 |
| REINKE, ALLEN  | 200.00 |
| SANDVIG, ROGER  | 600.00 |
| SARGENT COUNTY DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT  | 667.04 |
| SCHWAB, GREG  | 48.20 |
| STUTSMAN COUNTY CORRECTIONAL CENTER  | 500.00 |
| TANYA WIELER  | 1,500.00 |
| TRIZETTO PROVIDER SOLUTIONS  | 82.80 |
| TYLER TECHNOLOGIES INC.  | 449.00 |
| VESTIS  | 169.68 |
| WELTON'S TIRE SERVICE  | 854.00 |
| WEX HEALTH, INC.  | 50.00 |
| X-STREAM CLEAN CAR WASH  | 130.00 |
| Total | 61,130.42 |

Heather Bergemann, clerk of court appeared before the board to ask where they are with the court facility grant. The board will do a walk through of the court room and clerk of court office at the end of the meeting and make a decision.

State’s Attorney Fallon Kelly arrived at 10:20 a.m.

Scott Smyth with KLJ appeared before the board to let them know prairie dog funds are on track to be paid out to the counties in March 2025. Discussion was had on the flex fund project along 130th Ave west of Lisbon. Gentzkow had spoken to Traci Sletmoe with NDDOT at the township meeting and asked if there would be a possibility of putting a phase two grant application in for 130th Ave to be paved. Sletmoe was very encouraging to have the county apply for a phase two for the flex funding truck alternative route for pavement as it was a safety issue trying to get young kids into town when the walking path that is being put in doesn’t go anywhere. The original cost of the truck alternative route to add six inches of gravel down 130th Ave, a walking path, and gravel on the Wills Road was over $800,000 dollars with the county being responsible for 20% of that. Scott Smyth also let the board know if they ever need to raise mills to help fund the road and bridge department KLJ specializes in assisting the counties with public input meetings to discuss infrastructure, needs, and finances. Anderson asked Smyth how much KLJ charges to assist with those meetings. Smyth informed the board it all depends on how in depth they want KLJ to go and the time spent working on information and meetings. Currently the county has three bridges that need to be looked into and replaced if possible. Painter, Hock, and McRitchie. The county has funding for the Painter bridge and the McRitchie bridge which are scheduled to be replaced. The board would be willing to hear more about the assistance KLJ can provide for public input meetings. Scott will have Matt Lange come to the upcoming meeting to discuss. Upcoming paving projects were discussed. Elliott, Milnor, and McLeod Road are all needing to have mill and overlay done. Mill and overlays are about $300,000 per mile. The Elliott and McLeod Road are both about three miles which will cost around $900,000 to a million dollars per road, and the Milnor Road is 10 miles and will cost roughly $3,000,000. The county has borrowed ahead from federal aid so would not be eligible for any more funds this year, which means the paving project would have to be county dollars. Discussion was had. Anderson said it doesn’t make sense to redo the Milnor Road while the gravel trucks are hauling so much rock up to the Cass County diversion project. The project is expected to be done in the next two to three years. The board also asked Smyth about adding more rip raft to the northwest side of the Fort Ransom Road along WHY 58 where the muskrats have caused issues. Smyth let the board know he could ask Mark’s Sand and gravel if they could do that project at the same time, they come down to finish the paving around the Anslem Bridge.

Discussion was had with Fallon Kelly on how the county can get money from individuals wrecking the county roads. Fallon Kelly advised the board to start enforcing the road haul agreement and allow the sheriff’s department to get scales again. Kelly also let the board know they need to back the sheriff’s department if they give tickets to individuals who are overweight. Kelly discussed reviewing the road haul agreement the county currently has and if they would like to revise that they would need to have a first and second reading at a meeting and after that the new ordinance would be in effect.

Adam Schultz appeared before the board and let them know the new road grader will be here in March. Then the county only has one lease left which will expire in 2026.

Fallon Kelly asked Auditor Nicole Gentzkow to find the original signed copy of the road haul agreement for the board to review.

The board, State’s Attorney Fallon Kelly, Emergency Manager Kirsten Gilbert, Sheriff Darren Benneweis, Clerk of Court Heather Bergemann, Auditor Nicole Gentzkow, and Lynn Kaspari with the Gazette went up to third floor to tour the courtroom and clerk of court. Discussion was had. Anderson moved, seconded by Bishop to approve and accept the court room facility grant to put a door in the back of the court room directly into the clerk of courts vault. All aye. Motion carried.

5 County meeting dates were discussed. March 6, 2025 will be the date of the 5-county meeting in Ellendale, ND.

Riding for Dreams submitted a local gaming permit and the appropriate fee. Bishop moved to approve, seconded by Olerud. All aye. Motion carried.

Sandhills 4H Club submitted a local gaming permit and the appropriate fee. Bishop moved, seconded by Olson to approve. All aye. Motion carried.

Bethany Lutheran Sunday School submitted a local gaming permit and the appropriate fee. Olerud moved, seconded by Anderson to approve. All aye. Motion carried.

Enderlin Golf Course submitted a liquor license and a beer license along with the appropriate fees. Olerud moved to approve the license, seconded by Olson. All aye. Motion carried.

The board would like to schedule another policy handbook meeting. The meeting will be February 27 at 9am.

With nothing further to come before the board Olson moved, seconded by Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 p.m. All aye. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

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Nicole Gentzkow Greg Schwab

Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission