**RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Meeting – March 18, 2025

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

The agenda was reviewed. Anderson moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Bishop. All aye. Motion carried.

Minutes from the previous regular scheduled commission meeting on March 4, 2025 were reviewed. Bishop moved to approve the minutes with an addition, seconded by Olson. All aye. Motion carried.

State’s Attorney Fallon Kelly arrived at 9:10a.m.

The board asked Fallon Kelly if the highway department sells a pickup can the money go back into county general or should it go into the highway department accounts. Gentzkow explained 2000 accounts or special revenue funds, are accounts specifically levied for specific accounts some which the tax payers have approved an excess levy for. General funds can be transferred into any fund, however special funds money should go in and out of that account.

Leslie Lubenow, district manager for NDSU Extension appeared before the board to discuss a vacancy in the Lisbon NDSU Extension office. Lubenow asked the board to partner with NDSU to rehire that position at a full-time position again. The NDSU Extension agents’ salaries are fifty percent funded by NDSU, and the benefits are paid for one hundred percent by NDSU. The county is responsible for fifty percent of the salary and all operating expenses. Anderson moved, seconded by Bishop to allow Lebenow to start the process of filling the vacancy in the NDSU Extension office in Lisbon. All aye. Motion carried. Discussions were had on different protocols and the agreement with NDSU for Extension Agents. Lebenow advised the board if they have concerns, they should discuss with NDACo who works on the contract for all counties in the state of North Dakota and NDSU.

Commission Audit Listing in the amount of 946,524.32 was reviewed. The board questioned Fallon Kelly on his expenses and how things are divided between Ransom County and Lamoure County along with DRN, City of Enderlin, City of Ellendale, and City of Oakes and his private practice. Bishop moved to approve the bills in the amount of $946,524.32, seconded by Olson. All aye. Motion carried.

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| 10192 |  3/19/2025 | GILBERT, KIRSTEN  | 50.00 |
| 10193 |  3/19/2025 | HEGLE, KELSEY  | 135.10 |
| 10194 |  3/19/2025 | HOPKINS, ROBERTA PO BOX 950  | 37.79 |
| 10195 |  3/19/2025 | JONES, CHELSEY  | 135.00 |
| 10196 |  3/19/2025 | KELLY, FALLON M.  | 1,367.04 |
| 10197 |  3/19/2025 | LARSON, MEGHAN  | 194.95 |
| 10198 |  3/19/2025 | RANSOM COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION  | 350.00 |
| 10199 |  3/19/2025 | WELTON, BRENNA  | 386.55 |
| 10200 |  3/19/2025 | ZIMPRICH, BRIAN  | 1,091.27 |
| 13983 |  3/19/2025 | AMERICAN SOLUTIONS FOR BUSINESS  | 213.33 |
| 13984 |  3/19/2025 | BEAR CREEK GRAVEL  | 1,161.45 |
| 13985 |  3/19/2025 | BISMARCK HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER  | 990.00 |
| 13986 |  3/19/2025 | BRUSH AND DUST PAINTING & CLEANING LLC  | 558.50 |
| 13987 |  3/19/2025 | CARDINAL HEALTH 110, INC.  | 7,687.54 |
| 13988 |  3/19/2025 | COMPUTER EXPRESS  | 4,649.92 |
| 13989 |  3/19/2025 | COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHOLOGY  | 3,117.00 |
| 13990 |  3/19/2025 | DAHLSTROM FUNERAL HOME  | 372.50 |
| 13991 |  3/19/2025 | DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  | 511,815.94 |
| 13992 |  3/19/2025 | DICKEY RURAL NETWORK INC.  | 1,214.09 |
| 13993 |  3/19/2025 | FAT MAN TRASH  | 220.50 |
| 13994 |  3/19/2025 | FORT RANSOM SODBUSTERS  | 2,500.00 |
| 13995 |  3/19/2025 | FOSTER COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL  | 150.00 |
| 13996 |  3/19/2025 | GORDY'S GRILL & FILL  | 1,440.17 |
| 13997 |  3/19/2025 | GRIGGS FFA  | 100.00 |
| 13998 |  3/19/2025 | INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT.  | 1,891.05 |
| 13999 |  3/19/2025 | KINDRED FFA  | 100.00 |
| 14000 |  3/19/2025 | KOTACO  | 292.41 |
| 14001 |  3/19/2025 | LANGLAND,MARIA  | 30.00 |
| 14002 |  3/19/2025 | LISBON TRUE VALUE  | 597.32 |
| 14003 |  3/19/2025 | ND LEAGUE OF CITIES  | 240.00 |
| 14004 |  3/19/2025 | ND SACCHO  | 500.00 |
| 14005 |  3/19/2025 | NEXTBLUE OF ND INSURANCE CO  | 326.67 |
| 14006 |  3/19/2025 | QUAL, ANGELA  | 250.00 |
| 14007 |  3/19/2025 | RANSOM COUNTY GAZETTE  | 531.60 |
| 14008 |  3/19/2025 | RDO EQUIPMENT-FARGO  | 5,976.72 |
| 14009 |  3/19/2025 | RICHLAND COUNTY CORRECTIONS  | 170.00 |
| 14010 |  3/19/2025 | RIVERSIDE BUILDING CENTER  | 622.32 |
| 14011 |  3/19/2025 | STARION BOND SERVICES  | 230,248.75 |
| 14012 |  3/19/2025 | STOCK GROWERS BANK  | 160,000.00 |
| 14013 |  3/19/2025 | STUTSMAN COUNTY CORRECTIONAL CENTER  | 2,800.00 |
| 14014 |  3/19/2025 | TANYA WIELER  | 1,500.00 |
| 14015 |  3/19/2025 | THE MEDICINE SHOPPE  | 50.08 |
| 14016 |  3/19/2025 | TRIZETTO PROVIDER SOLUTIONS  | 82.80 |
| 14017 |  3/19/2025 | TYLER TECHNOLOGIES INC.  | 150.00 |
| 14018 |  3/19/2025 | VALLEY PLAINS EQUIPMENT  | 175.96 |
| 14019 |  3/19/2025 | WEX HEALTH, INC.  | 50.00 |
|  |  | Total | 946,524.32 |

**10:00 AM GRAVEL BIDS**

Six gravel bis were received. All bids appeared to have met specs. Adam Schultz, highway superintendent will take the bids back and compile them to be presented at the next commission meeting on April 1, 2025.

**10:15 AM GAS, DIESEL, AND PROPANE BIDS**

Four bids were received, two bids did not meet bid specs and were unable to be opened. Two bids met bid specs. Bishop moved, seconded by Anderson to accept the bid from Agtegra and Main Street Farm and Home due to bid specs being met. All aye. Motion carried. Adam Schultz will return the two bids that were rejected from CHS and Kotaco.

Shelly Schwab appeared before the board to let them know at the most recent department head meeting employees asked about the employee handbook. Discussion was had and the board told Gentzkow to go ahead and send a copy of the handbook out to all employees.

Scott Smyth with KLJ appeared before the board to give an update on the McRitchie Bridge, bid letting is scheduled for June 2025. The McRitchie Bridge is fully funded including engineering cost. An RFP will need to go out to get contractors for the project, plans should be posted the same day as the bid is released. KLJ will assist with the RFP. The McRitchie bridge has a completion date of 2026. Smyth also let the board know the Anslem slope project is on hold due to federal funds being on hold until the end of 2026. Smyth also let the board know there are no culverts in the Prairie View Dr. approaches, so KLJ will need to figure out right of ways, drainage, and culverts. KLJ does offer a service where they are willing to meet with Nicole Gentzkow, Adam Schultz, Matt Lange from KLJ, and Scott Smyth from KLJ to discuss cost and needs in the county. Smyth had no updates on the Hock Bridge, it is possible for Adam Schultz to weld the bridge, however no guarantee NDDOT will approve that as being safe.

Heather Bergemann appeared before the board to discuss the glass enclosure for her office is complete and House of Glass is ready to install it. Discussion was had. Bishop moved, seconded by Anderson to approve House of Glass to install the glass in the clerk of courts office. All aye. Motion carried. Bergemann let the board know she does not have to use the original contractor who quoted the court room facility grant, however she does need to update the state with any changes and updates every sixty days.

Construction/security project was discussed. Anderson moved, seconded by Olson to have all security projects being paid for out of the ARPA funds quoted as a whole, not individual offices. All aye. Motion carried.

Adam Schultz, highway superintendent appeared before the board to let them know the final leased motor grader is up on December 21, 2025. Schultz asked if he should get another bid packet ready or how the board would like to proceed. Anderson would like to look into the warranty on John Deere motor graders. Anderson struggles with the idea of a municipality taking out a loan. Anderson moved, seconded by Olson to have Schultz put a bid packet together for a new motor grader so they could see what the price would come in at. Meanwhile the board would look into the warranty and possibly buying out this lease. All aye. Motoin carried.

Public Health funding was discussed. Currently the county is giving public health 10.15 mills out of county general which is $448,000. The county is levying more for county health than any other department including road and bridge. Public Health gets roughly $550,000 per year in grants that could be used to fund them instead of levying out of general. Gentzkow has checked with other counties through the auditor’s association out of all the counties who responded Ransom County was the only county levying over two mills for public health. At the five-county meeting the discussion of public health funding was also discussed. Richland county levies zero mills, they just transfer around $30,000 from the general to public health at the end of the year. Lamoure County give public health less than $80,000 a year, Sargent County gives half of a mill, and Dickey County didn’t give any money to the public health per the auditors. Gentzkow let the board know the county currently needs the funds from public health for the road and bridge department as we only levy 10 mills, however they spend around 30 mills. The shortfall in road and bridge has been being taken out of the savings account and the county is starting to run low on funds. Gentzkow would like to see public health operate on just their grants, and if they have a shortfall the county can transfer some funds to them just as all other counties are doing. This would allow the county to have more funds for road and bridge and be able to balance the books. Gentzkow also discussed the difference between and district and a department. Gentzkow let the board know that decision could be made at another time if they want to make changes like that, we just need to make changes to the general fund money now. The board would like to have public health attend the next commission meeting to discuss changing the ways they are funded.

Gentzkow presented three loan options for the motor grader from Stock Growers. Discussion was had. Anderson moved, seconded by Olson to approve the loan through Stock Growers for three years and making a $160,000 payment immediately. All aye. Motion carried. Anderson moved to approve the payment of $160,000 to the commission audit listing for Stock Growers, seconded by Bishop. All Aye. Motion carried.

The board received correspondence asking them for a letter of support for a Lawerance Welk Day. The board discussed. The board did not find it necessary for them to send a letter to the state to have a day honoring Lawerence Welk. No action was taken.

Brian Zimprich submitted a letter to the board asking for permission to travel to Billings, MT on June 29 to July 2, 2025 to accept a distinguished service award at an awards banquet. A portion of the trip will have NDSU dollars available to help offset a portion of the travel. The other portion of the travel would come out of the county agent budget line item 2000-0206-6340 continuing education/professional development which has $5,500 available. Bishop moved, seconded by Olson to approve Zimprich’s out of state travel, Greg Schwab signed the letter, Gentzkow will email to Zimprich. All aye. Motion carried.

With nothing further to come before the board Olson moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:06p.m., seconded by Bishop. All aye. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Nicole R. Gentzkow Greg Schwab, Chairman

Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission