RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting – December 20, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Connie Gilbert. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members present: Neil Olerud, Kevin Bishop, Greg Schwab, Joe Mathern and Connie Gilbert. Also in attendance via zoom: Sheriff Darren Benneweis, Kristie Reinke, Lonnie Rotenberger, Chelsey Jones, Maria Prouty, Bea Roach, Shelly Schwab, Nickela Runck, Kathie Erickson, Cindy Morin, Randy Gallagher, Brenna Welton, and Jenna Olerud.

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

Minutes – from the previous regular scheduled commission meeting on December 6, 2022 were considered. Bishop moved to approve the minutes with corrections, Schwab seconded the motion. All aye. Motion carried.

Bills – In the amount of $144,314.98 were considered by the board. Bishop moved to approve the bills in the amount of $144,314.98 with a few account changes, seconded by Mathern. All Aye. Motion carried.

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| ARAMARK UNIFORM SERVICES | 71.17 |
| CARDINAL HEALTH 110, INC. | 3,864.62 |
| COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHOLOGY | 2,945.00 |
| DAKOTA WATER SOLUTIONS | 45.00 |
| DICKEY RURAL NETWORK INC. | 13,107.58 |
| DULUTH SERVICE CENTER (UHC) | 32.00 |
| ENDERLIN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT | 2,597.75 |
| ERICKSON, KATHIE | 90.00 |
| EVERSPRING INN & SUITES | 950.40 |
| GILBERT, CONNIE | 74.41 |
| GILBERT, KIRSTEN | 50.00 |
| GORDY'S GRILL & FILL | 13.96 |
| GREEN IRON EQUIPMENT | 32.73 |
| GWORKS | 4,253.00 |
| INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT. | 1,217.80 |
| INTERCOMMUNITY TELEPHONE COMPANY | 75.00 |
| JONES, CHELSEY | 166.25 |
| KELLER, MALLORY | 250.00 |
| KLJ ENGINEERING LLC | 71,616.00 |
| LAMOURE PRINTING COMPANY | 572.88 |
| LARSON, MEGHAN | 195.34 |
| LISBON TRUE VALUE | 122.98 |
| MARCO TECH- ST LOUIS | 600.81 |
| MATHERN, JOE | 528.90 |
| ND DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION | 9,871.96 |
| NDACO RESOURCES GROUP | 3,438.00 |
| OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR | 5,500.00 |
| OLSON, LYLE | 747.76 |
| QUAL, ANGELA | 250.00 |
| RDO EQUIPMENT-FARGO | 2,056.10 |
| RDO EQUIPMENT-LISBON | 5,100.00 |
| RECORD KEEPERS, LLC | 1.50 |
| RICHLAND COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT | 1,762.13 |
| RIVERSIDE BUILDING CENTER | 319.91 |
| SARGENT COUNTY DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT | 7,835.63 |
| STURDEVANT'S INC | 430.19 |
| TOBACCO FREE NORTH DAKOTA | 2,000.00 |
| TRIZETTO PROVIDER SOLUTIONS | 279.20 |
| WASTE MANAGEMENT OF WI-MN | 214.24 |
| WELTON, BRENNA | 430.01 |
| WELTON'S TIRE SERVICE | 275.50 |
| WILTSE,CAYLA | 120.02 |
| ZIMPRICH, BRIAN | 209.25 |
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| Total | 144,314.98 |

Public Health – Brenna Welton appeared before the board to give pictures on the remodel update happening at public health. Welton let the board know they have received a grant for $175,000 and so far, have only spent $50,000 of the grant. Welton also let the board know the fish house was given back to the State Medical Cash as public health had no use for it anymore. Welton asked the board if Cayla Wiltse the tobacco coordinator could fly to Phoenix, Arizona for a conference. The conference would be 100% reimbursed through the tobacco grant. Mathern moved, seconded by Schwab to approve Wiltse to travel to Arizona for the conference in March 2023. All aye. Motion carried.

Handbook – was reviewed. The board stopped at page 16 policy 201, they will pick up there at the next regular scheduled meeting.

Assessing Fees – were discussed. Mathern motioned to have all townships pay the 2022 assessing fees who have not paid yet, seconded by Bishop. A roll call vote was done. Mathern – yes, Bishop – yes, Gilbert – yes, Olerud – yes, Schwab – no. Motion carried. 2023 assessing fees can be discussed and determined before a contract is sent out. However, it wouldn’t be fair to the townships who have paid the fees if the few townships who haven’t paid, didn’t pay the full amount. The board discussed having State’s Attorney Fallon Kelly continue to pursue legal action on the townships who have not paid the full assessing fees. The board decided to have Fallon stop pursuing legal action on the townships who have not paid.

Randy Gallagher – appeared before the board to let them know the Court Facility Improvement Grant is due at the end of the month. Gallagher and Roach discussed needs for the court room and decided a fire escape and emergency light was needed. The total cost for the two plus installs will be $22,156.08 the grant will cover 80% which would be $16, 617.06 so the county would be responsible for 20% which is $5,039.02 Mathern moved to approve the court facilities improvements grant, seconded by Schwab. All aye. Motion carried. Gallagher also let the board know that he is struggling to get employees to complete the LMS classes each quarter and he is having to take about five classes each quarter for the county. Currently twenty-three employees are signed up for it. Gallagher let the board know the county does receive a rebate from employees taking these classes, in 2022 the check was around $1000. The board is not going to make this a requirement however it is strongly encouraged employees all take these classes to help save the county some money.

Highway Department – Jeff Hopkins appeared before the board to let them know due to the most recent storm a few of the highway department employees were forced to stay at the shop or they wouldn’t have made it back to work to plow roads. Hopkins is requesting compensation for the employees who stayed overnight at the shop and slept in their pickups. Discussion was had. Bishop moved, seconded by Mathern to deny extra pay for the highway department employees who spent the night at the shop and it could be revisited while reviewing the employee handbook. A roll call vote was done: Mathern – yes, Bishop – yes, Schwab – yes, Gilbert – yes, and Olerud – yes. Motion passed.

Burns Architecture – Michael Burnes and Kerry Peuser appeared before the board to present new sketches for a possible addition to provide enhanced security to the courthouse and public health. Both proposals would be an estimated 4 million dollars and the county should figure an extra twenty percent.

KLJ – Scott Smyth appeared before the board to present a model agreement for section 14 continuing authorities program emergency streambanks erosion or shoreline protection projections for the Anselm Bridge. Bishop moved, seconded by Mathern to have Gilbert sign the agreement pending Fallon Kelly’s review and approval. All aye. Motion approved. Smyth also let the board know the state bridge reporting had come in and Anselm, Martinson, and Jackson Ave Bridges were rated fair and Fox Farm, Painter, McRitchie, and Hock were rated poor. The county is already getting funding for the Fox Farm, Anselm, McRitchie, and Painter, Smyth doesn’t see the state giving funding for the Hock bridge. However, he has done some research and found an old concrete culvert out by Beer Creek/Englevale going west to Verona that the county could get funding to put a box culvert in. It is an off-system road so it would be fully funded except any right of way that would need to be purchased. Schwab moved, seconded by Bishop to have Smyth apply for funding for the box culvert. All aye. Motion carried.

Miscellaneous – Connie Gilbert received a letter from the Department of Agriculture about a Weed board meeting in Bismarck. The letter will be forwarded to Ron Sveum.

Gaming permit – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church submitted a local charity gaming permit along with the appropriate fee. Bishop moved, seconded by Mathern to approve the permit. All aye. Motion carried.

Load Pass – nothing was discussed at this meeting.

Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund – Mathern moved, seconded by Schwab for Gentzkow to begin the process to accept the to get the funding. Ransom County will get two $50,000 deposits.

NDSU Extension – Bishop let the board know he sat in on an interview for an individual for NDSU Extension. They plan to meet with the individual after the first of the year in the extension office.

Tax Director Position – wages were discussed. The board agreed the pay study needs to be followed so the pay will be tax director step one.

Treasurer/Motor Vehicle Office – Kathie Erickson let the board know she would like to close the treasurer/motor vehicle office on Wednesday December 21 to get statements out. They were sitting good with statements until the storm the previous week and the county was closed for four days. The board approved for the office to be closed Wednesday December 21, 2022 to get statements mailed.

Being nothing further to come before the board, Chairman Gilbert adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission