RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISIONERS

Regular Meeting – June 3, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Chair Greg Schwab at 9:00am. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members present: Todd Anderosn, Neil Olerud, Sye Olson, Kevin Bishop, Greg Schwab, Auditor Nicole Gentzkow, and Lynn Kaspari from the Ransom County Gazette and Grant Dick. Joining via teams: Maria Langland, Nickela Runck, Kathie Erickson, Makayla Briss, Betsy Greenly, and Janelle Maris.

Greg Schwab passed a letter around from Recorder Shelly Schwab asking for her office to be closed in the afternoon on June 5 for funerals.

Agenda was reviewed. Bishop moved with the addition of procedures, 130th Ave, and JDA, Anderson seconded the motion. All aye. Motion carried.

Minutes from the previous regular scheduled commission meeting on May 20, 2025 were reviewed. Bishop moved, seconded by Olson to approve the minutes with the correction. All aye. Motion carried.

Darla Haecherl joined the meeting via teams at 9:12am.

Manual warrants in the amount of $14,620.82 were reviewed. Bishop moved, seconded by Olson to approve the manual warrants in the amount of $14,620.82. All aye. Motion carried.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| MARCO | 168.25 |
| OTTER TAIL POWER CO | 59.64 |
| THE ONSHIP GROUP, INC | 200.00 |
| LIBERTY BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC. | 278.99 |
| OTTER TAIL POWER CO | 42.71 |
| OTTER TAIL POWER CO | 499.30 |
| SOUTHEAST WATER USERS | 106.52 |
| MARCO | 153.06 |
| LISBON, CITY OF | 72.50 |
| CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP | 207.12 |
| MARCO | 229.01 |
| MARCO | 10.00 |
| MARCO | 75.00 |
| CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP | 47.28 |
| CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP | 63.57 |
| CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP | 46.45 |
| CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP | 246.69 |
| CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP | 898.66 |
| MARCO | 119.47 |
| MARCO | 10.00 |
| MARCO | 165.24 |
| MARCO | 10.00 |
| MARCO | 75.00 |
| MARCO | 320.26 |
| MARCO | 10.00 |
| OTTER TAIL POWER CO | 2,009.97 |
| LISBON, CITY OF | 39.50 |
| LISBON, CITY OF | 16.00 |
| LISBON, CITY OF | 195.17 |
| LISBON, CITY OF | 81.44 |
| OTTER TAIL POWER CO | 331.79 |
| MARCO TECH- ST LOUIS | 678.46 |
| MARCO TECH- ST LOUIS | 10.00 |
| JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA | 6,956.50 |
| OTTER TAIL POWER CO | 187.27 |
| **Total** | 14,620.82 |

Commission Audit Listing in the amount of $40,033.47 was reviewed. Bishop moved, seconded by Olerud to approve the commission audit listing with corrections. All aye. Motion carried.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Vendor Name** | **Amount** |
| ANDERSON,TRAVIS  | 625.00 |
| BARNES COUNTY CORRECTIONAL CENTER  | 2,000.00 |
| BERGEMANN,HEATHER  | 295.00 |
| CASS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  | 56.00 |
| COMPUTER EXPRESS  | 11,130.00 |
| DAKOTA WATER SOLUTIONS  | 80.00 |
| FARM & HOME PUBLISHERS, LTD  | 810.00 |
| FAT MAN TRASH  | 220.50 |
| FIRST MEDIC AMBULANCE  | 6,416.67 |
| GORDY'S GRILL & FILL  | 86.63 |
| HOPKINS, ROBERTA PO BOX 950  | 15.70 |
| LEXISNEXIS MATTHEW BENDER  | 299.13 |
| LISBON POSTMASTER  | 231.00 |
| LISBON TRUE VALUE  | 20.27 |
| MAPLE VALLEY LOCKER, INC.  | 1,173.63 |
| ND ASSOC OF COUNTIES- BISMARCK  | 1,287.12 |
| NDLTAP-UGPTI/NDSU  | 50.00 |
| NEWMAN SIGNS  | 4,582.16 |
| PYE BARKER  | 2,291.00 |
| RICHLAND COUNTY CORRECTIONS  | 1,190.00 |
| RIVERSIDE BUILDING CENTER  | 4,877.47 |
| SARGENT COUNTY SHERIFFS DEPARTMENT  | 250.00 |
| STUTSMAN COUNTY CORRECTIONAL CENTER  | 412.94 |
| TANYA WIELER  | 1,500.00 |
| THRIFTY WHITE PHARMACY  | 58.25 |
| TYLER TECHNOLOGIES INC.  | 75.00 |
|  |  |
| Total | 40,033.47 |
|  |  |

First Medic Ambulance is having a meeting on June 20, 2025 to discuss forming an ambulance district. The board would like to add ambulance district to the 5 county meeting agenda on July 10, 2025.

Kirsten Gilbert, emergency manager appeared before the board to discuss homeland security grant funds that the county has been awarded. The funds have been awarded for keyless entry in the social service building, the old county shop, and cameras for the old county shop. Kirsten Gilbert let the board know there has been a slight increase to the keyless entry, and she will get an updated quote from Computer Express for cameras. Olerud moved, seconded by Bishop to approve the keyless entry system and cameras. All aye. Motion carried.

An electronic gaming permit was submitted along with the appropriate fee for American Legion Bullis out of Wyndmere, ND. Discussion was had. The board would like to sent back to American Legion Bullis due to this being out of county.

**10:00 AM Tax Equalization**

**Residence at the equalization Grant Dick, Leon Pfingsten, Joe Mathern, Susan M. Dopp, Howard Rasmusson, Tyler Schlecht, Dan Spiekermeier, Kurt and Tammie Tetzlaff, Hans & Alyssa Schommer, Calvin and Lisa Soffel.**

There were multiple complaints regarding the assessing in Enderlin and values being too high. Discussion was had. Haecherl let land owners know that lots were reassessed using front foot values. Parcel 26-6995000 Haecherl asked the board to not approve. Bishop moved, seconded by Olson to deny increased value based off photos and home will be reassessed when the construction is complete. Dan Spiekermeier was disputing increase on farm land. Haecherl let him know the increase was due to miscalculation of a road. The true numbers are now being reflected, and everything was assessed based on soils. Bishop moved, seconded by Anderson to table parcel 09-3921000 until Teresa Haecherl can review. All aye. Motion carried. Calvin Soffell was disputing value, he did not attend the city equalization meeting which means he can not protest at the county level. If Stoffel would like to apply for an abatement in the tax assessor’s office by November 5, 2025. Howard Rasmusson disputed square footage and classification of his duplex. Bishop moved, seconded by Olerud to have Teresa Haecherl review. All aye. Motion carried. Leon Pfingsten provided documentation proving his residence is used as farm help living quarters. Documentation was in order and submitted in time, township still choose to decline it, Olerud moved, seconded by Olson to approve the exemption based off correct documentation. All aye. Motion carried. Grant Dick is disputing the assessed value on his hunting lodge in Northland township due to it not being assessable three months out of the year. Teresa Haecherl stated the increase was due to tiered acres, which was approved by the board in 2024. Schwab would like to review the tiered acres valuations. Anderson moved, seconded by Bishop to give a 25% reduction due to no access in the winter on Grant Dicks parcel 15-4450030. Roll call vote: Anderson – no, Olerud – no, Olson – no, Bishop – yes, Schwab – no. Motion failed.

Rebecca Borland with Bell Bank arrived at 11:20am

Nathan Berseth with Bell Bank arrived at 12:20 pm

Susan Dopp disputed taxable assessed value on her property in Liberty Township parcel 13-3996000. Olerud moved, seconded by Bishop to have Teresa Haecherl go and re-evaluate the property and present to the board at the next regular scheduled commission meeting. All aye. Motin carried Olerud moved to approve changes per Haecherl with the exception of the tabled and previously excluded properties. Motion died due to lack of a second. Bishop moved, seconded by Olson to table all properties presented by Haecherl until re-evaluation is done and presented to the board at the next regular scheduled commission meeting. All aye. Motion carried.

Anderosn moved, seconded by Olson to recess the tax equalization meeting until June 17, 2025 at 9:30am due to deadlines in the tax and auditor’s office. All aye. Motion carried.

Tax Directors office hours were discussed. Teresa Haecherl let the board know her office is now working four ten-hour days and rotating their day off to keep the office open. The office is closed for thirty minutes twice per week due to only one person being in the office and lunch break. Discussion was had. Olerud moved, seconded by Bishop to allow the tax office to continue working four ten-hour days through October 1, 2025 and close the office for the thirty-minute lunch hour. The board would also like for offices to ask permission in the future before they make any changes to their hours. All aye. Motion carried.

Scott Smyth with KLJ appeared before the board to discuss the road haul project for 130th Ave and the Will’s Road. The City and Commission met on June 2, 2025 there didn’t seem to be much interest from the City of Lisbon to partner up on the project. At this time the commission has decided to put the project on hold indefinitely at this point. Smyth also let the board know the paving near the Anslem Bridge should be complete this upcoming week. The RFP for engineering on the McRitchie bridge are due by noon on June 4, 2025. The board will need to decide who is going to be on the RFP interview board.

Adam Schultz presented a bid he received from Knife River for north of the Sheldon and HWY 58 where the shoulders are depressing. Shultz presented three options/quotes. Bishop moved, seconded by Olerud to approve the Knife River quote for site one and option one. Quote one quote: Mobilization $19,620.79, Dite 1 (75’x28’) $16,571.85 for a grand total of $36,192.64. Schultz let the board know that the Elliott Road is in rough shape and he feels a new product called mastic which is rubber and rock together would be useful. The cost for the machine to apply the mastic is $10,283.00 per month for the machine rental, and $32,736.00 per truck load of material which also includes delivery. Discussion was had.

Nathan Berseth and Rebecca Borland with Bell Bank appeared before the board to introduce themselves to the new commissioners and go over the benefits of banking with Bell.

Greg Schwab spoke up and said he doesn’t care where we bank if the staff who work with the feel comfortable with the bank and the county is getting competitive interest. No decision was made.

Job Development was discussed again. The board is struggling to get enough members at meetings for a quorum. The board needs to have a minimum of 10 members and a max of 20 members.

Procedures were discussed. What should happen if employees need an answer between commission meetings. Olerud moved, seconded by Bishop to give Chair Greg Schwab authority to make emergency decisions. All aye. Motion carried.

Olerud mentioned leafy spurge seems to be growing rampant and they will ask the weed board to spray.

The board would like to invite Jay Anderson to another meeting to see if there are any updates on the water project.

With nothing further to come before the board Olson moved, seconded by Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 3:10pm

ATTEST:

Nicole R. Gentzkow Greg Schwab, Chairman

Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission