**RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Meeting – July 1, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Chair Greg Schwab at 8:50am. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members present: Todd Anderson, Neil Olerud, Sye Olson, Kevin Bishop, and Greg Schwab. Also, present Nicole Gentzkow and Lesley Lebenow with NDSU.

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

Lynn Kaspari from the Ransom County Gazette arrived.

Lesley Lebenow appeared before the board to request to hire a full-time person with the initial offer being $64,500 up to $66,000. This position is a cost share between the county and NDSU, the county pays 50% of the wages and NDSU pays 50% of the wages, and 100% of the benefits. Lebenow let the board know if the candidate accepts the ideal start date would be September 1, 2025. Discussion was had. Bishop moved, seconded by Olerud to have the Ransom County portion be $31,000. Roll call vote was taken: Bishop – yes, Olson – yes, Olerud – yes, Anderson – no, Schwab – no. Motion passed.

**Motor Grader Bid Award at 9:17 a.m.**

Representative from RDO and Butler were present. Along with Highway Superintendent Adam Schultz. Schultz let the board know both machines met bid specs. Bishop moved, seconded by Anderson to accept the John Deere motor grader bid with the extra warranty and premium circle. Roll call vote: Bishop – yes, Olson – no, Olerud – no, Schwab – no, Anderson – yes. Motion failed. Olson moved, seconded by Anderson to keep the spare machine and continue to use it as the backup machine and not buy out the leased machine. Bishop – yes, Olson – yes, Olerud – no, Anderson – yes, Schwab – yes. Motion carried. Olerud moved, seconded by Bishop to purchase the Butler machine. Bishop – no, Olson – no, Olerud – yes, Schwab – no, Anderson – yes. Motion failed. Bishop moved, seconded by Anderson to purchase the John Deere 772. Bishop – yes, Olson – no, Olerud – no, Anderson – yes, Schwab – no. Motion failed. Schwab and Olson would like to see it rebid with premium circle in the bid specs. Olson moved, seconded by Bishop to rebid for motor graders with premium circle Butlers 150 and John Deeres 772 machine. Bishop – no, Olson – yes, Olerud – no, Anderson – no, Schwab – yes. Motion died. Anderson moved, seconded by Olerud to go with the Butler 150 machine that comes with filters and the free upgrade of high-performance circle. Bishop – no, Olerud – yes, Anderson – yes, Schwab – yes, Olson – no. Motion carried. The new machine will be available in December 2025.

Amber Lyons presented with American Bank and Trust presented what they could offer the county.

Tanya Taylor with Ransom County Housing Authority appeared before the board to present the financials from April – June. She also let the board now the C map report came back and the Ransom County Housing Authority scored 100/100 as a high performing housing authority. Olerud moved, seconded by Olson to accept the financials as presented for the Ransom County housing Authority. All aye. Motion carried.

Jay Anderson and Steve Burian appeared before the board to discuss the Red River Water Supply Project. Bishop moved, seconded by Schwab to purchase 1 CFS and sign the memorandum of commitment pending legal review. Bishop – yes, Olson – no, Olerud – no, Anderson – no, Schwab – yes. Motion failed.

Derek Jungles and Nat Witte appeared before the board to let them know what Bank North could offer the county.

The board would also like to reach out to anyone in the county who lost buildings due to the tornado to please reach out to Teresa Haecherl, Ransom County Tax Director to get an abatement done.

Kirsten Gilbert, Emergency Manager appeared before the board requesting, they sign a State of Emergency Declaration in case the president does. The county will need to have $27,500 worth of damage to qualify for the disaster. Kirsten is still getting numbers together and not sure the county will meet the threshold, but need to sign the declaration in case they do. Bishop moved, seconded by Olson to approve signing the Ransom County State of Emergency Declaration. All aye. Motion carried.

A utility permit along with the fee was submitted by Cass County Electric for boring. Bishop moved, seconded by Anderson to approve the utility permit. All aye. Motion carried.

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| Township:  | Casey |
| Section  | 18 SE & ¼ 19 NE 1/4 |

State’s Attorney Fallon Kelly drew up a mutual aid agreement between Sargent and Ransom County Sheriff’s department and advised the board to sign. Olson moved, seconded by Olerud to sign the mutual aid agreement. All aye. Motion carried.

Olerud and Olson let the board know they interviewed four candidates for the full-time head grounds and custodian position. Olerud moved, seconded by Olson to offer Bryar Penberthy the full-time position and wage will be based on the recommendation of Tanya Weiler. All aye. Motion carried.

Nicole Gentzkow and Adam Schultz interviewed KLJ for the engineering firm for the McRitchie Bridge. Anderson moved, seconded by Bishop to approve KLJ for the McRitchie Bridge per the recommendation of Gentzkow and Schultz. All aye. Motion carried.

Bishop moved, seconded by Anderson to allow Fort Ransom to close main street on July 12, 2025 for the Rick Wayan memorial run pending Sheriff Darren Benneweis’s approval.

Anderosn let the board know Knife River has a hot mix plant in one of Heitkamp’s pastures. The board discussed. The board would like to look into the zoning ordinance the county has in place.

Sye Olson let the board know he spoke with James Hoffer from Sundale Colony; James will be in contact with Adam when they start hauling again to get grading and dust control.

Minutes from the previous regular scheduled commission meeting on June 17, 2025 were reviewed. Bishop moved, seconded by Olerud to approve the minutes from June 17, 2025. All aye. Motion carried.

Manual warrants in the amount of $41,032.07 were reviewed. Bishop moved, seconded by Olerud to approve the manual warrants in the amount of $41,032.07. All aye. Motion carried.

Commission audit listing in the amount of $82,987.21 were reviewed. Olson moved, seconded by Anderson to approve the commission audit listing in the amount of $82,987.21. All aye. Motion carried.

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| ERICKSON, KATHIE  | 643.20 |
| GENTZKOW, NICOLE  | 643.20 |
| KUEHN, WARD  | 653.00 |
| LISBON, CITY OF  | 252.56 |
| RUNCK, NICKELA  | 30.00 |
| SCHWAB, SHELLY  | 106.40 |
| AGTEGRA COOPERATIVE  | 3,581.42 |
| ARCASEARCH LLC  | 3,294.30 |
| CAMAS SAND & GRAVEL  | 28,144.98 |
| FIRST MEDIC AMBULANCE  | 6,416.67 |
| FLOOR TO CEILING CARPENTRY & REPAIR  | 12,440.50 |
| GORDY'S GRILL & FILL  | 1,636.38 |
| INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT.  | 230.90 |
| LISBON TRUE VALUE  | 453.76 |
| NDAAO  | 450.00 |
| NDACS  | 50.00 |
| NORMAN COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE  | 62.60 |
| RANSOM COUNTY GAZETTE  | 47.00 |
| RECORD KEEPERS, LLC  | 17.50 |
| RIVERSIDE BUILDING CENTER  | 19,500.00 |
| STOUDT MILLER, INC.  | 785.82 |
| TANYA WIELER  | 1,500.00 |
| TITAN MACHINERY  | 45.65 |
| TYLER TECHNOLOGIES INC.  | 600.00 |
| VESTIS  | 225.37 |
| WELTON'S TIRE SERVICE  | 91.00 |
| WEST SIDE AUTO BODY SHOP  | 1,085.00 |
| Total | 82,987.21 |

Cowboy Up Ride Against Cancer submitted a local gaming permit along with the appropriate fee. Olerud moved, seconded by Olson to approve the local permit for Cowboy Up Ride Against Cancer. All aye. Motion carried.

With nothing further to come before the board Bishop moved, seconded by Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 12:15p.m. All aye. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

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Nicole Gentzkow Greg Schwab

Ransom County Auditor Ransom County Commission