**RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Meeting – June 17, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 9:00am by Chair 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 from the Ransom County Gazette. Joining via Teams: Maria Langland, Nickela Runck, Kathie Erickson, Darla Haecherl, Kirsten Gilbert, Teresa Haecherl, Jenna Olerud, Jorge Gonzalez, Janelle Mairs, and Heidi Enquist.

Agenda was reviewed. Banking was added to the agenda. Bishop moved to approve the agenda with the addition, seconded by Olerud. All aye. Motion carried.

Minutes from the previous regular scheduled commission meeting on June 3, 2025 were reviewed. Bishop moved, seconded by Anderson to approve the commission minutes from June 3, 2025. All aye. Motion carried.

Commission Audit Listing in the amount of $138,630.19 were reviewed. Olerud moved, seconded by Anderson to approve all the bills pending Lesmeister’s gravel bill until they can talk to Schultz to clear up some confusion. All aye. Motion carried.

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| BEAR CREEK GRAVEL | 9,299.64 |
| CARDINAL HEALTH 110, INC. | 3,500.30 |
| CASS COUNTY GOVERNMENT | 1,974.69 |
| COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY | 3,117.00 |
| DAKOTA OASIS | 325.00 |
| DICKEY RURAL NETWORK INC. | 1,179.57 |
| ERICKSON, KATHIE | 248.50 |
| FLOOR TO CEILING CARPENTRY & REPAIR | 10,086.00 |
| GENTZKOW, NICOLE | 292.20 |
| GILBERT, KIRSTEN | 50.00 |
| GORDYS GRILL & FILL | 45.87 |
| HEGLE, KELSEY | 186.90 |
| HENRICKS, TYLER | 340.00 |
| INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT. | 1,891.05 |
| JONES, CHELSEY | 328.20 |
| KELLY, FALLON M. | 1,016.16 |
| LANGLAND, MARIA | 66.00 |
| LARSON, MEGHAN | 109.90 |
| LESMEISTER GRAVEL | 94,789.17 |
| LEXISNEXIS MATTHEW BENDER | 100.31 |
| OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL-1250 | 180.00 |
| QUAL, ANGELA | 250.00 |
| RANSOM COUNTY GAZETTE | 490.08 |
| RECORD KEEPERS, LLC | 37.50 |
| S/J PLUMBING | 2,933.00 |
| SARGENT COUNTY DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT | 458.25 |
| SARGENT COUNTY SHERIFFS DEPARTMENT | 100.00 |
| SKRAMSTAD, RONDA | 245.00 |
| TRIZETTO PROVIDER SOLUTIONS | 90.00 |
| TYLER TECHNOLOGIES INC. | 3,388.00 |
| WALK-N-ROLL | 496.76 |
| WEIDNER, SAMANTHA | 87.24 |
| WELTON, BRENNA | 172.00 |
| WEX HEALTH, INC. | 50.00 |
| WILTSE, CAYLA | 34.30 |
| ZIMPRICH, BRIAN | 671.60 |
| Total | 138,630.19 |

Greg Schwab let the board know the 911 tower is infested with mice and something has to be done to the building.

**9:30 AM Continuation of the County Equalization Meeting:**

09-3921000 Dan Spiekermeier property was discussed again. Teresa Haecherl Tax Director let the board know the increase in his value was due to inaccurate road miles given that were corrected. Spiekermeier was also give a woodland modifier and he doesn’t qualify for that; he only has a tree belt. Anderson moved, seconded by Bishop to leave the road as is and assess the tree belt properly. Roll Call vote: Bishop – yes, Olson – yes, Olerud – yes, Anderson – yes, and Schwab – yes. Teresa Haecherl sent letters and documentation to Spiekermeier explaining.

13-3996000 Susan Dopp and Michael Martin’s property was discussed. Teresa Haecherl went out and reassessed the property. Haecherl is lowing the true and full value from $400,600 to $375,600. 26-6714000 Howard Rasmusson’s property was reviewed. Teresa Haecherl recommended keeping it as previously assessed. The reason for the change in valuation on Rasmusson’s property is it went from 100% exempt to fully taxable. The Tetzlaff/Dakota Sun property was reassessed. Teresa Haecherl gave a 50% obsolescence which is $2500 decrease while the property is being remodeled. Olerud moved to approve the tabled assessments from the previous county equalization meeting on June 3, 2025, seconded by Anderson. All aye. Motion carried. Teresa Haecherl then let the board know the ag land is coming in at 99.999% she recommends decreasing ag land 5% across the board. Bishop moved, seconded by Anderson to reduce ag land 5% to put it at 95%. Roll call vote: Bishop – yes, Olerud – yes, Olson – yes, Anderson – yes, Schwab – yes. Motion passed. Residential structures came in at 90.01% Teresa Haecherl recommended increasing the residential structures 2.4% in cities and townships excluding Liberty and Moore Township as they had just been reassessed. Bishop moved, seconded by Andreson to increase residential structures 2.4% to make them 92.5% with the exception of Liberty and Moore Township. All aye. Motion carried. Bishop moved, seconded by Olerud to adjourn the Ransom County Equalization Meeting. All aye. Motion carried.

Jerry Ramerman joined via Teams at 9:50am

Jason Enger, Jennifer Lund, Kris Mairs, and Brent Heller with Bremer Bank appeared before the board to discuss banking options with Bremer. The representative from Bremer let the board know that there will be a name change coming January 2026. Nothing will change besides the name, the products and personnel will still be the same.

Robbie Hopkins joined the meeting via Teams at 10:29am

Steve Mclaen and Wyatt Smyth appeared before the board to discuss banking options with Stockgrowers.

**11:00 AM MOTOR GRADER BID OPENING**

Two bids were received for Motor Graders.

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| RDO | 772 | $441,000 |
| RDO | 672 | $419,000 |
| Butler | 140 | $419,500 |
| Butler | 150 | $422,500 |

RDO offered $85,000 for the spare machine the board is considering trading in. Butler offered $72,000 for the motor grader trade. No decisions were made, Schultz will review specs.

Brian Zimprich appeared before the board to let them know they interviewed two individuals, neither of them were the right fit. They have three more candidates being interviewed in the next week. The earliest the new candidate would start would be August 1, 2025. Zimprich asked if they could hire fair help starting July 7, 2025 – the fair due to being down a person. Anderson moved, seconded by Olerud to allow NDSU Extension to hire an individual from July 7 through the fair at $20 per hour and take from their budget. All aye. Motion carried.

Kathie Erickson appeared before the board to present a motor vehicle contract. Erickson stated not much had changed in the contract. The new contract would be for 5 years. Bishop moved, seconded by Olson to approve the Chair to sign the five-year motor vehicle contract. All aye. Motion carried.

Teresa Haecherl appeared before the board to ask for another full-time employee. Haecherl let the board know there were some changes in the legislative session that have added a few more duties to her office. Haecherl also let the board know that Kristie Reinke will be done helping in her office at the end of the year. No decision was made at this time.

Ryan Green was on the agenda for delinquent taxes. He did not show up.

Scott Smyth with KLJ appeared before the board to let them know Industrial Builders was the lowest bidder for the McRitchie Bridge. Smyth also let the board know he had done a little research the it would be roughly $50,000 to have KLJ engineer the Sheldon Shop. Discussion was had. Anderson moved, seconded by Olerud to reject all previous bids on the county shop and rebid a smaller size to avoid engineering fees. All aye. Motion carried. Anderson moved, seconded by Olson to rebid the county shop at 36 x 60. All aye. Motion carried. Smyth also let the board know that the Anslem Bridge is officially open. The new speed limit is 45 MPH.

Schultz let the board know the paving projects the county had contacted Knife River to do will be done around July 7. HWY 58 will be closed for two days for Adam to do the prep work needed and install culverts. Mastic was discussed again. Olson moved, seconded by Olerud to do the mastic on county road 57, the Elliott Road, and county road 13 from Fort Ransom to the state park. Roll call: Bishop – yes, Olson – yes, Olerud – yes, Andrson – yes, and Schwab – no. Motion passed. Discussion was had on the Milnor, McLeod, and Elliott roads. The board asked Scott Smyth to get bids for the roads.

Cass County Electric submitted a utility permit for boring. Olerud moved, seconded by Bishop to approve the utility permit pending Adam Schultz approval and the fee. All aye. Motion carried.

VFW Auxiliary submitted a local gaming permit along with the appropriate fee for a raffle. Bishop moved, seconded by Olson to approve the local gaming permit. All aye. Motion carried.

Stiklestad submitted a request to move their liquor/beer license to the learning center for an event along with the appropriate fee. Bishop moved, seconded by Olson to approve the permit. All aye. Motion carried.

The county received notice of a credit with CHS. Olerud moved, seconded by Anderson to have CHS fill the courthouse tank using the credit. All aye. Motion carried.

Bank North and American Bank and Trust will be invited to the next commission meeting to discuss banking options they can offer the county.

The meeting to form an Ambulance District will be June 20, 2025 in the basement of the Bank North building at noon.

Bishop moved, seconded by Olson to adjourn the meeting at 2:12pm. All aye. Motin carried.