

Ransom County Commission

RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS Regular Meeting – August 4, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 9:00am by Chair Todd Anderson. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members present: Greg Schwab, Neil Olerud, Kevin Bishop, and Todd Anderson. Also, present auditor Nicole Gentzkow and Lynn Kaspari with the Ransom County Gazette via phone. Absent: Sye Olson.

Aiden McCarty – District Ranger with the Fire Service appeared before the board to discuss the fire conditions. McCarty asked about the 911 tower and let the board know they have equipment in it. McCarty would welcome a conversation on how to maintain the building if he could get a simple agreement to allow him a key to access the building when needed. Anderson feels if a rental contract were signed a key could be issued.

Dave Klein executive director of Great Plains Housing Authority appeared before the board to discuss Ransom County moving the contract from Cass County Housing to Great Plains Housing Authority. Klein let the board know they are trying to get a contract with Ransom, LaMoore, and McIntosh Counties. Great Plains Housing Authority will have offices in Ashley, Ellendale, and Jamestown, ND. There would be no changes in services only banking and administrative would change. Bishop moved, seconded by Olerud to sign the four resolutions presented by Klein. All aye. Motion carried.

Bryar Penberthy appeared before the board to discuss the masonry quotes, one for pressure washing the courthouse along with pinning and tucking, and one to repairing the front steps. Penberthy is still waiting on another quote for a total replacement of the front steps.

Darren Benneweis let the board know he would check with state surplus for a backup generator.

Charlie Armstrong and Darren Benneweis appeared before the board to discuss the coroner position. Armstrong would like to resign as coroner and become deputy coroner. Benneweis would like to become the coroner. Discussion was had. Benneweis will look into NDCC regarding coroner and report back at the

next meeting. Armstrong has been the coroner for Ransom County for forty-nine years. The board thanked Armstrong for his service.

Benneweis let the board know Cowboy Up would like to close Main Street in McLeod on August 22 at 8am until Sunday, August 23rd at 1am for a street dance and vendors. Bishop moved, seconded by Olerud to close a section of road per the request on Saturday and Sunday. All aye. Motion carried.

Benneweis discussed signs on county roads. Roads only need to be posted if they are a different speed limit than 55mph. Sheldon Road speed limit changes depending on the time of the year. Milnor road is the only paved road posted for trucks. Benneweis asked the board about having a consistent speed limit across the board for county paved and gravel roads with signage. Schwab moved, seconded by Bishop to get a quote to sign all county roads. All aye. Motion carried. Discussion was had, and the board would like to leave flexibility of truck speed on county roads up to Schultz. Benneweis also let the board know he is struggling to get a response from the supplier for scales. Benneweis reached out to the NDHP on what brand of scales they use. Brian Neiweind is willing to come to the commission meeting and discuss scales. Benneweis recommends to get three sets of scales for three axle trucks. Benneweis is willing to make this work to help protect and repair the county roads. Anderson questioned the board if this is the proper way to fix the road issues or if it should be collected from the end party. Benneweis let the board know he is not going to target certain trucks or every truck. They will pull over trucks that appear to be heavy. Benneweis let the board know he submitted a revised budget to Gentzkow. Schwab asked Benneweis if the officers were punching in. Benneweis stated there had been some issues with the time clock portal. Nickela Runck joined the meeting and let the board know she had contacted CPT and they had changed the time the server did its daily backup to prevent issues. Runck and Benneweis will work together on the timecard portal to get it working for the officers.

Bishop let the board know Schultz is working with the DOT on the damage to the Roach Bridge from an accident. The McRitchie Bridge also has a scrape from the contractor doing

the rip rap project that needs to be inspected.

A road haul agreement was approved by the board for Wild Prairie Park to consider. Schwab moved, seconded by Olerud to accept the volunteer road haul agreement with Suida Schultz presented. All aye. Motion carried. The conditional use permit excluding the road haul agreement was reviewed and Anderson signed.

Shop bids were discussed. Two bids met bid specs however came in much higher than the county had budgeted for. Olerud moved to decline both bids due to high price and county not being able to afford, seconded by Bishop. All aye. Motion carried.

Olerud moved, seconded by Bishop to rebid county shop and run in the paper. All aye. Motion carried.

May 5, 2026 motion to sell the delinquent house on 7th Street was discussed. The county highway department is going to demolish the house and haul to Gwinner landfill. The county would like to recoup the money they have into this property. Olerud moved, seconded by Schwab due to the fact there is no interested buyer the county will retain ownership of the property. All Aye. Motion carried.

Discussion was had on the involvement the commission has regarding the senior citizen mill levy. Gentzkow has been contacted by a board member of the Senior Citizen Center wondering how they can get the checkbook back locally and if the commission or Gentzkow can assist. Gentzkow is attending a meeting at the Senior Center on August 5, 2026 to learn more. Bishop volunteered to go as well.

There will be a township zoning meeting in the Ransom County Community room the evening of August 4, 2026 at 6pm.

Thrills Hills submitted an offsite beer and liquor permit for the Bulls, Barrels, & Broncs Rodeo on September 10 & 11, 2026 along with \$20. Discussion was had on what the new fee was set by the board. Bishop moved, seconded by Olerud to approve the permit pending the correct fee. All aye. Motion carried.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church submitted a gaming permit along with the appropriate fee. Bishop moved, seconded by Olerud to approve the gaming permit. All aye.

Motion carried.

Minutes from the previous regular commission meeting were reviewed. Schwab moved, seconded by Olerud to approve the minutes with corrections. All aye. Motion carried.

Commission Audit listing in the amount of \$116,414.73 were reviewed. Bishop moved, seconded by Olerud to approve the commission audit listing in the amount of \$116,414.73.

A W DIESEL SERVICE	704.01
BEAR CREEK GRAVEL	67,698.88
COMPUTER EXPRESS	604.93
CROSSROADS ELECTRIC, INC	
	204.75
DAKOTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS	
	394.00
ERICKSON, KATHIE	240.20
GENTZKOW, NICOLE	
	119.85
GILBERT, KIRSTEN	
	50.00
GORDY'S GRILL & FILL	3,480.21
HOMAN DESIGN GROUP	
	8,105.00
KELLY, FALLON M.	3,451.10
KLJ ENGINEERING LLC	
	11,221.14
KOTACO	298.86
NDACS	50.00
NEWMAN SIGNS	410.10
OFFICE OF ADJUTANT GENERAL	
	240.00
PITNEY BOWES BANK INC RE-SERVE ACCOUNT	1,500.00
QUADIENET FINANCE USA INC.	
	2,040.33
RANSOM COUNTY GAZETTE	
	671.00
SCHWAB JACKIE	500.00
SHELDON, CITY OF	
	70.00
VANGUARD APPRAISALS	
	13,225.00
VESTIS	227.69
WELTON'S TIRE SERVICE	907.68
Total	116,414.73

Manual warrants in the amount of \$30,077.29 were reviewed. Bishop moved, seconded by Schwab to approve the manual warrants in the amount of \$30,077.29. All aye. Motion carried.

JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA
11,980.44
MARCO 235.38

MARCO	10.00
MARCO	170.18
MARCO	5.00
MARCO	204.07
MARCO	20.41
MARCO	163.23
OTTER TAIL POWER CO	178.63
OTTER TAIL POWER CO	1,077.05
LISBON, CITY OF	236.95
LISBON, CITY OF	79.45
MARCO	339.11
MARCO	10.00
MARCO	6.16
MARCO	11.57
LISBON, CITY OF	72.50
THE ONSHIP GROUP, INC	200.00
BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES	70.60
BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES	54.70
BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES	66.66
BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES	65.84
BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES	73.14
BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES	74.04
BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES	73.14
OTTER TAIL POWER CO	103.18
BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES	68.90
BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES	51.00
BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES	67.25
BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES	66.12
BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES	61.36
BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES	60.48
BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES	18.00
BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES	53.43
BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES	61.69
BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES	18.00
BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES	56.48
BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES	52.41
BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES	69.71
BELL BANK-FINANCIAL SERVICES	66.63

MARCO TECH- ST LOUIS	732.38
MARCO TECH- ST LOUIS	10.00
OTTER TAIL POWER CO	71.78
CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP	
	148.71
MARCO	872.50
MARCO	30.00
TRIZETTO PROVIDER SOLUTIONS	
	34.00
TRIZETTO PROVIDER SOLUTIONS	
	57.68
SOUTHEAST WATER USERS	
	75.71
OTTER TAIL POWER CO	53.17
LISBON, CITY OF	39.50
LISBON, CITY OF	165.90
CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP	
	39.01
CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP	5.00
CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP	46.45
CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP	217.81
CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP	52.84
MARCO	134.73
AGTEGRA COOPERATIVE	2,841.07
AGTEGRA COOPERATIVE	2,938.70
AGTEGRA COOPERATIVE	2,672.46
AGTEGRA COOPERATIVE	2,485.00
	30,077.29

County meeting will be held on August 25 at 4:30p.m. in Rutland and the Lariat Bar.

The next budget meeting will be August 12, 2026 at 8am.

Budget hearing meeting will be September 15, 2026 in the Ransom County Commission Room at 9am.

With nothing further to come before the board Bishop moved, seconded by Schwab to adjourn the meeting at 1:25p.m.

ATTEST:
Nicole Gentzkow
Ransom County Auditor
Todd Anderson, Chairman
Ransom County
Commission

Publish:
September 21, 2026