

Ransom County Commission

RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting – September 1,
2026

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

The agenda was reviewed. Olerud moved, seconded by Bishop to approve the agenda with additions. All aye. Motion carried. Anderson let the board know that Lance Gulleason is willing to come talk to the board about possible cost savings giving employees a stipend vs providing a health insurance plan. Anderson also asked the board if they all received an email from Fallon Kelly regarding zoning. Schwab let the board know Alleghany Township is going with Lake Agassiz for an updated zoning ordinance and it is only cost roughly \$400.

Darren Benneweis and Nickela Runck appeared before the board at 9:08am. Benneweis presented a letter to the board to appoint him as Coroner and Charlie Armstrong as Deputy Coroner. Olerud moved, seconded by Bishop to have Anderson sign the letter presented by Benneweis to be appointed Coroner. All aye. Motion carried. Benneweis also let the board know within the next few months the jail budget will be over, and fuel line item only has around \$9000 left. Benneweis also let the board know the proposal Richland County presented at the 5-county meeting was accurate. Benneweis spoke with state radio and there were some missing numbers. Benneweis and the first responders in Ransom County have zero interest in leaving state radio. Anderson had asked Gentzkow to look into the overtime line item for 2026. Nickela Runck let the board know in January there was overtime due to overtime worked in December 2025. Janelle Mairs also had a small amount of overtime. The street dance pay was also taken out of overtime; however, Nicole Gentzkow will create a new line item for that in the future.

Bryar Penberthy appeared before the board to let them know the Historical Society will not allow a full front step replacement. According to the Historical Society the county is allowed to replace only the top surface. Penberthy explained to the Historical Society that the sides are crumbling and the steps are all different heights not ADA acceptable. Discussion was had. Bishop and Olerud would like to go ahead with a full stair replacement while Anderson and Schwab would like to research a bit more.

Minutes from the previous regular scheduled commission meeting on August 18, 2026 were reviewed. Bishop moved, seconded by Olerud to approve the minutes with corrections. All aye. Motion carried.

Darren Benneweis reappeared before the board to discuss his squad having constant mechanical issues. Benneweis presented two quotes. Discussion was had. Anderson advised Benneweis to do what he needed within the sheriff's department budget. Schwab would like to see Benneweis check into fleet pricing. Benneweis let the board know he would attempt to get it fixed one more time before purchasing a new one. The board agreed the quote for the new one seemed like a better deal than the pre-owned vehicle.

Fallon Kelly joined the meeting at 10:00am. Discussion was had on the Historical Society's authority and who governs them. The question was asked if someone were to fall on the steps and sue the county, who would be responsible. Kevin Bishop will reach out to the Historical Society and see if they can rush their visit to the county.

Manual Warrants were reviewed. Bishop moved, seconded by Olerud to approve the manual warrants in the amount of \$36,753.65. All aye. Motion carried.

Vendor Name	Amount
MARCO	339.11
MARCO	10.00
MARCO	53.72
MARCO	204.07
MARCO	20.41
MARCO	170.18
MARCO	5.00
MARCO	235.38
MARCO	10.00
MARCO	160.78
OTTER TAIL POWER CO	163.53
OTTER TAIL POWER CO	1,066.75

LISBON, CITY OF	190.20
LISBON, CITY OF	72.33
LISBON, CITY OF	72.50
OTTER TAIL POWER CO	85.18
THE ONSHIP GROUP, INC	200.00

MARCO	134.73
MARCO TECH- ST LOUIS	732.38
MARCO TECH- ST LOUIS	10.00
LISBON, CITY OF	39.50
LISBON, CITY OF	448.32
OTTER TAIL POWER CO	60.87
OTTER TAIL POWER CO	51.68
CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP	158.81
CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP	40.15
CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP	5.00
CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP	46.45
CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP	223.31
CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP	72.11
SOUTHEAST WATER USERS	73.25
AGTEGRA COOPERATIVE	3,324.75
TRIZETTO PROVIDER SOLUTIONS	66.81
TRIZETTO PROVIDER SOLUTIONS	220.08
JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA	27,986.31
Total	36,753.65

There were some discrepancies with wrong account numbers or dollar amounts. Voucher were checked and there were typos from the departments. The board asked an email be sent out to make sure everyone is double checking account numbers off the budget book and dollar amounts before submitting.

Audit listing in the amount of \$75,418.19 was reviewed. Bishop moved, seconded by Schwab to approve the audit listing in the amount of \$75,418.19. All aye. Motion carried.

MONTHLY WARRANTS FOR PUBLICATION	Amount
Vendor Name	
A W DIESEL SERVICE	53.11
AUTOAGENT DATA SOLUTIONS LLC	1,500.00
BARNES COUNTY CORRECTIONAL CENTER	9,420.00
BARTHOLOMAY, DANIEL	230.40

BEAR CREEK GRAVEL	
19,792.26	
BUNN, MIKE	
	227.36
CAVETT, JON	242.56
CROSSROADS ELECTRIC, INC	
	486.38
DACOTA PAPER COMPANY	
	538.19
DAKOTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS	
	850.00
GENTZKOW, NICOLE	119.85
GILBERT, SCOTT	113.68
GORDY'S GRILL & FILL	905.83
HAECHEHL, TERESA	508.56
HOENHAUSE, JODY	17,012.75
KELLY, FALLON M.	1,020.12
KLJ ENGINEERING LLC	7,124.38
KOTACO	373.34
LISBON BODY SHOP	100.00
LISBON TRUE VALUE	3,550.21
MAIN STREET FARM AND HOME	
	1,685.07
MILNOR AMBULANCE	3,000.00
NAPA PARTS SUPPLY-LISBON	
	154.99
NDSU AG COMMUNICATION	

PLAINS GRAIN & AGRONOMY	440.20
LLC	4,703.75
RANSOM COUNTY GAZETTE	
	330.00
RICHLAND COUNTY CORREC-	
TIONS	170.00
RUNCK, NICKELA	14.00
SHELDON, CITY OF	70.00
TITAN MACHINERY	
	15.00
WALLNER DIRT & SNOW LLC	
	250.00
WELTON'S TIRE SERVICE	416.20
Total	75,418.19

Barnes County Rural Water Board submitted a utility permit for boring under county Highway 13 in Northland Township section 2 NE quarter along with the appropriate fee. Adam Schultz gave his approval. Olerud moved, seconded by Schwab to approve the permit form Barnes County Rural Water. Bishop abstained. Schwab, Olerud, and Anderson were

in favor. Motion passed.

Budget suggestions were discussed. Public Health has talked about getting rid of Jeff Mangin to save money and have Bryar Penberthy take over those duties. Market Place insurance was discussed. Getting rid of Tanya Wieler as the IIR consultant was discussed, which would save the county \$18,000 a year. Moving some full-time employees to part-time and cutting wages were discussed. No decisions were made. The next budget meeting will be held on 9/4/26 at 8am.

With nothing further to come before the board Schwab moved, seconded by Bishop to adjourn at 12:15pm. All aye. Motion carried.

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