RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting – October 20, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Chair Todd Anderson at 9:00am. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members present: Greg Schwab, Neil Olerud, Sye Olson, Kevin Bishop, and Todd Anderson. Also present: Auditor Nicole Gentzkow.

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

Health insurance survey was reviewed. Thirty-three people took the survey, thirty-two people voted for ND PERS health insurance knowing there would be an additional cost to the employee and rates may increase 7/1/26. One individual would like to have Blue Cross Blue Sheild for health insurance. Olerud moved, seconded by Olson to go with ND PERS for health insurance effective 1/1/27 based off the employee survey results. Cancellation notice will be sent to Blue Cross Blue Sheild as of 12/31/2026. All aye. Motion carried. Shelly Schwab suggested the board should no longer get a stipend since they are now eligible for health insurance through ND Pers. Anderson stated if the board were to take the ND Pers health insurance it would cost the county additional funds. Shelly Schwab suggested just paying the premium for employees who have health insurance through somewhere other than the county. Anderson said the county could hypothetically offer a $400 stipend to people who have other insurance. Greg Schwab would like to see all employees on a level playing field either everyone gets a stipend who doesn't take insurance or no stipend for anyone. The board will clarify if the county is allowed to do stipends under the ND PERS health insurance contract. Olson would like to see as many people benefit as possible without costing the county more money. The stipend would benefit nine people and the health insurance would benefit only an additional two people.

Commission Audit listing in the amount of $79,839.71 was reviewed. Bishop moved, seconded by Olerud to approve the audit listing. All aye. Motion carried.

ADVANCED ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL	190.00
BEAR CREEK GRAVEL	45,455.81
BENNEWEIS, DARREN	220.00
COMPUTER EXPRESS	375.00
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHOLOGY	3,207.00
DICKEY RURAL NETWORK INC.	1,102.87
ERICKSON, KATHIE	278.16
FFF ENTERPRISES	2,853.97
FORT RANSOM SODBUSTERS	2,500.00
FRIDRYCH, SARA	21.28
GENTZKOW, NICOLE	278.16
GILBERT, SCOTT	100.00
GORDY'S GRILL & FILL	6.07
HEGLE, KELSEY	138.32
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT.	2,394.05
LAMOURE PRINTING COMPANY	1,065.00
LARSON, MEGHAN	402.04
NAPA PARTS SUPPLY-LISBON	8.99
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES	450.00
OFFICE OF ADJUTANT GENERAL	240.00
OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR	12,222.74
QUAL, ANGELA	500.00
RANSOM COUNTY GAZETTE	1,456.19
RANSOM COUNTY SADD CHAPTER	500.00
RECORD KEEPERS, LLC	37.50
RIVERSIDE BUILDING CENTER	227.98
ROSWICK, BONITA	20.45
SARGENT COUNTY DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT	496.45
SHELVER, ROBIN	22.80
STOREY KENWORTHY	224.84
STUTSMAN COUNTY CORRECTIONAL CENTER	800.00
SVEUM JR., RON	100.00
TANYA WIELER	1,500.00
WELTON, BRENNA	100.00
WEX HEALTH, INC.	75.00
ZIMPRICH, BRIAN	269.04
Total	79,839.71

Minutes from the previous regular commission meeting were reviewed. Bishop moved, seconded by Olson to approve the minutes from previous meeting on 10/6/2026 with corrections. All aye. Motion carried.

Josh Homiston, operations manager from First Med Ambulance, appeared before the board to go over a bill the county received. Homiston let the board know the county coroner called for a transport service to the hospital due to them needing a location, the service was provided so

the county owed the funds. The board questioned why when the district was getting tax dollars, they were still billing the county. Homiston explained the district formed to collect tax dollars from the district, and that was separate than the service provided. Homiston did advise the board and the district board could negotiate an agreement in the future. Anderson would like to direct Coroner Benneweis to go to the funeral home in the future. Bishop moved, seconded by Olsons to approve the $400 due to a county employee calling requesting the service. Bishop feels they are a taxing district and feels the county taxpayers are getting hammered twice. The ambulance board meets next on Monday October 26, 2026 at 7pm if the board would like to discuss. Shelly Schwab asked why the family is not responsible for transport fees of loved ones? According to the explanation given to the county the ambulance bills the party who calls for services. Roll call vote was taken: Schwab – no, Olerud – yes, Olson – yes, Bishop – yes, Anderson – yes. Motion carried.

Court Facility grant was discussed; grant application deadline is 12/31/2026.

Security issues and keys not being returned by Clerk of Court or court facility staff is becoming an issue. Discussion was had. It was suggested to make anyone requesting a key who is not an employee or anyone who needs a duplicate to give a large deposit to ensure the key is returned.

PERS policy requires all benefits be offered to all employees. The board called Margie Johnson with ND PERS and asked if they could offer stipends if employees don't take health insurance. Pers does not allow stipends to be offered.

Water Board drain assessments were questioned.

Neil Olerud called Dakota Valley and asked about a boring permit for the McLeod Road.

Joe Mathern appeared before the board to ask what is going on with zoning.

Budget concerns were discussed.

DocuSign from the NDDOT was reviewed for the replacement of a new structure. Bishop moved, seconded by Schwab to approve the chair to sign the DocuSign. All aye. Motion carried.

Next budget meeting will be on 10/28/2026 at 1pm.

With nothing further to come before the board Bishop moved, seconded by Schwab to adjourn the meeting at 11:30am. All aye. Motion carried.

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

Publish:
Nov 16, 2026