

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## Fort Ransom School Board

### FORT RANSOM SCHOOL DISTRICT #6 ANNUAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING JULY 8, 2025 7:00 PM

The School Board Meeting was called to order on July 8, 2025 by President, Jonathan Ness, at 7:00 p.m.  
Members Present: Jonathan Ness  
Lynn Thorfinnson, Chelsey Jones  
Others Present:  
Dr. Steven Johnson, Superintendent  
Lynelle Hanson, Business Manager  
Teara Davis  
Members Absent:  
Stacy Ercink

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: President Jon Ness called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Roll call was taken. CONSENT AGENDA: President Jon moved to approve the consent agenda containing the June 23, 2025 school board meeting minutes, agenda, bills list and the bank reconciliation. Chelsey 2nd the motion. A roll call vote was taken, all in favor, and the motion carried.

BILLS	
BARNES RURAL WATER DISTRICT	72.76
CHS DAKOTA PLAINS AG	1,014.00
DICKEY RURAL NETWORK - READI-TECH	202.57
LYNELLE HANSON	112.00
JAYMAR BUSINESS FORMS, INC.	154.37
ND ASSOC. OF SCHOOL BUS MANAGERS	50.00
STEVEN JOHNSON	4,166.67
BASE	30.00
CITY OF FORT RANSOM	64.00
FAT MAN TRASH	299.25
INFO TECHNOLOGY DEPT	41.20
ND SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION	1,172.29
RANSOM COUNTY GAZETTE	575.32
RANSOM COUNTY GAZETTE	25.43
WALOCK-JOHNSON INSURANCE INC	5,591.00
CASS COUNTY ELEC COOP	167.00
Total:	13,737.86
ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:	
Board Member Reports:	None
Guests:	None

Correspondence: None  
Superintendent's Report: Dr. Steven Johnson presented the board with the highlights of the 2024-2025 school year in this one-page document:  
Fort Ransom School District #6 – 2024-2025 Annual Report Infographic  
Mission & Values  
“We Believe the Children are our Future”  
Focus on the 4 C's: Communication, Critical Thinking, Creativity, Collaboration.  
**Key Events Timeline**  
Sept 9, 2024: Property Tax Hearing & Board Meeting.  
Dec 9, 2024: Planning Committee Established.  
Jan 27, 2025: Public Zoom Meeting: Three Pathways Forward.  
Mar 10, 2025: Public Hearing at Standing Rock Lutheran Church.  
May 14, 2025: Special Meeting – Approved Cooperative Agreement & Reorganization Plan.  
Jun 23, 2025: Reviewed Reorganization Draft Plan.

**Financial Snapshot**  
Fund Balance (6/20/2025): \$540,843  
Projected Revenues (24-25): \$486,410  
Projected Expenses (24-25): \$613,564  
Deficit: \$127,154  
Projected Fund Balance (6/30/2026): \$712,162

**Reorganization Plan with Lisbon**  
58+ years of partnership in grades 7–12.  
Transition to non-operating district in 2025-2026.  
All K-6 students attend Lisbon Public Schools.

**Benefits for Students:**  
Robust reading & support programs.  
Licensed counselors & highly qualified staff.  
Music & physical education enhancements.  
Band starts in 5th grade.

**2025-2026 Transition Highlights**  
Daily bus service for all Fort Ransom students.  
Part-time business manager, bus

driver, and superintendent retained.  
Focus on transparency & community engagement for successful reorganization vote.  
Legal compliance with NDCC 15.1-12 requirements.  
Dr. Steven L. Johnson  
Superintendent, Fort Ransom School District #6  
Executive Committee, National Rural Education Association  
Board Member, North Dakota Small Organized Schools (NDSOS)  
This infographic highlights key events, financial data, and the vision for Fort Ransom's future as it transitions to reorganization with Lisbon.  
**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**  
2024-2025 PowerSchool hard close was held in West Fargo on June 19th.  
Annual Financial 2024-2025 Report – Jon moved to accept the presented Annual Financial report with a 2nd by Lynn. Approved by unanimous roll call vote.  
Jon moved to adjourn the 2024-2025 school board meeting with a second by Lynn. All in favor and motion carried.

### FORT RANSOM SCHOOL DISTRICT #6 ANNUAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING AUGUST 2025 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER 2025-2026 ANNUAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING:  
Members Present: Jonathan Ness, Lynn Thorfinnson, Chelsey Jones, Teara Davis  
Others Present:  
Dr. Steven Johnson, Superintendent, Lynelle Hanson, Business Manager  
Members Absent: Stacy Ercink  
Elect temporary Chairperson: Lynn nominated Jon Ness as temporary chairperson. Chelsey seconded the motion. Teara moved that nominations cease. A vote was taken. Approved by unanimous roll call vote. Jon Ness was declared the temporary chairperson.  
**Election of Officers:**  
President: Lynn nominated Jon Ness. Jon nominated Teara. Chelsey moved that nominations cease. Vote and roll call were taken and Jon will serve as

President for the 2025-2026 year.  
Vice-President: Chelsey nominated Teara. Lynn seconded the nomination of Teara as Vice-President. Vote and roll call were taken and Teara will serve as Vice-President for the 2025-2026 year.  
The board had discussion on having a FRD board member sit on the new re-organization board serving a three-year term beginning July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029. President Jon Ness expressed that he would be willing to serve for the 4 years to represent Fort Ransom School District's interest. After that period of time, the Lisbon School Board will return to a 5-person board being chosen at-large.  
Set 2025-2026 Board Meetings: The following dates were selected for board meetings:  
September 15  
December 15  
March 11th  
June 8th  
These meetings are set, but subject to change, and special meetings can be held as necessary.  
Select Depository: Jon moved, with a second by Chelsey to keep Bank North as the FRSD Depository. Approved by unanimous vote.  
Board Stipend Rate for 2025-2026: Jon moved, with a second by Chelsey to keep the stipends the same as prior years. Approved by unanimous vote.  
Official Newspaper: Jon moved, with a second by Chelsey to keep the Ransom County Gazette as the official newspaper. Approved by unanimous vote.  
NDSBA Renewal: Chelsey moved, with a second by Teara to renew NDSBA membership. Approved by unanimous vote.  
Certificate of Levy (2025-2026 budget): Jon moved to accept the certificate of levy presented (General Fund \$313,726, Tuition \$22,409.00 & Misc. \$53,782. Chelsey 2nd the motion. Approved by unanimous roll call vote. The board has the capability to amend the budget at the September meeting or before the October 10th deadline.  
Tax Levy Hearing: Jon moved to set the Tax Levy Hearing date to September 15th, 2025 at 7:00 PM at the Fort

Ransom School office with a second by Teara. Approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Consolidated Application budget: Dr. Steven Johnson indicated that he will meet with Benjamin Zahrbock and Tricia Schmidt to come up with a plan to allocate any funds that may be distributed out of the \$23,908 SRSA 2025-2026 funds. Currently, funds have not been released.

Training for Bus Drivers: A letter indicating the training sessions for bus drivers will be sent out as soon as the dates are available. Bus inspections will also be scheduled.

Pledge of Securities: Table as document hadn't been received prior to meeting date.

Approval of the Fort Ransom/Lisbon Reorganization Plan: Jon moved, with a second by Chelsey, to approve of the reorganization plan pending the submission of the committee-created consolidated proposed 26-27 budget and approval by legal counsel, Jonathan Sanstead. Roll call was taken. All in favor and motion was carried. The plan will then go to the County Superintendent and Reorganization Board for review.

Review of Waloch-Johnson Insurance Policy/ND State Fire & Tornado Fund: After reviewing the insurance policies, Chelsey moved to pay all policies presented with a second by Lynn. All were in favor and motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Jon moved to adjourn at 8:15 pm.

**MEETINGS:**  
Next Meeting: Tax Levy Hearing at 7:00 PM Sept. 15, 2025 at the Fort Ransom School with the Regular school board meeting following.  
July 8, 2025

Jonathan Ness  
School Board President  
Lynelle Hanson  
School Business Manager

Publish: October 13, 2025

## City of Fort Ransom

### City of Fort Ransom August 4, 2025, Minutes

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Al Huckell, Andy Devitt, Carol Haarsager, Robbie Froemke, Steve Thorfinnson, City Auditor LaDonna Anderson  
**Community Members:** Vicki Busta, Jon and Beth Harvey, Paul Murphy-Attorney for Jon and Beth Harvey, Randy with Fat Man Trash; Mercedes Lickfelt, Karen Lickfelt, Gerald and Lisa Anderson.

The City Council of Fort Ransom held their regular monthly meeting on August 4, 2025, at 6:30 PM at Fort Ransom Community Hall.

Carol Haarsager made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Andy Devitt second. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Steve Thorfinnson made a motion to accept the bills as presented. Robbie Sagvold second. All in favor. Motion carried.

#### PRESENTATION OF BILLS TO BE PAID:

Cass County Electric	\$33.88
Cass County Electric	423.00
LaDonna Anderson	1,000.00
Steve Thorfinnson (Sewer)	150.00
Al Huckell (Sewer)	150.00
Fat Man Trash	1,182.62
Intuit Monthly Subscription	374.00
QuickBooks Payroll	199.67
Mary Roman (Mowing July 28.5 hours @15.00/hour)	427.50
RC Gazette	79.72
City View Fuel	100.61
Farmers Union Insurance (Commercial Property)	793.00
Gordy's Grill and Fill (Lawn Mower battery fuel filter)	70.93
Dakota Pump Controls (2025 Inspection fogrods and communication alarms)	2,344.00
ND Rural Water System Membership	270.00

**OLD BUSINESS:**  
Street Repairs- Al Huckell presented street bids from 701 Seal out of Jamestown and Fargo, totaling \$91,663.83. The bid includes filling cracks, filling holes, and sealing the roads. Streets will be done in half sections with no driving on the sealed street for 24 hours. Steve Thorfinnson made a motion to accept

the bid. Carol Haarsager second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Special Assessments- Dave Olson's two lots on special assessments will be split and reassessed if/when he sells the lots.

Abandoned Homes and Unlicensed Vehicles- Mayor Huckell will contact the property owner to discuss mowing and spraying the property again. The property owner will be billed accordingly.

**NEW BUSINESS:**  
Fat Man Trash- The current contract has expired. A new five-year contract was presented, with a 3% increase each year and a 120-day cancellation notice. Beginning in August, the cost will be \$19.39 per tote. There are currently 65 totes. Andy Devitt made a motion to accept the contract. Andy Devitt second. All voted in favor. Motion carried.  
N.D.C.C. 44-04-20.1 This law goes into effect on August 1. The City Council may limit the time for open comments, either in a block of time or per person. Comments must be about something on the current agenda or from the previous month's agenda.  
Budget- The preliminary budget was distributed and discussed. Andy Devitt made a motion to accept the preliminary budget. Robbie Sagvold second. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Liens on taxes-Discussion on tax liens. Cade Johnson is \$3,150.00 in arrears. Belinda Lemnus is \$2,097.00 in arrears. LaDonna will turn these into the Ransom County Auditor.

Vicki Busta – presented special event liquor permits for SVACA.  
John and Beth Harvey requested an off-site liquor permit and permission to block off the street in front of old fire department on August 16, 2025. Steve Thorfinnson made a motion to allow permit and to block off street in front of the old fire department. Andy Devitt second. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Discussion was held on the billing process. An itemized statement was discussed. The utility bill is as follows: Sewer Fees-\$20.00; Garbage fees-\$17.00 and Street fees are \$12.00.  
Paul Murphy, legal counsel for Jon and Beth Harvey, attended the meeting as an observer.

Dakota Pump Controls will be back in the area to fix the faulty rods and cracked hose.  
Mayor Al Huckell will put an ad in the newspaper paper and on the community page advertising for someone to check the sewer alarms. Steve Thorfinnson made a motion to place and ad in the newspaper and on the community page. Robbie Sagvold second. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Steve Thorfinnson also discussed that if the alarms are going off, do not just shut them off, either look for the reason the alarms are going off or contact Steve or Al Huckell.  
The city closed the walking bridge due to broken cables and stringers. Mayor Huckell and Steve Thorfinnson will be going to the county commissioner meeting Tuesday, August 5 to ask for funding. Mayor Huckell has talked to core engineers and the National Guard. They are unable to fix the structure. The council will also research grants.  
Reminder: To be placed on the agenda, you need to contact the mayor or auditor two weeks prior to meeting which is held on the first Monday of every month.  
Andy Devitt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve Thorfinnson second. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 2:39 PM.

cracked hose.

**City of Fort Ransom September 8, 2025, Minutes**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Al Huckell, Andy Devitt, Robbie Froemke, Steve Thorfinnson, City Auditor LaDonna Anderson  
**Community Members:** Jon and Beth Harvey, Gerald and Lisa Anderson, Brian Gulklickson.  
The City Council of Fort Ransom held their regular monthly meeting on September 8, 2025, at 6:30 PM at Fort Ransom Community Hall.

Steve Thorfinnson made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Andy Devitt second. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Andy Devitt made a motion to accept the bills as presented. Robbie Sagvold second. All in favor. Motion carried.

#### PRESENTATION OF BILLS TO BE PAID:

Cass County Electric	\$33.96
Cass County Electric	397.01
LaDonna Anderson	1,000.00

Steve Thorfinnson (Sewer)	150.00
Al Huckell (Sewer)	150.00
Fat Man Trash	1,182.62
Intuit Monthly Subscription	423.00
QuickBooks Payroll	199.67
Mary Roman (Mowing August 22.75 hours @15.00/hour)	341.25
RC Gazette	109.89
City View Fuel	174.30
Dakota Pump Controls (Service Call – Church Lift Station)	1,920.00
Timeless Treasures (NDLC Auction Baskets)	78.50
BND Sewer Payment	14,610.00
Director of Tax Equalization	214.00
SealTeam701 (Seal Coating and Crack Seal City Streets)	91,663.83
Al Huckell (Spraying/Weed Eating Park, Ball Diamond, Walking Bridge 5 hours \$20.00)	100.00

**OLD BUSINESS:**  
Street Repairs-completed.  
New BUSINESS:  
Sewer Hire-Mator Huckell introduced Ryan Sherbrooke. Ryan worked for City of Fargo Street and Sewer. Ryan has experience working with sewer and left stations and is familiar with our system. Andy Devitt made a motion to hire Ryan Sherbrooke. Steve Thorfinnson second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Jon Harvey asked about the breakdown of city sales tax. Mayor Huckell explained that the ND State Treasurer distributes the city sales electronically.

City Charges-Jon asked about the city rates, Mayor Huckell reiterated that the rates are as follows: Street Fees \$12.00; Sewer Fees – 20.00; Garbage Fees - \$17.00. County Meeting Attendance - Jon did not have anything to say.

Liquor Permit- Discussion. No permit is required if they remain on their property.

Mayor Huckell asked for permission from the city council to spray and mow Eric Thorfinnson's property and the city will send him a bill.

Budget- Steve Thorfinnson made a motion to accept the 2026 budget as presented. Robbie Sagvold second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Steve Thorfinnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Andy Devitt second. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM

Publish: October 13, 2025

## Invitation for Proposal

### INVITATION FOR PROPOSAL

The Housing Authority of Cass County is accepting proposals for Administration of Ransom County's Housing Choice Vouchers Program until the end of the business day on Wednesday, November 26, 2025 at the offices of ABST Law, P.C., 4132 30th Avenue SW, Suite 100, Fargo, ND 58104.

Specifications for the services may be picked up at the offices of ABST Law, P.C., 4132 30th Avenue SW, Suite 100, Fargo, ND 58104, or by calling Ann Miller at 701-235-3300. The Cass County Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any informalities in the bidding.

Housing Authority of Cass County  
By: Ann E. Miller, Agent  
Date: 10/2/2025

Publish: October 13 & 20, 2025

## Notice to Creditors

Don B. Eppler (ID 03859)  
Eppler Law Office  
502 Main Street, Suite B  
PO Box 740  
Lisbon, ND 58054-0740  
(701) 683-4137  
epp/ead@drtel.net

Probate No. 37-2025-PR-00034

Attorney for Personal Representatives  
IN THE DISTRICT COURT, COUNTY  
OF RANSOM, STATE OF NORTH  
DAKOTA  
In the Matter of the  
Estate of Myron J. Johs, Deceased

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

[1] NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the said deceased are required to present their claims within three months after the date of the first publication or mailing of this notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented to Francis Leier, 43529 Bass Harbor Road, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572, or Richard Leier, 3502 Hidden Way, West Fargo, ND 58078, Personal Representatives of the estate, or filed with the Court.  
Dated this 30th day of September, 2025.

/s/ Francis Leier  
Francis Leier  
43529 Bass Harbor Road  
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

/s/ Richard Leier  
Richard Leier  
3502 Hidden Way  
West Fargo, ND 58078

Publish: October 6, 13 & 20, 2025



# HAVE A GREAT STORY IDEA? SEND US YOUR IDEAS!

**RANSOM COUNTY  
GAZETTE**  
**INFO@RCGAZETTE.COM**