

Ransom County Commission

RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Regular Meeting – March 18, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Chair Greg Schwab. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members present: Todd Anderson, Sye Olson, Kevin Bishop and Greg Schwab. Also, present Auditor Nicole Gentzkow and Lynn Kaspari from the Ransom County Gazette.

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

Minutes from the previous regular scheduled commission meeting on March 4, 2025 were reviewed. Bishop moved to approve the minutes with an addition, seconded by Olson. All aye. Motion carried.

State's Attorney Fallon Kelly arrived at 9:10a.m.

The board asked Fallon Kelly if the highway department sells a pickup can the money go back into county general or should it go into the highway department accounts. Gentzkow explained 2000 accounts or special revenue funds, are accounts specifically levied for specific accounts some which the tax payers have approved an excess levy for. General funds can be transferred into any fund, however special funds money should go in and out of that account.

Leslie Lubenow, district manager for NDSU Extension appeared before the board to discuss a vacancy in the Lisbon NDSU Extension office. Lubenow asked the board to partner with NDSU to rehire that position at a full-time position again. The NDSU Extension agents' salaries are fifty percent funded by NDSU, and the benefits are paid for one hundred percent by NDSU. The county is responsible for fifty percent of the salary and all operating expenses. Anderson moved, seconded by Bishop to allow Lebenow to start the process of filling the vacancy in the NDSU Extension office in Lisbon. All aye. Motion carried. Discussions were had on different protocols and the agreement with NDSU for Extension Agents. Lebenow advised the board if they have concerns, they should discuss with NDACo who works on the contract for all counties in the state of North Dakota and NDSU.

Commission Audit Listing in the amount of 946,524.32 was reviewed. The board questioned Fallon Kelly on his expenses and how things are divided between Ransom County and Lamoure County along with DRN, City of Enderlin, City of Ellendale, and City of Oakes and his private practice. Bishop moved to approve the bills in the amount of \$946,524.32, seconded by Olson. All aye. Motion carried.

HEGLE, KELSEY	135.10
HOPKINS, ROBERTA PO BOX 950	37.79
JONES, CHELSEY	135.00
KELLY, FALLON M.	1,367.04
LARSON, MEGHAN	194.95
RANSOM COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION	

WELTON, BRENNIA	350.00
ZIMPRICH, BRIAN	386.55
AMERICAN SOLUTIONS FOR BUSINESS	1,091.27

BEAR CREEK GRAVEL	213.33
BISMARCK HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER	1,161.45
BRUSH AND DUST PAINTING & CLEANING LLC	990.00
CARDINAL HEALTH 110, INC.	558.50
COMPUTER EXPRESS	7,687.54
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY	4,649.92

DAHLSTROM FUNERAL HOME	3,117.00
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	372.50

DICKEY RURAL NETWORK INC.	511,815.94
FAT MAN TRASH	1,214.09
FORT RANSOM SODBUSTERS	220.50
FOSTER COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL	2,500.00
GORDY'S GRILL & FILL	150.00
GRIGGS FFA	1,440.17
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT.	100.00

KINDRED FFA	1,891.05
KOTACO	100.00
LANGLAND,MARIA	292.41
LISBON TRUE VALUE	30.00
ND LEAGUE OF CITIES	597.32
ND SACCHO	240.00
NEXTBLUE OF ND INSURANCE CO	500.00
QUAL, ANGELA	326.67
RANSOM COUNTY GAZETTE	250.00
RDO EQUIPMENT-FARGO	531.60
RICHLAND COUNTY CORRECTIONS	5,976.72
RIVERSIDE BUILDING CENTER	170.00
STARION BOND SERVICES	622.32
STOCK GROWERS BANK	230,248.75
STUTSMAN COUNTY CORRECTIONAL CENTER	160,000.00
TANYA WIELER	2,800.00
THE MEDICINE SHOPPE	1,500.00
TRIZETTO PROVIDER SOLUTIONS	50.08
TYLER TECHNOLOGIES INC.	82.80
VALLEY PLAINS EQUIPMENT	150.00
WEX HEALTH, INC.	175.96
Total	50.00
	946,524.32

10:00 AM GRAVEL BIDS

Six gravel bis were received. All bids appeared to have met specs. Adam Schultz, highway superintendent will take the bids back and compile them to be presented at the next commission meeting on April 1, 2025.

10:15 AM GAS, DIESEL, AND PROPANE BIDS

Four bids were received, two bids did not meet bid specs and were unable to be opened. Two bids met bid specs. Bishop moved, seconded by Anderson to accept the bid from Agtegra and Main Street Farm and Home due to bid specs being met. All aye. Motion carried. Adam Schultz will return the two bids that were rejected from CHS and Kotaco.

Shelly Schwab appeared before the board to let them know at the most recent department head meeting employees asked about the employee handbook. Discussion was had and the board told Gentzkow to go ahead and send a copy of the handbook out to all employees.

Scott Smyth with KLJ appeared before the board to give an update on the McRitchie Bridge, bid letting is scheduled for June 2025. The McRitchie Bridge is fully funded including engineering cost. An RFP will need to go out to get contractors for the project, plans should be posted the same day as the bid is released. KLJ will assist with the RFP. The McRitchie bridge has a completion date of 2026. Smyth also let the board know the Anslem slope project is on hold due to federal funds being on hold until the end of 2026. Smyth also let the board know there are no culverts in the Prairie View Dr. approaches, so KLJ will need to figure out right of

ways, drainage, and culverts. KLJ does offer a service where they are willing to meet with Nicole Gentzkow, Adam Schultz, Matt Lange from KLJ, and Scott Smyth from KLJ to discuss cost and needs in the county. Smyth had no updates on the Hock Bridge, it is possible for Adam Schultz to weld the bridge, however no guarantee NDDOT will approve that as being safe.

Heather Bergemann appeared before the board to discuss the glass enclosure for her office is complete and House of Glass is ready to install it. Discussion was had. Bishop moved, seconded by Anderson to approve House of Glass to install the glass in the clerk of courts office. All aye. Motion carried. Bergemann let the board know she does not have to use the original contractor who quoted the court room facility grant, however she does need to update the state with any changes and updates every sixty days.

Construction/security project was discussed. Anderson moved, seconded by Olson to have all security projects being paid for out of the ARPA funds quoted as a whole, not individual offices. All aye. Motion carried.

Adam Schultz, highway superintendent appeared before the board to let them know the final leased motor grader is up on December 21, 2025. Schultz asked if he should get another bid packet ready or how the board would like to proceed. Anderson would like to look into the warranty on John Deere motor graders. Anderson struggles with the idea of a municipality taking out a loan. Anderson moved, seconded by Olson to have Schultz put a bid packet together for a new motor grader so they could see what the price would come in at. Meanwhile the board would look into the warranty and possibly buying out this lease. All aye. Motoin carried.

Public Health funding was discussed. Currently the county is giving public health 10.15 mills out of county general which is \$448,000. The county is levying more for county health than any other department including road and bridge. Public Health gets roughly \$550,000 per year in grants that could be used to fund them instead of levying out of general. Gentzkow has checked with other counties through the auditor's association out of all the counties who responded Ransom County was the only county levying over two mills for public health. At the five-county meeting the discussion of public health funding was also discussed. Richland county levies zero mills, they just transfer around \$30,000 from the general to public health at the end of the year. Lamoure County give public health less than \$80,000 a year, Sargent County gives half of a mill, and Dickey County didn't give any money to the public health per the auditors. Gentzkow let the board know the county currently needs the funds from public health for the road and bridge department as we only levy 10 mills, however they spend around 30 mills. The shortfall in road and bridge has been being taken out of the savings account and the county is starting to run low on funds. Gentzkow would like to see public health operate on just their grants, and if they have a shortfall the county can transfer some funds to them just as all other counties are doing. This would allow the county to have more funds for road and bridge and be able to balance the books. Gentzkow also discussed the difference between and district and a department. Gentzkow let the board know that decision could be made at another time if they want to make changes like that, we just need to make changes to the general fund money now. The board would like to have public health attend the next commission meeting to discuss changing the ways they are funded.

Gentzkow presented three loan options for the motor grader from Stock Growers. Discussion was had. Anderson moved, seconded by Olson to approve the loan through Stock Growers for three years and making a \$160,000 payment immediately. All aye. Motion carried. Anderson moved to approve the payment of \$160,000 to the commission audit listing for Stock Growers, seconded by Bishop. All Aye. Motion carried.

The board received correspondence asking them for a letter of support for a Lawerance Welk Day. The board discussed. The board did not find it necessary for them to send a letter to the state to have a day honoring Lawrence Welk. No action was taken.

Brian Zimprich submitted a letter to the board asking for permission to travel to Billings, MT on June 29 to July 2, 2025 to accept a distinguished service award at an awards banquet. A portion of the trip will have NDSU dollars available to help offset a portion of the travel. The other portion of the travel would come out of the county agent budget line item 2000-0206-6340 continuing education/professional development which has \$5,500 available. Bishop moved, seconded by Olson to approve Zimprich's out of state travel, Greg Schwab signed the letter, Gentzkow will email to Zimprich. All aye. Motion carried.

With nothing further to come before the board Olson moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:06p.m., seconded by Bishop. All aye. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Nicole R. Gentzkow  
Ransom County Auditor  
Greg Schwab, Chairman  
Ransom County Commission

Publish: April 7, 2025

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**RANSOM COUNTY  
GAZETTE**

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Summons

Court File Number 37-2025-CV-00048

Lyle P. Thomason (Atty Bar ID 05738)  
Thomason Law Office, PC  
P O Box 896, Lisbon, ND 58054  
Telephone (701) 683 – 3175  
Attorney for the Plaintiff

IN THE DISTRICT COURT,  
COUNTY OF RANSOM,  
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

Zachary Peterson, Plaintiff,

versus

Samuel Ehora, and Zhejiang Koolcnchet Industry and Trade Co., Ltd., and All Persons Known and Unknown claiming any estate or interest in, or lien or encumbrance upon, the property described herein, Defendants.

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA TO THE  
ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS:

You are hereby summoned and required to appear and defend against the Complaint in this action, which is served upon you, by serving upon the undersigned an Answer or other proper response within twenty-one (21) days after the service of this Summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. TAKE NOTICE: That the above action relates to and is brought for the purpose of quieting title to the property hereafter described; and that no personal claim is made against any of you. The property to which this action relates is located in Ransom County, North Dakota and described as follows, to wit: 2022 KOOLCNCHET Dirt Bike, Model Number XB88-250 VIN L98B1S2B3N1000841

Dated this 21st day of March, 2025.

Lyle P. Thomason (Atty Bar ID 05738)  
Thomason Law Office, PC  
P O Box 896, Lisbon, ND 58054  
Telephone (701) 683 – 3175  
Attorney for the Plaintiff

Publish: March 31, April 7 and 14, 2025

Fort Ransom School Board

Fort Ransom School District #6  
Special School Board Meeting  
January 27, 2025 via ZOOM 7pm

The Special Fort Ransom School Board Meeting was called to order on January 27, 2025 by President, Jonathan Ness, at 7:02 p.m. Roll Call was taken:

Members Present:  
Jonathan Ness  
Lynn Thorfinnson  
Samantha Weidner  
Chelsey Jones  
Members Absent:  
Stacy Ercink  
Others Present:  
Dr. Steven Johnson, Superintendent  
Ben Zahrböck, Principal  
Lynelle Hanson, Business Manager  
Guests:  
BreAnn Odegard  
Editor – Ransom Co. Gazette  
Teara Davis  
Elizabeth Kruger  
Sherri Ness

Dr. Steven L. Johnson lead the ZOOM virtual meeting which would evaluate three possible pathways for our future, consider key considerations for our strategic planning, and plan for the open public hearing for March 10, 2025. The possible pathways are: 1) Cooperative Agreement with Lisbon Public Schools 2) Reorganization with Lisbon Public Schools 3) Dis-solution. Each pathway was presented with an overview, benefits, limitations, and steps/time-line of the process. The team also discussed the school's financial situation, potential staff changes, and the state of North Dakota's funding for education, considering factors such as declining enrollment, limited staff, and aging infrastructure.

In the last quarter of 2024, a planning committee was organized, they surveyed community members, compiled results, and now are requesting that an open public meeting be held to determine the next steps. Jon Ness moved, with a second by Lynn Thorfinnson to call for a Public Hearing to be held on March 10, 2025 at 7:00 pm at the Fort Ransom School with the purpose of hearing the public's opinion on the future of the Fort Ransom School District #6. Approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Rules for the public hearing will be posted on the website: https://www.fortransomdsd.us/ and within the Fort Ransom School app. Any public comments may be brought to the Fort Ransom School office or mailed to: Attn: Business Manager Fort Ransom School District 135 Mill Road Fort Ransom, ND 58033, but must be received by March 10th to be included in the public comments of the meeting.

Our next steps will include securing staff for the 2025-2026 school year, as well as planning for the future of the Fort Ransom School District.

NEXT REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING: MARCH 10TH 2025 following the public hearing at 7:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT: Chelsey moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm, with a second by Jon Ness.

January 27, 2025  
Lynelle Hanson  
School Business Manager

Jonathan Ness  
Fort Ransom  
School Board President

Publish: April 7, 2025

Invitation to Bid

Invitation to Bid  
Lisbon Locker Room Remodeling  
Lisbon, North Dakota

Sealed Bids for the Locker Room Remodeling Project, Lisbon, North Dakota, will be received until 2:00 PM, local time, Thursday, April 17 th, 2025.

Bids must be delivered before the time and date indicated above to the High School Conference Room, 502 Ash Street, PO Box 593, Lisbon, ND 58054, where they will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Multiple Prime (& Single Prime) Bids will be received from General, Mechanical and Electrical Contractors.

Informal Pre-Bid Walkthrough: Wednesday, April 9th, 2025 from 4:00 PM to 5:00PM.

High School Gymnasium/Locker Rooms will be available for verification of existing conditions during that period only. All interested prime bidders are urged to attend and field verify on their own, the existing conditions.

All Bids shall be in accordance with Bidding Documents prepared by Foss Architecture & Interiors, Fargo, North Dakota.

Bidding Documents may be examined at the following locations until Bid opening time:

Minnesota Builders Exchanges in Minneapolis/St Paul; North Dakota Builder's Exchanges in Fargo, Grand Forks, Bismarck

The Project will be available at Quest CDN (www.QuestCDN.com) (Hubexo North America)

PDF/Digital Bidding Documents may be obtained from the Architect, by PRIME Bidders only. No deposit is required, or cost charged, for one set for those prime bidders. Addenda will be submitted to those receiving full sets of

Notice to Creditors

Probate No. 37-2025-PR00013

Jeffrey K. Leadbetter  
LEADBETTER LAW OFFICE  
P.O. Box 511 74th Ave W  
Lisbon, ND 58054  
701-683-5510  
ID#04278

IN DISTRICT COURT OF RANSOM  
COUNTY, STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
EDWARD WILBERT QUAST,  
DECEASED

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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 Addie Quast 505 Oak St Lisbon, ND 58054 Personal Representative of the estate, or filed with the Court.

Dated this 19th day of March 2025

Audie Quast  
505 Oak St  
Lisbon ND 58054

Publish: March 31, April 7, 14, 2025

Notice to Creditors

Probate No. 37-2025-PR00015

Don 8. Eppler (ID 03859)  
EPPLER LAW OFFICE  
502 Main Street, Suite A  
PO BOX 740  
Lisbon, ND 58054-0740  
(701) 683-4137  
epplead@drtel.net  
Attorney for Personal Representatives

IN THE DISTRICT COURT, COUNTY  
OF RANSOM, STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
In the Matter of the Estate of Beverly  
S. Thompson, Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned have been appointed Co-Personal Representatives 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 Christi A Thompson, 1376 Oak Manor Ave S., Fargo, ND 58103, or Ricky J. Thompson, 507 Grant St., Crookston, MN 56716, Personal Representatives of the estate, or filed with the Court.

Dated this 1st day of April 2025

/s/  
Christi A Thompson  
1376 Oak Manor Ave S  
Fargo, ND 58103

/s/  
Ricky J. Thompson  
507 Grant St  
Crookston, MN 56716

Publish: April 7, 14 and 21 2025

**AD DEADLINE IS NOON**

**WEDNESDAYS FOR  
RANSOM COUNTY GAZETTE**

**AD DEADLINE: Tuesdays at 5pm**

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Bidding Documents.

Note: Hard Copy sets of drawings will be available, for PRIME Bidders only. However, those requesting, will be charged a non-refundable fee to cover reproduction costs, and mailing.

Bidding sets will not be issued after the issuance of the last addendum.

No Bids will be read or considered which do not fully comply with North Dakota bond and license requirements.

Each Bid shall be accompanied by a separate envelope containing a Bidder's bond in a sum equal to five percent of the full amount of the Bid, executed by the Bidder as principal and by a surety company authorized to do business in this state, conditioned that if the principal's Bid be accepted and the contract awarded to him, he, within ten days after notice of award, will execute and effect a contract in accordance with the terms of his Bid and a contractor's bond as required by law and the regulations and determinations of the governing board.

Bid security shall be made payable to Lisbon Public Schools, District # 19, Lisbon, North Dakota.

Bid security of two lowest Bidders will be retained until Contract has been awarded and executed, but not longer than 30 days.

Performance and Labor/Material Payment bonds are required for this Project.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive informalities therein.

FOR THE OWNER: Lisbon Public Schools, Lisbon North Dakota

BY: Mr. Justin Fryer, Superintendent.

Publish: March 24, 31, April 7, 2025

Notice to Creditors

Jeffrey K. Leadbetter  
LEADBETTER LAW OFFICE  
P.O. Box 511 74th Ave W  
Lisbon, ND 58054  
701-683-5510  
ID#04278

IN DISTRICT COURT OF RANSOM  
COUNTY, STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
TIMOTHY ARTHUR TIEDE, DECEASED

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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 Sandy Tiede, 6709 115th Ave SE, Englevale, ND 58033 Personal Representative of the estate, or filed with the Court.

Dated this 31st day of March 2025

Sandie Tiede  
6709 115th Ave SE  
Englevale, ND 58033

Publish: April 7, 14 and 21 2025

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