Ransom County Commission

RANSOM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting – June 2, 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, Sye Olson, and Todd Anderson. Kevin Bishop absent. Also present, auditor Nicole Gentzkow, and Lynn Kaspari via telephone from the Ransom County Gazette.

Agenda was reviewed. Delinquent lots in the City of Lisbon were discussed. Budget and treasurer's cash trial balance were discussed. Olson moved, seconded by Olerud to approve the agenda with additions. All aye. Motion carried.

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

Bryar Penberthy appeared before the board to discuss a stump in of the courthouse that needs to removed. Greg Schwab has a stump grinder along with Todd Wallner. Bryar got a quote from Wallner who charges $100 a foot diameter. The stump is 2ft wide and about 1.5ft tall. Olson would like to see someone who is a Ransom County resident. Anderson would like to up to Bryar's discretion as long as the price seems reasonable and is within his budget. Anderson also thanked Bryar for mowing the two Lisbon lots the county owns due to delinquent taxes.

Commission Audit Listing in the amount of $12,640.92 were reviewed. Olson moved, seconded by Olerud to approve the commission audit listing in the amount of $12,640.92. All aye. Motion carried.

BARNES COUNTY CORRECTIONAL CENTER	100.00
CASS COUNTY GOVERNMENT	3,600.00
CASS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE	708.40
DACOTAH PAPER COMPANY	374.08
DAKOTA OASIS	325.00
DAKOTA WATER SOLUTIONS	72.00
ELECTIONS SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE	1,041.50
GILBERT, KIRSTEN	50.00
GORDY'S GRILL & FILL	6.00
LEXISNEXIS MATTHEW BENDER	301.61
LISBON BODY SHOP	620.00
MAIN STREET FARM AND HOME	1,367.33
MIDSTATES WIRELESS	675.00
SARGENT COUNTY SHERIFFS DEPARTMENT	50.00
SHELDON, CITY OF	70.00
SIDWELL COMPANY	1,110.00
VILLAGE FAMILY SERVICE CENTER	2,000.00
X-STREAM CLEAN CAR WASH LISBON	170.00
Total	12,640.92

Manual Warrants in the amount of $34,815.58 were reviewed. Olerud moved, seconded by Olson to approve the manual warrants in the amount of $34,815.58. All aye. Motion carried.

JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA	27,734.13
CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP	49.55
CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP	5.00
CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP	46.45
CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP	241.62
CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP	1,159.78
SOUTHEAST WATER USERS	76.04
MARCO	134.73
LISBON, CITY OF	72.50
CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC COOP	179.55
MARCO	170.18
MARCO	5.00
MARCO	235.38
MARCO	10.00
MARCO	25.58
MARCO	4.09
OTTER TAIL POWER CO	77.16
MARCO TECH- ST LOUIS	732.38
MARCO TECH- ST LOUIS	10.00
MARCO	339.11
MARCO	10.00
MARCO	1.39
OTTER TAIL POWER CO	307.97
OTTER TAIL POWER CO	2,087.02
LISBON, CITY OF	39.50
LISBON, CITY OF	26.60
LISBON, CITY OF	200.97
LISBON, CITY OF	108.03
TRIZETTO PROVIDER SOLUTIONS	34.00
TRIZETTO PROVIDER SOLUTIONS	56.00
MARCO	160.78
MARCO	26.00
LIBERTY BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC.	291.85
OTTER TAIL POWER CO	48.98
OTTER TAIL POWER CO	108.26
Total	34,815.58

9:30AM Adam Schultz appeared before the board to discuss the overweight loads going to ADM. Discussion was had on if the county should sell the farmers a one time per year permit for $100 or make them buy permits for each load which would be around $73 per truck per load. The board let Schultz know a discussion was made at the previous commission meeting that if the trucks are overload, they will need to apply for an overweight permit.

A detailed log was turned in by Jackie Schwab for the mowing hours in Englevale, ND around the county shop. Schwab moved, seconded by Olerud to pay 2025 mowing bill, and hire Jackie Schwab to 2026 at $35 per hour as long as a log is submitted. All aye. Motion carried.

Eric King reached out to the county to see if an individual was still interested in the yellow house on 7th that the county owns. At this time the county has not heard anything. Schultz also let the board know that he was notified by the city that there have been complaints about the county impound lot. The cars are on Blecker's fence line and the gophers are out of control. Schultz did tell the board that the impound lot has been an issue and takes the road crew longer to maintain due all the clutter everywhere. The board discussed, possibly have a cleanup auction of county property. Schultz will reach out to Darren Benneweis about an auction. Schultz is working on getting a paving bid for the Jackson Bridge from the company paving streets in the City of Lisbon. The sidewalk is attached to a square beam; tension rods hold the beam in place. Schultz also let the board know a road haul agreement has been signed for 130th Ave. There will be roughly 3000 gravel trucks hauling out of the Olson pit, and then there will be a hot mix plant there.

Purchase agreement/Deed KLJ Survey for the Englevale Shop.

Fallon Kelly let the board know he has hired a new employee in his office who will be a county employee.

Paul Nelson and Robbie McRitchie appeared for the county Equalization meeting.

10:00AM County Equalization Meeting

*Equalization papers will be attached to the minutes.

Paul Nelson let the board know his farm shop was considered non-farm taxable and he would like to challenge that. Nelson let the board know his farm shop is used for 75%-80% farm use. Teresa Haecherl let the board know they classified it as non-farm due to the non-farm items they spotted in the shop. Paul Nelson let the board and Teresa know he was not there the day they assessed and asked how the assessors office knew what was in his shop. Paul Nelson share crops, Haecherl wasn't aware of that until this moment. Due to the new information Haecherl would recommend Paul Nelson's shop be farm exempt. Olerud moved, seconded by Schwab to have parcel 20-1271000/ Paul Nelson shop tax exempt. All aye. Motion carried. Robbie McRitchie appeared before the board discussed he is being taxed for a vacant house on his land that is empty with the exception of during calving season. Anderson questioned how the house could be vacant because in order to qualify for the grazing association it must be occupied. Improvement are being made to the house, it got a new roof in the past few years. Teresa Heacherl let the board know there was conflicting information on if the house was vacant or not and the farm exempt paperwork was not submitted on time. Anderson asked McRitchie why the farm exempt paperwork was not submitted. McRitchie let the board know he missed the deadline this year. The valuation of the house was discussed. The board did not make any action as the status of the home was not changed.

Preston Township had a few people upset about their value and protested it at the township equalization meeting. They did not show to the county equalization meeting. Preston Township stated they wanted to pass the buck to the commission to make the decisions on equalization. Scoville did not have a quorum. Olerud moved, seconded by Olson to approve Haecherl's change sheet and Paul Nelson's correction. All aye. Motion carried. Ag land came in at 93.6% Haecherl recommended no changes. Olerud moved, seconded by Olson to accept the values as presented by Haecherl on Ag Land. All aye. Motion carried. Commercial data from 2023 – 2025 was reviewed along with 30 good sales. Commercial is sitting at 91% Haecherl recommends a 1.5-2.5% increase. Olson moved, seconded by Olerud to approve a 2.5% increase for commercial. All aye. Motion carried. Residential properties in Lisbon are sitting at 76.4% and Enderlin at 69.5%, Fort Ransom City at 62.7%, and Liberty, Moore, Northland, Owego, Preston, Rosemeade, Sandoun, Scoville, and Springer are sitting at 89.75 due to just recently being assessed. Haecherl gave two options: option one do an across the board 13.6% increase to all residential properties, or option two 16.6% increase to the areas out of whack and 7% increase for townships already assessed. Olerud moved to go with the second recommendation, Anderson called for a second three times. Motion died due to lack of a second. Olson moved, seconded by Schwab to recess the equalization meeting and meet at 8:30am on June 5, 2026.

The county must be in compliance at 90-100% or the state will mandate changes across the board. Typically Ransom County likes to stay at 93% just to be safe. This year the recommendations on residential would only get the county to a minimum of 90% compliance with the State.

Fallon Kelly discussed a moratorium for battery storage, data center, nuclear waste, solar and wind farms, and carbon capture. Olson moved, seconded by Olerud to accept the moratorium which will give the county up to 18 months to research and get zoning in place. All aye. Motion carried.

An offsite liquor permit was submitted for the McLeod rodeo along with the appropriate fee, Schwab moved, seconded by Olson to approve pending the townships approval. All aye. Motion carried.

Gentzkow verbally presented a grant request for the Lisbon Rec board specifically the girls softball program for updated safety equipment, face mask, catching gear, batting helmets, bats. The board requested a formal letter before they would consider. Gentzkow will ask Lance Gulleson and Kortney Vessel to attend the next commission meeting for the grant request.

Fallon Kelly prepared a deed for the house on Harris Street. Olson moved, seconded by Schwab to have the chair sign the deed, deeding it over to the City of Lisbon for $1. All aye. Motion carried.

With nothing further to come before the board Schwab moved, seconded by Olson to adjourn the meeting. All aye. Motion carried.

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