

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
May 5th, 2020

At 3:30pm, Chairman David Utke called the Foster County Commission meeting to order. Roll call included Commissioner Alan Scanson, Commissioner Becky Hagel, Commissioner Pat Copenhaver, Commissioner Scott Beumer and Commissioner David Utke all via phone. Also present were Auditor Brad Solberg, Road Superintendent Nate Monson, States Attorney Kara Brinster (via phone), and Foster County Independent Reporter Leasa Lura (via phone).

The meeting began with approval of the minutes. Commissioner Scanson made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 21st, 2020 meeting with corrections, seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Commissioner Hagel made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. All voted aye and the motion passed.

30032	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, INC.	118.86
30033	ARROWWOOD PRAIRIE CO-OP	56.90
30034	BALCO UNIFORM CO., INC.	23.36
30035	BESSETTE MOTORS, INC.	68.78
30036	BRINSTER LAW, P.C.	111.21
30037	C & J OIL COMPANY	215.89
30038	CENTRAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS	198.18
30039	CENTRAL CITY H20+	13.50
30040	CENTRAL CITY LUMBER INC.	132.97
30041	COMPUTER EXPRESS	3,452.26
30042	DAKOTA DUST-TEX INC	268.60
30043	DEERE CREDIT INC	1,862.34
30044	DOCU SHRED INC	150.85
30045	ELLEN ROUNDY	152.95
30046	FARMERS UNION INSURANCE	45,542.00
30047	FOSTER COUNTY INDEPENDENT	781.99
30048	HENRY SCHEIN	36.51
30049	IAAO	575.00
30050	INNOVATIVE OFFICE SOLUTIONS, LLC	91.99
30051	J.O.B. WELDING & REPAIR	390.00
30052	LA QUINTA INN & SUITES BISMARCK	88.20
30053	LAKE REGION LAW ENFORCE. CEN.	2,259.99
30054	LEAF	74.80
30055	MIDSTATES WIRELESS	39.99
30056	*** VOID *** ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES	2,004.88
30057	ND STATE RADIO COMMUNICATION	9,565.92
30058	ND WATER RESOURCE DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION	30.00
30059	NDACO RESOURCES GROUP	230.00
30060	NORMONT EQUIPMENT CO.	2,504.00
30061	NORTHERN PLAINS LABEL	63.80
30062	OFFICE DEPOT	72.91
30063	RDO EQUIPMENT CO.	2,919.60
30064	RICK'S WHOLESALE TIRE INC.	300.00
30065	RUNNING'S SUPPLY, INC.	380.37
30066	SIDWELL COMPANY	4,850.00
30067	TANNER ZETOCHA	350.00
30068	WOLD ENGINEERING, P.C.	10,050.45

Auditor Solberg asked to add a gaming authorization to the agenda. Commissioner Scanson made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. All voted aye and the motion passed.

New Business

Nate Monson, Road Superintendent gave an update. Monson stated that there we no major repairs needed. Monson mentioned that load restrictions are still on. Monson stated that the gravel roads are very soft, and there are numerous locations on pavement that need work.

Public Health Nurse Lisa Hilbert informed the BOCC that local businesses are starting to open using the ND Smart Restart program.

Citizen Russ Heidt approached the BOCC with some financial questions. Heidt asked what the budget for 2020 was, and Solberg stated \$3,800,000. Heidt asked what the estimated revenue for 2020 was, and Solberg stated

\$3,600,000. Heidt then asked how much revenue the county has taken in this year. Heidt then asked if the County had a balanced budget in 2019, and Solberg stated yes. Solberg stated that it was \$2,500,000 including taxes. Heidt then asked the BOCC why they are allowed to get Health Insurance as a full-time employee. Commissioner Hagel stated that Commissioners are considered full-time employees, but none have taken the insurance. Heidt stated he didn't believe that Commissioners should be getting Health Insurance as a full-time employee, as it would be like giving themselves a \$7,000 raise.

Wold Engineering Engineer Mike Rivinius gave an update on the McHenry Highway as it goes into Griggs County. Griggs County's portion of road is under water and they are looking at doing a federal aid project. This project would raise the road higher on their side than Foster County's side. By doing this, the road on Foster County's side could go underwater, but the road is OK at this point in time. Rivinius gave three options for Foster County:

Option 1- Do Nothing

Option 2- Dig channel about 700 ft

Option 3- Pursue federal aid project to bring road up to Griggs County's elevation.

Rivinius stated that option 3 would cost between 2 and 3 million dollars, but would have a 80-20 cost share with the feds.

Commissioner David Utke spoke about the McHenry Lagoon. Utke mentioned that the Foster County Water Board has worked on this project of lowering Alkali Lake for quite a period of time. The City of McHenry had no official request to have the lake lowered to protect the city's lagoon. Foster County Water Board President Ron Stangeland stated that the Water Board found an emergency declaration that the city of McHenry could sign. Discussion was had on history of the Alkali Lake/McHenry Lagoon problem.

Tax Equalization Director Karen Evans told the BOCC that the Board of Equalization meetings for the entities went well. Evans continues to hear from residents with questions on their values and adjusting changes as needed. Changes are only being made with facts like year built, number of bathrooms, etc.

Evans then presented the Sales Ratio study to the BOCC. It showed that ag land was 2% out of tolerance. Commissioner Copenhagen made a motion to increase Ag Land by 2% to bring values into tolerance, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. Discussion about the ag land revaluation came up and it was asked if they raise could wait until Evans could check with the State of ND about it. All voted nay, and the motion FAILED.

Emergency Manager Aaron Devereaux presented the Fall Disaster paperwork for approval. Commissioner Copenhagen made a motion to sign Fall Disaster paperwork, seconded by Commissioner Hagel. All voted aye and the motion passed. Devereaux then presented a Spring Flood Disaster Declaration stating that roads are a disaster and culverts are heavily damaged. Commissioner Copenhagen made a motion to approve the Spring Flood Disaster Declaration, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Auditor Brad Solberg presented a Gaming Authorization from Rice-Deede post for pull tabs at the Bordulac Bar. Commissioner Copenhagen made a motion to approve the Gaming Authorization, seconded by Commissioner Hagel. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Solberg presented a sheet from Monson to the BOCC for the train derailment expenses. Commissioner Utke will meet with CP Rail to discuss the damages.

The BOCC discussed COVID-19 updates. The first was the building hours, and the BOCC agreed to discuss that again in two weeks. Next on the list was the Foster County Fair and Fairgrounds. Brinster stated that the Fair Board has the authorization to make those calls. The BOCC stated that would be in favor of the Fair board following the recommendations from the Governor's office. Then the discussion went to the parks in Foster County, and the BOCC stated that they would like to check again in two weeks.

Solberg presented a letter from the NDHP wondering if Foster County wanted to have the NDHP do weight checks on County Roads. Commissioner Hagel made a motion to have the NDHP to weight checks on County Roads, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Commissioner Utke presented a letter from ND State Radio about using them as our 911 dispatch. Commissioner Copenhagen made a motion to use ND State Radio as 911 dispatch for Foster County, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Auditor Solberg presented the one bid for the cornice project to the BOCC. Commissioner Copenhagen made a motion to acknowledge General Roofing and Construction as the apparent low bidder on the project with a bid of \$85,618.00, seconded by Commissioner Beumer. All voted aye and the motion passed. Negotiations will begin on the project.

With no further business, Chairman Utke moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:30pm.

Brad Solberg
Foster County Auditor

David Utke, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners