

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

At 3:30 pm, Chairman Scanson called the Foster County Commission Special meeting to order. Roll call included Commissioner Scott Beumer, Commissioner Becky Hagel, Commissioner Alan Scanson, and Commissioner David Utke. Also present was Interim Auditor Ellen Roundy, Public Health employees Lisa Hilbert, Colleen Sweet, Robin Simonson, and Cassie Ness.

Commissioner Beumer updated that board with questions that were previously presented on the open RN position. For an LPN to be hired, the RN would be risking their license overseeing the LPN. The Personnel committee had met prior and discussed wage and district options. Colleen Sweet, public health employee provided the BOCC with North Dakota Century Code on moving from a department to a district. A district would mean that public health would act as its own entity, and they would not be county employees. Discussion was had on change of duties and the timeframe that this would look like. Commissioner Hagel stated that ideally the end of a quarter would work nicely, however, there is still a lot of work involved with moving from a department to a district. She also discussed the salary scale and how it was compromised by tax base, market value and comparisons from other counties of similar size. As a public entity we do not have access to the private sector. Aaron Birst, NDACo executive director, is looking into the legality of it to make sure that Foster County is covering their bases. The BOCC wants to do what is right for the county as a whole and their employees. There are currently only six of the fifty-three counties that are a single public health department. Commissioner Beumer motioned authorization for Public Health administrator, Lisa Hilbert to communicate a \$35.00-\$40.00 per hour range according to experience to those that have reached out regarding the position and the BOCC finds out what truly is market value for the position to adjust the current nursing staff accordingly, seconded by Commissioner Utke. Roll call vote included:

- Commissioner Beumer – aye
- Commissioner Hagel – aye
- Commissioner Scanson – aye
- Commissioner Utke – aye

motion passed. Further discussion included repercussions other departments may have and how to handle that as a board. There is going to be additional work from the county and health department to sort out EIN, NDIRF, WSI, Insurance etc. The personnel committee plans to attend the next BOH meeting and will present a resolution to the BOCC once the logistics are sorted out.

With no further business, Chairman Scanson adjourned the meeting at 4:24 pm.

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Ellen Roundy  
Foster County Interim Auditor

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Alan Scanson, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners