

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 15th, 2024

At 1:05 pm, Chairman Utke called the Foster County Commission Special Meeting to order. Roll call included Commissioner Becky Hagel, Commissioner David Utke, Commissioner Alan Scanson, Commissioner Pat Copenhaver and Commissioner Scott Beumer (via phone). Also present was Auditor/Treasurer Ellen Roundy and Foster County Independent Reporter Leasa Lura.

Auditor/Treasurer Ellen Roundy presented the BOCC with a local gaming permit for the Carrington Garden Club. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to approve the permit, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Commissioner Hagel presented information on revenues and expenditures for the Foster County Road Department, going through every line item from the last two years. Currently, the Road department levies a total of twelve mills out of two different funds, both of which are expiring at the end of 2024. The BOCC can levy ten mills out of County Road and Bridge, with a maximum of thirty mills. However, going beyond the initial ten mills requires a majority vote from the residents of Foster County. As part of the increase in mills, each city within the county will receive a portion of the revenue brought in from road and bridge levy. Discussion included upcoming projects under guidance provided by Wold Engineering. Commissioner Utke noted that the BOCC is trying to maintain the actual costs, and if we don't have enough revenue, items will have to go. Commissioner Scanson stated that Foster County has a very lean Road Department, which all other BOCC members agreed with.

Commissioner Scanson motioned to increase the current road mills from twelve to a proposed twenty-five, seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. Roll call vote included:

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

motion passed.

Auditor/Treasurer Roundy presented the BOCC with a resolution: Replace and increase existing mills levied for Road Department.

WHEREAS, The Foster County Highway Department, along with the Foster County Board of Commissioners, are charged with maintaining the roads and bridges in Foster County for the safety of its residents; and

WHEREAS, Foster County currently levies 12 mills for a purpose under two separate levies, both of which are expiring in December 2024. The loss of these levies will eliminate 12 mills from the County Road and Bridge budget; and

WHEREAS, the needs of the Foster County Highway Department are not met with the current twelve mills and the Foster County Board of County Commissioners propose to increase the total number of mills levied from twelve to twenty-five; and

WHEREAS, the Foster County Highway Department will not be able to maintain or repair current roads and bridges with the ten mills allowable in levy 1204, it is proposed that the Foster County Commission replace the 12 mills by levying twenty-five mills for levy number 1204, allowable by the approval of the voters of Foster County as per North Dakota Century Code chapter 57-15-06.7(5); and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Foster County Board of Commissioners propose an increase of 25 mills to levy number 1204 to replace the 12 mills lost with the expiration of levy number 1212 and levy number 1233 and increase the total number of mills levied under the Foster County Highway department to twenty-five. The Foster County Board of Commissioners direct the following measure to be placed on the county ballot for the statewide primary election scheduled for June 11, 2024, and shall become effective January 1, 2025.

County Measure #1

Foster County currently levies a total of up to 12 mills for road levies. The current levying authority beyond 10 mills will be expiring and a majority vote is required to increase the levy up to twenty-five mills for Road & Bridge. Should the Foster County Board of Commissioners have the authority to levy up to 25 mills in the County Road & Bridge Fund, per NDCC Chapter 57-15-06.7(5)?

Yes – Means you approve the measure as summarized.

No – Means you reject the measure as summarized.

The resolution was made by Commissioner Scanson and seconded by Commissioner Hagel. Roll call vote included:

- Commissioner Hagel – aye
- Commissioner Utke – aye
- Commissioner Copenhaver – aye
- Commissioner Scanson – aye

- Commissioner Beumer - aye
motion passed.

With no further business, Chairman Utke adjourned the meeting at 2:28 pm.

Ellen Roundy
Foster County Auditor/Treasurer

David Utke, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners