

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

April 16th, 2024

At 3:30pm, Chairman Utke called the Foster County Commission meeting to order. Roll call included Commissioner Scott Beumer, Commissioner Becky Hagel, Commissioner David Utke, Commissioner Pat Copenhaver, and Commissioner Alan Scanson. Also present was Auditor/Treasurer Ellen Roundy, Road Superintendent Nate Monson, Michael Rivinius with Wold Engineering, and Foster County Independent reporter Leasa Lura.

The meeting began with approval of the minutes for the April 2nd, 2024, regular meeting. Commissioner Hagel noted one correction. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve the minutes with the correction, seconded by Commissioner Hagel. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve the bills, seconded by Commissioner Hagel. All voted aye and the motion passed.

36982	ANDREW KIRKING	73.70
36983	ARROWWOOD PRAIRIE CO-OP	833.77
36984	AVID HAWK, LLC	25.00
36985	BALCO UNIFORM CO., INC.	122.82
36986	BECKY HAGEL	123.28
36987	BESSETTE MOTORS, INC.	1,840.85
36988	BRAGER DISPOSAL SERVICE	349.00
36989	C & J OIL COMPANY	1,733.98
36990	COMPUTER EXPRESS	1,000.00
36991	ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS INC.	672.00
36992	ELLEN ROUNDY	1,499.82
36993	FARMERS UNION INSURANCE	39,426.00
36994	HAILEY BACHMEIER	57.62
36995	HOLCIM - MWR, INC.	2,780.06
36996	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT.	923.15
36997	NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE.	11,555.30
36998	NORMONT EQUIPMENT CO.	12,371.57
36999	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, LLC	449.20
37000	OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL	5,905.01
37001	QUILL CORPORATION	192.32
37002	R. M. STOUTD	824.96
37003	RAMADA BISMARCK HOTEL	288.90
37004	RDO EQUIPMENT CO.	1,846.00
37005	RICK'S WHOLESALE TIRE INC.	804.00
37006	RUNNING'S SUPPLY, INC.	274.62
37007	SIDWELL COMPANY	1,950.00
37008	STUTSMAN CO. CORRECTION CENTER	4,100.00
37009	STUTSMAN COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE	2,000.00
37010	SWANSTON EQUIPMENT CORPORATION	3,950.00
37011	VANGUARD APPRAISALS, INC.	1,567.50

Commissioner Scanson asked to add Micheal Rivinius, Wold Engineering, to the agenda with the Road Department and motioned to approve the agenda with the addition seconded by Commissioner Hagel. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Old Business

There was nothing new to report for the empty lots by Juanita Lake.

New Business

Nate Monson, Road Superintendent, provided an update for the BOCC. The rain is delaying blading for the department. So far, they have used seven totes for durapatching. Last year altogether, thirteen totes were used. Seventeen miles of roads in the county seem to be the biggest issue. A break in the murphy road due to freeze/thaw was brought to the attention of the BOCC. The BOCC will plan to meet with Garrison Diversion pipeline contractors on Tuesday, April 23rd, 2024, at 10:30 AM.

Micheal Rivinius, Wold Engineering, provided information to the BOCC on the funding received from the Flex Funding Grant. The project is four miles by Grace City and will regrade and pave gravel in between two paved roads. The bid process will take time, the earliest construction will begin will be 2025, with completion in a year or two. The plan will be to regrade the road for one year, let it sit and settle, then pave the next year. The grant application submitted for the Club Hall Road was turned down. Foster County received ten percent of the funds available, with over 430 million dollars' worth of projects submitted and just over forty-million dollars available. Commissioner Scanson motioned to accept the contract for flex funding, seconded by Commissioner Beumer. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Andrew Kirking, Stutsman/Foster Emergency Manager, introduced himself to the entire BOCC. Effective April 1st, he joined as Foster EM. Kirking has already met with the City of Carrington Public Works and attended an LEPC meeting and is bringing over eleven years of experience in Emergency Management in the state of North Dakota to Foster County. He will work with departments, cities, and townships to assess priorities for the county.

There was no update from Chris Thomas, EAPC, for the basement project. Discussion was had on interior design decisions.

Ellen Roundy, Auditor/Treasurer, presented a renewal for the EAP with The Village. Commissioner Beumer motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. Roll call vote included:

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

motion passed. After visiting with EM, Andrew Kirking, it was advised to move forward with the Homeland Security Grant for door security. Commissioner Hagel motioned to approve the bid from Electro Watchman, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. Roll call vote included:

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

motion passed. Lastly, there are two CD's up for renewal at Bank Forward. The options are a seven-month five percent CD or fifteen month four and a half percent CD. Commissioner Beumer motioned to renew both CDs at Bank Forward for fifteen months at four and a half percent. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Commissioner discussion included pay for the county coroner. Auditor/Treasurer Roundy had reached out to other counties to see what they pay. The BOCC is going to review how many unattended deaths on average are called in the county and will review at the next BOCC meeting. Commissioner Utke presented information on the tower that the county currently maintains for radios. Once the SIRN program is up and running, the tower will be obsolete to the county. The school and city PW has indicated that they may still try to run off the tower. If any major updates to the tower had to take place, county taxpayers would be supporting a system that the county isn't using.

Commissioner Utke spoke with Jamestown Communication to do an assessment of the tower and discuss with the other entities in the community to present information on what the county will do moving forward. Commissioner Utke brought up the burn restriction that is on the yearly calendar to review. Commissioner Beumer motioned to approve the current burn restrictions, seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. All voted aye and the motion passed. Commissioner Utke noted that the BOCC will need to decide what they would like to do with the reservation of camping spots and groundskeeping at Juanita Lake moving forward. For the time being, Jeff Golz has expressed interest in groundskeeping. The BOCC will review it again during the next BOCC meeting. Commissioner Utke noted that there was an update in legislation to ambulance districts in Foster County. The County will have to work with CHI on creating new boundaries and fulfilling new requirements. Commissioner Copenhaver attended a Council for aging meeting and noted that Connie Carr is new to the board. There will be a public hearing on the closure of a section line on April 23rd, 2024, at 9:00 AM in the courtroom.

With no further business, Chairman Utke adjourned the meeting at 5:06 pm.

Ellen Roundy
Foster County Auditor/Treasurer

David Utke, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners