

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 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 Alan Scanson, and Commissioner Pat Copenhaver. Also present was Foster County State's Attorney Kara Brinster, Auditor/Treasurer Ellen Roundy and Foster County Independent reporter Nathan Price.

The meeting began with approval of the minutes for the July 2nd, 2024, regular meeting and the two special meeting minutes from July 10th, 2024. Commissioner Beumer motioned to approve all three sets of minutes, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed.

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

37362	ACCO BRANDS DIRECT	92.00
37363	ANDREW KIRKING	473.69
37364	ARROWWOOD PRAIRIE CO-OP	560.29
37365	AVID HAWK, LLC	35.00
37366	BALCO UNIFORM CO., INC.	181.00
37367	BARNES COUNTY CORRECTIONS	3,051.95
37368	BESSETTE MOTORS, INC.	135.96
37369	BOOTE SEPTIC SOLUTIONS	125.00
37370	BRAGER DISPOSAL SERVICE	349.00
37371	BRINSTER LAW, P.C.	257.10
37372	BRISS OIL COMPANY	48.90
37373	BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	103.30
37374	CARROT-TOP INDUSTRIES	252.95
37375	CITY OF VALLEY CITY	214.40
37376	CMF	912.61
37377	COMPUTER EXPRESS	1,000.00
37378	DACOTAH PAPER COMPANY	168.82
37379	ELLEN ROUNDY	212.28
37380	FOSTER COUNTY INDEPENDENT	189.00
37381	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT.	955.55
37382	OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL	16,887.57
37383	PAT BIEL TRUCKING INC.	5,769.92
37384	RDO EQUIPMENT CO.	1,846.00
37385	RDO TRUCK CENTERS	159.31
37386	RUNNING'S SUPPLY, INC.	938.90
37387	SCHULZ PLBG., HTG. A/C, INC.	941.60
37388	SIDWELL COMPANY	1,200.00
37389	STUTSMAN CO. CORRECTION CENTER	100.00
37390	STUTSMAN COUNTY AUDITOR	2,000.00
37391	US RECORDS MIDWEST LLC	2,279.23
37392	VANGUARD APPRAISALS, INC.	2,650.00
37393	WALKER CARR	66.44
37394	WILLIAM J GALE	11.25

Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to approve the agenda seconded by Commissioner Hagel. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Old Business

Commissioner Utke had provided the update on the lots by Juanita Lake to Foster County State's Attorney Kara Brinster. Discussion included the intent to sell half the lot and getting a quote for surveying. Brinster stated that she will call Tamarac to get a quote. Commissioner Utke discussed a letter received from resident Kent Albeidinger regarding the Club Hall Road. He had also been contacted by another resident that lives out of state. Both individuals were requesting to delay any work done on the Club Hall Road. Discussion included the work that the Road Department has done in the last two years to maintain the current condition of the road with no improvements. Commissioner Utke had reached out to Stutsman and surrounding counties to compare paved vs. gravel roads. He stated that you cannot compare our ability to maintain our roads to roads in other counties. Last year, one mill in Stutsman County generated \$144,007 which is almost five times the amount that one mill generates in Foster County. Stutsman County has roughly 155.5 miles of county gravel and two classes of paved roads totaling 218 miles. They have approximately twice the number of paved highways that Foster County does, but four and half times the revenue per mill. In Stutsman County roughly 58% county roads are paved and in Foster County 81% county roads are paved. In the last year and a half an estimated one hundred twenty-three thousand has been spent on the Club Hall Road just in materials. Commissioner Beumer noted that the costs of maintaining or fixing the road will continue to increase. Discussion included the amount of time Road Superintendent Nate Monson has had to spend on the road and if continuing to maintain the road as is, would potentially need to look at hiring another individual. Commissioner Copenhaver noted that the traffic count on the Club Hall Road is one of the lowest in the

county. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to approve project CP-1602(024), Full Depth Reclamation in Foster County, to the low bid of Border States Paving for Option 1 for \$460,291.71 and authorize the appropriate County Officials to sign the construction contract, seconded by Commissioner Beumer. Roll call vote included:

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

motion passed. Commissioner Hagel motioned to split the funding with \$260,291.71 to be paid out of the Road fund and \$200,000 to be paid out of the general fund and for the general fund to be reimbursed by the Road fund in the next few years, 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.

Commissioner Utke had met with Kip Kovar, Garrison Diversion, regarding the pipeline. They are still working on a draft agreement and organizing the legal documents necessary.

New Business

Chris Thomas, EAPC, joined the meeting via telephone. The second phase of the basement renovation is going well and on track. The last few weeks they have been replacing sewer lines and demolishing the existing concrete floor. The drilling has started for HVAC on phase two and the heat units have been removed. Thomas noted that phase two is expected to go faster than phase one.

Commissioner Scanson and Commissioner Utke noted that they have reached out to Commissioners in Stutsman County providing positive feedback on the work that Stutsman/Foster EM, Andrew Kirking, has done regarding the train derailment. Auditor/Treasurer Roundy provided an update from Kirking and Fire Chief Ken Wangen on the current progress. Roundy provided an update for the Road Department. As of last week, there has been just over two inches of rain, with another inch or so coming in over the weekend. The ditches are being mowed and Monson has been in contact with individuals who are haying ditches. The department has started their eighteenth tote for durapatching. Monson had informed the BOCC that Jeff Bata will be moving out of Foster County, and they will need a replacement for the Weed Board. Elliot Paczowski has indicated interest in the position and will attend the August 6th meeting. Commissioner Hagel noted that Bata is also on the Foster County Water Board.

Auditor/Treasurer Roundy had attended the last Central Prairie Human Service Zone meeting along with Foster County State's Attorney Kara Brinster. Discussion included indirect costs for hosting the human service zone within the county. The agreement with the board states, "The board of county commissioners acknowledge that the Department of Human Services will pay, pursuant to NDCC 50-35-04, for indirect costs according to a formula established by the Department, which will be paid to the host county across the two formula payments and the host county will then distribute the payment to each county within the Human Service Zone according to the amounts established by the counties participating within the Human Service Zone." Foster County has not received indirect payments over the course of the last four years totaling \$92,757.88. Indirect Costs incurred include heating, water, electrical, and square footage maintained by the zone employees within the courthouse. Commissioner Hagel sits on the board and has stated she has requested that money multiple times and it has always been pushed aside. Commissioner Scanson had previously sat on the board and can attest to that. Commissioner Hagel would like Brinster to draft a letter requesting the funds from Wells County. Brinster noted that Wells County is the trustee of that money, it was not theirs to keep. Commissioner Scanson motioned to allow Brinster to draft a letter to Wells County BOCC requesting the indirect costs, seconded by Commissioner Hagel, all voted aye, and the motion passed.

Commissioner Utke had received notice that the current individual is unable to do the ground maintenance Juanita Lake Park. At the last special meeting, discussion included reaching out to those that had inquired about maintaining the grounds for the remainder of the year. Beve Johnson had indicated willingness to finish out the year for the county at the same rate of pay. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve Beve Johnson to complete necessary work at Juanita Lake for the remainder of the year and pay the same as the previous employee, seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. All voted aye and the motion passed. Commissioner Scanson noted that NDSU had offered the extension position to an individual and they declined, the committee is back to searching to fill the position. Commissioner Scanson, Commissioner Hagel and Chief Deputy Bachmeier had attended a meeting via zoom with AE2 regarding grant opportunities within the county. Topics included recreation grants, windows and lighting in the courthouse. They will provide a list of grant options and the County could hire them to complete the applications at that point, or the county could complete them on their own. Commissioner Copenhaver attended a council on aging meeting, many rides are provided by the transit service. Auditor/Treasurer Roundy requested to move the next regular BOCC meeting on August 6th, 2024, up to 1:30 PM, the BOCC agreed.

With no further business, Chairman Utke adjourned the meeting at 4:49 pm.

Ellen Roundy
Foster County Auditor/Treasurer

David Utke, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners