

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 10th, 2024

At 6:00 pm, Chairman Utke called the Foster County Commission Public Hearing to order. Roll call included Commissioner David Utke, Commissioner Alan Scanson, Commissioner Pat Copenhaver and Commissioner Becky Hagel (via phone). Also present was Foster County Auditor/Treasurer Ellen Roundy, Foster County Independent Report Amy Wobbema, Foster County Residents William and Stefanie Dillingham and Joann Unruh (via phone).

The purpose of the public hearing was to discuss the proposed 2025 Foster County Budget. William Dillingham spoke on the increase of taxes. Auditor/Treasurer Roundy stated that the residents of Foster County voted during the 2024 primary election to increase the current road mills from twelve to twenty-five, which was the main source of increase. Commissioner Utke noted that reports from the state are gathered along with from surrounding counties to ensure we are in line with compensation and benefits, which also increase from year to year. The county must operate and compete with inflation. Roundy noted that the general fund levy from when she started through 2024 has decreased almost fifteen percent and is still below the 2022 levied dollar amount. Entities that are included in the county budget are: County General, County Road, Veterans Service, County Agent, Ambulance, Capital Improvements, Emergency, Public Health, Soil Conservation, Historical Society, CCEDC, Garrison Diversion, State Medical Center, Senior Citizens, Water Board and Weed Board. There are requirements in the North Dakota Century Code that require each county to maintain certain offices. Roundy also noted that many valuations went up. The state requires that values be within a certain percentage of the sales ratio. Due to houses selling for higher than valued, increases were required for many residential lots, commercial buildings also saw an increase. Commissioner Scanson noted that the BOCC is always welcome to suggestions and that BOCC meetings are open for the public to attend. If there is any service a resident would be willing to give up, they would consider it and break down what that cost savings would be. Commissioner Scanson stated that the BOCC does the best that they can do and understand it is public money being spent.

With no further business, Chairman Utke adjourned the meeting at 6:47 pm.

Ellen Roundy
Foster County Auditor/Treasurer

David Utke, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners