

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 7th, 2024

At 3:30pm, Chairman Utke called the Foster County Commission meeting to order. Roll call included Commissioner Becky Hagel, Commissioner David Utke, Commissioner Pat Copenhaver and Commissioner Alan Scanson via phone. Also present was Foster County State's Attorney Kara Brinster, Auditor/Treasurer Ellen Roundy, Foster County Independent Reporter Nathan Price and Brandon Padilla from Butler.

The meeting began with approval of the minutes for the October 15th, 2024, regular meeting and October 15th, 2024, Public Hearing. Commissioner Hagel motioned to approve both sets of the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Auditor/Treasurer Roundy stated that Merle Munson was in regarding mowing at the James River Cemetery. Kent Hewitt also submitted a bill for mowing at the Riverdale Cemetery. Commissioner Hagel motioned to increase pay for Munson to \$1,000 and Hewitt to \$700, seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. Roll call voted included:

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

Motion passed. Additional discussion included an electrical bill that was due from MDU cutting the line when trenching for the natural gas. Commissioner Utke has a call out to Leo Straley with General Roofing and Construction and Chris Thomas, EAPC and is tabled for now. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to approve the bills, seconded by Commissioner Hagel. All voted aye and the motion passed.

37759	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, INC.	14.98
37760	AUTO VALUE PARTS STORE	77.56
37761	AVID HAWK, LLC	35.00
37762	BALCO UNIFORM CO., INC.	772.30
37763	BESSETTE MOTORS, INC.	692.89
37764	BOOTE SEPTIC SOLUTIONS	125.00
37765	BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	621.41
37766	C & J OIL COMPANY	11,975.20
37767	CAPFIRST EQUIPMENT FINANCE, INC.	37,832.14
37768	CENTRAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS	88.50
37769	CENTRAL CITY H2O+	13.50
37770	CENTRAL CITY LUMBER INC.	26.99
37771	CMF	2,031.60
37772	COMPUTER EXPRESS	1,000.00
37773	COREAN SWART	259.20
37774	CRAIG WIESZ	49.58
37775	EAPC ARCHITECTS ENGINEERS	2,216.18
37776	ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE	1,161.07
37777	ELLEN ROUNDY	212.28
37778	FOSTER COUNTY INDEPENDENT	2,135.90
37779	GARRETT MATTESON	139.45
37780	GENERAL ROOFING AND CONSTRUCTION	243,410.00
37781	HIGH PLAINS EQUIPMENT	429.20
37782	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT.	1,134.15
37783	INTERSTATE POWER SYSTEMS INC.	681.45
37784	JAMESTOWN COMMUNICATIONS INC.	42,537.65
37785	JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	50.38
37786	KAREN EVANS	161.34
37787	KENT HEWITT	600.00
37788	LYNELLE R LYMAN HOPPE	210.98
37789	MERLE OR EUNICE MUNSON	1,000.00
37790	ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES	945.00
37791	NEUMILLER SMALL ENGINE & REPAIR	225.00
37792	NEWMAN TRAFFIC SIGNS	3,039.76
37793	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, LLC	188.17
37794	OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL- 1250	155.00
37795	OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL	16,969.58
37796	POSTMASTER	120.00
37797	QUADIENT FINANCE	1,010.00
37798	QUALITY INN	192.60
37799	RDO EQUIPMENT CO.	1,180.00
37800	RESIDENCE INN	792.00
37801	RUNNING'S SUPPLY, INC.	403.51

37802	SCHOCK'S SAFE & LOCK SERVICE, INC.	12,263.20
37803	SCHULZ PLBG., HTG. A/C, INC.	159.51
37804	STUTSMAN CO. CORRECTION CENTER	1,600.00
37805	STUTSMAN COUNTY AUDITOR	2,000.00
37806	WOLD ENGINEERING, P.C.	8,700.50

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

Old Business

Foster County State's Attorney, Kara Brinster, contacted Tamarac Land Surveying regarding the lots at Juanita Lake. When he has a chance, he will provide an estimate to Brinster.

New Business

Road Superintendent, Nate Monson, provided an update to the BOCC. The department has been busy durapatching many spots as harvest is in full swing and trucks are hauling. Border states has finished the Club Hall Road. They donated 296.75 ton to help with haul roads in Bucephalia and McKinnon Townships due to the process of grinding up the road for the project. Overall, an additional 910 ton was placed and worked into the road this fall once the project was completed. If there are problem spots on the Club Hall Road, they will get fixed in the spring. The Road Department plans to attend LTAP training at NDSU Extension later in the month.

Chris Thomas, EAPC, joined the meeting via phone. The work in the basement is coming along nicely. The expected move in date is still projected to be the first week of December. Heating to the building is still the top priority. Discussion was had on the electrical bill with no decision made.

Lisa Hilbert and Colleen Sweet, Public Health, requested an extension to be included in the counties WSI program. Discussion included rate changes that the county could incur if increased claims were made. The discussion will be tabled until the next BOCC meeting for further information.

Karen Evans, Tax Director, presented the BOCC with a contract from Sidewell. Her recommendation would be to continue at the hourly rate of \$130.00/hour for any training hours over the course of the next two years. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to approve moving forward with the contract at the hourly rate of \$130/hour for any training, seconded by Commissioner Hagel. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Commissioner Discussion included reviewing the township agreement contract and annual township allocation. Per conversations with Road Superintendent, Nate Monson, \$140/hour is still a competitive rate and the BOCC would like to see that continue for the next year along with the \$180/hour non-contracted rate. The county has provided allocations to the townships each year. Since starting the program, over \$500,000 has been sent to townships to help offset costs. Commissioner Hagel motioned to allot for each township receive \$2,000 for 2025, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed. Commissioner Utke noted that a docusign contract was sent out for the bridge removal project for parties to sign. The Youthworks shelter agreement is up for renewal. Commissioner Hagel motion to sign up again with the Youthworks shelter agreement, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed. Discussion continued with ordering office chairs for the new commissioner room. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to order the purchase of eight chairs for the new commissioner room of the mesh back samples that have been tested, seconded by Commissioner Hagel. Roll call vote included:

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

motion passed. NDSU Extension Agent, Jeff Gale, had requested a commissioner to attend upcoming interviews for the vacant agent position. Commissioner Hagel stated that she can attend the interviews. The BOCC will work on creating a plan for camping and maintenance next year at Juanita Lake.

With no further business, Chairman Utke adjourned the meeting at 5:13 pm.

Ellen Roundy
Foster County Auditor/Treasurer

David Utke, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners