

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 7th, 2025

At 3:30pm, Madam Chair Hagel called the Foster County Commission meeting to order. Roll call included Commissioner Alan Scanson, Commissioner David Utke, Commissioner Becky Hagel, and Commissioner Pat Copenhaver. Also present was Foster County State's Attorney Kara Brinster, Auditor/Treasurer Ellen Roundy, Foster County Independent Reporter Nathan Price, Road Superintendent Nate Monson, Foster County resident Gilbert Black, and Michael Rivinius, Greg Hagen and Jon Martin from Wold Engineering via phone.

The meeting began with approval of the minutes for the December 17th, 2024, regular meeting and December 31st, 2024, special meeting. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve both sets of minutes, seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed.

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

38041	ANDREW S. MARQUART	153.00
38042	ARROWWOOD PRAIRIE CO-OP	533.31
38043	BALCO UNIFORM CO., INC.	90.04
38044	C & J OIL COMPANY	566.06
38045	CENTRAL CITY H2O+	13.50
38046	CENTRAL DAKOTA CUSTOMS	430.60
38047	CENTRAL DAKOTA SIX-COUNTY ORGANIZATION	300.00
38048	CITY OF GLENFIELD	360.00
38049	FOSTER COUNTY INDEPENDENT	653.76
38050	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT.	1,134.15
38051	MAERTENS WELDING AND MACHINE COMPANY	550.80
38052	NAPA AUTO PARTS	714.18
38053	ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES	3,614.00
38054	ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY ENGINEERS	485.00
38055	ND COUNTY AUDITORS & TREASURERS ASSOCIATION	400.00
38056	OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL- 1250	155.00
38057	OTIS ELEVATOR COMPANY	1,461.12
38058	POST BOARD	45.00
38059	SIDWELL COMPANY	585.00
38060	STUTSMAN CO. CORRECTION CENTER	400.00
38061	STUTSMAN COUNTY AUDITOR	2,000.00
38062	VANGUARD APPRAISALS, INC.	6,250.00
38063	WILLIAM J GALE	16.08

Commissioner Hagel requested to add Commissioner District 4 to the agenda under commissioner discussion. Commissioner Utke motioned to approve the agenda with the addition, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Old Business

There was no update on the lots by Juanita Lake and the BOCC is waiting on a decision for the culverts until springtime.

New Business

Road Superintendent, Nate Monson, provided an update to the BOCC. Monson compiled and sent out billings for the last quarter of 2024 to townships and cities. There has been minimal snowfall in the area since the last regular meeting. The BOCC discussed the possibility of renting a crack sealer for a week for the department. Monson will look into costs and provide an update at the next regular meeting. Additional discussion included where the BOCC would like to see traffic counts conducted in Foster County. Monson will compile a list of the top six spots and get it sent to Michael Rivinius at Wold Engineering to submit to the NDDOT. The BOCC is waiting on CPKC Rail for an update for road repairs needed after the train derailment. Commissioner Scanson had reached out to the Public Service Commission in regard to CP Rail. Commissioner Utke has also been in contact with CP requesting their attendance at a BOCC meeting with no response. The BOCC agrees to allow Commissioner Utke to continue to communicate with CP Rails for an update.

Auditor/Treasurer Ellen Roundy requested a transfer from the farm to market, county road and county highway funds to the new county road and bridge fund. The expiration of farm to market and county road restricts using the levies any further and this will help streamline the departments revenues and expenditures. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to approve the transfers, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed. Roundy presented the 2024 budget amendment to the BOCC. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve the 2024 budget amendment, seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed. Lastly, she presented a County Federal Aid Contract to be signed by the Chairman, State's Attorney and Auditor for the removal of the bridge project BRJ-0016(19). Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve the signing of the contract, seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Chris Thomas, EAPC, joined the meeting via phone. The basement renovation is wrapping up and the BOCC will plan to do a final walkthrough the beginning of February. The new Community Room tables should arrive in a

week. Additional discussion included ordering signage and working with Jamie Nelson, Computer Express, regarding the monitors and setup. According to Thomas, the project has stayed under budget.

Gilbert Black, Foster County Resident, approached the BOCC regarding the current temporary and permanent easement payment amounts. He thanked the BOCC for pursuing and generating the grant funds needed to pave the Barlow/McHenry Road. The BOCC had increased the fee amounts in 2023 with a temporary easement paying \$600 per acre and a permanent easement paying \$1,200 per acre. Michael Rivinius, with Wold Engineering stated that Foster County is in the ballpark for easement payments in comparison to other counties. Commissioner Utke and Commissioner Scanson did drive the area in question and agreed with Rivinius that some of the land is crop land and some of the land is nonproductive, counties do not typically split the easement price up. Additional information provided was prices from other counties. Wells County pays \$1,000/acre for permanent easement, Sheridan is at \$1,121/acre, Billings County is at \$1,500/acre, and McKenzie and Williams Counties are at \$2,000/acre. The BOCC did not change the easement payment amounts.

Jessica Moser, Stutsman/Foster EM, introduced herself to the BOCC. She was recently hired to replace previous EM Kirking. Moser is familiar with Foster County as she is a Carrington native. Additional discussion included adding 9-1-1 addressing to the JPA. Roundy had provided the updated JPA to Stutsman County in December. Commissioner Utke noted that with including 9-1-1 addressing if the contracted amount would need to be changed the BOCC would certainly consider that.

Commissioner Hagel had reached out to resident Paul Roller, as recommended by previous Commissioner Beumer for his replacement. Roller is currently employed at Dakota Central. He has been involved in various groups within the community and has expressed interest in filling Beumers vacancy. Commissioner Utke motioned to appoint Paul Roller to fill the Commissioner District 4 vacancy, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. Roll call vote included:

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

motion passed. Commissioner Scanson commended the work that Extension Agent, Jeff Gale is doing with the residents at Golden Acres. Commissioner Utke had spoken with Jamie Nelson, computer express regarding new equipment for the Community Room. The BOCC would like to have Nelson attend an upcoming meeting for recommendations.

With no further business, Madam Chair Hagel adjourned the meeting at 5:18 pm.

Ellen Roundy
Foster County Auditor/Treasurer

Becky Hagel, Madam Chair
Board of County Commissioners