

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

At 9:00am, Madam Chair Hagel called the Foster County Commission meeting to order. Roll call included Commissioner Paul Roller, Commissioner Pat Copenhaver, Commissioner Becky Hagel, Commissioner Alan Scanson and Commissioner David Utke. Also present was Foster County State's Attorney Kara Brinster, Auditor/Treasurer Ellen Roundy, Road Superintendent Nate Monson, and Foster County Independent Reporter Nathan Price.

The meeting began with approval of the minutes for the March 18th, 2025, meeting. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Utke. 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.

38449	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, INC.	309.59
38450	BALCO UNIFORM CO., INC.	173.23
38451	CENTRAL CITY LUMBER INC.	681.47
38452	CMF	16.06
38453	COMPUTER EXPRESS	6,118.92
38454	FOSTER COUNTY INDEPENDENT	834.68
38455	JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	246.84
38456	JOSEPH GUSHWA	180.00
38457	JUSTIN JOHNSON	4,072.89
38458	KELTON ROY HAGEL	400.00
38459	MATTHEW ABERLE	232.84
38460	SCHULZ PLBG., HTG. A/C, INC.	2,838.72
38461	SPRINGHILL SUITES	792.00
38462	STUTSMAN COUNTY AUDITOR	2,000.00
38463	WILLIAM J GALE	102.90

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

Old Business

There was no update on the lots by Juanita Lake or IT supplies for the commissioner room.

New Business

Nate Monson, Road Superintendent, provided an update on the department. The department has crack sealed twenty-one miles this year and has been out durapatching. The frost is starting to come up and they will plan to start blading gravel in a few weeks. The Foster County load restrictions are still on. The third reimbursement for the Flex-Funding project was received for the data book. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve the reimbursement request with Commissioner Hagel signing and submitting, seconded by Commissioner Roller. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Ellen Roundy, Auditor/Treasurer, presented options for insurance changes with increasing deduction amounts and increasing the overall liability limit. Increasing the deductible amount would reduce the amount of premium owed and increasing the liability amount would increase the premium owed. Commissioner Utke motioned to increase the inland marine from \$250 to \$500, increase the business auto deductible from \$100/\$500 to \$500/\$1000 and increase the liability limit from \$2,000,000 to \$8,000,000 seconded by Commissioner Scanson. Discussion included the increases coming out to being close to a wash in premium amounts. The BOCC will also consider the Fair Board and Historical Society getting their own liability coverage as the county currently covers both. Coverage for the Historical Society is \$562 and coverage for the Fair Board is \$4,391. All voted aye and the motion passed. Roundy stated that the county has audits completed through 2020 and that the state auditor's office could fit another two year audit period in for 2025. The BOCC would like to see Roundy collect two other estimates for a two-year audit before moving forward.

Karen Evans, Tax Director, provided information on an abatement for Eugene and Becky Drewlow for 2024 Homestead Credit. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to approve the abatement for \$1,598.62, seconded by Commissioner Roller. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Commissioner Utke provided discussion on current legislation taking place. He wanted to provide clarification on HB 1176 and stated that Commissioner Hagel had recently testified in support of the bill but with concerns regarding restrictions it puts on local levying authority. Commissioner Utke wanted to clarify that when talking about making cuts, it would be a worst case scenario. This is not something that the BOCC would ever want to do. However, inflation affects the county just like everyone else and it might come down to making hard decisions if revenues do not match the increased costs. This was just an example provided, nothing that the BOCC is currently considering. Additional discussion included the understanding from a resident's perspective of the primary residence credit covering the previous year's real estate tax increase for the county. The BOCC did increase road mills which were approved of by the voters during the 2024 primary election. Commissioner Hagel has reached out to a few construction companies regarding the removal and replacement of doors at the Ambulance building and is hoping to have an update at the next meeting. Commissioner Utke stated that the rebate period for the purchase of radios has expired. Additional radios can be purchased but would no longer qualify for a rebate. The BOCC is going to look at how to best handle groundskeeping and campground host at Juanita Lake.

With no further business, Madam Chair Hagel adjourned the meeting at 10:11 am.

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Ellen Roundy  
Foster County Auditor/Treasurer

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Becky Sue Hagel, Madam Chair  
Board of County Commissioners