

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025

At 3:30pm, 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, Foster County Independent Reporter Nathan Price, Michael Rivinius with Wold Engineering via phone and Residents Tammy Miller and Steve English.

The meeting began with approval of the minutes for the April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, meeting. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. All voted aye and the motion passed.

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

38515	ANDREW S. MARQUART	153.00
38516	ARROWWOOD PRAIRIE CO-OP	1,586.92
38517	AVID HAWK, LLC	35.00
38518	BESSETTE MOTORS, INC.	266.60
38519	BRISS OIL COMPANY	223.50
38520	C & J OIL COMPANY	1,653.75
38521	CARRINGTON MOTORS INC	412.69
38522	CARRINGTON MOTORS INC	706.03
38523	CENTRAL CITY H20+	13.50
38524	FOSTER COUNTY	1,215.24
38525	FOSTER COUNTY INDEPENDENT	78.00
38526	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT.	1,155.35
38527	JUSTIN JOHNSON	1,220.81
38528	MAERTENS WELDING AND MACHINE COMPANY	900.00
38529	MIDSTATES WIRELESS	37.00
38530	NAPA AUTO PARTS	195.68
38531	NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES	450.00
38532	NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE	150.00
38533	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, LLC	431.14
38534	OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL	16,998.60
38535	OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR	31,908.90
38536	QUADIENT FINANCE	1,003.29
38537	RDO EQUIPMENT CO.	6,842.84
38538	RUNNING'S SUPPLY, INC.	236.14
38539	SIDWELL COMPANY	585.00
38540	SOFTWARE INNOVATIONS	9,900.00
38541	SPRINGHILL SUITES	297.00
38542	STUTSMAN CO. CORRECTION CENTER	3,300.00
38543	STUTSMAN COUNTY AUDITOR	337.50
38544	SWANSTON EQUIPMENT CORPORATION	1,975.00
38545	TEAM LABORATORY CHEMICAL CORP.	1,203.50
38546	THE MEDICINE SHOPPE	47.61
38547	WOLD ENGINEERING, P.C.	12,000.00

Commissioner Roller motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. 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. Load restrictions are still on, and the department has noticed the frost is coming out. Beginning on Monday they will start working four tens. Monson provided the original invoice from when the county purchased an oil distributor in 2017 along with a bid to be placed in the Independent if the county wishes to sell it. Commissioner Scanson motioned to sell the distributor seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. All voted aye and the motion passed. Auditor/Treasurer Roundy presented the culvert bid that was opened on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Longview Township Bid \$16,000 and Florence Township bid \$7,000. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to approve the bid from Longview Township for \$16,000 seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Resident Tammy Miller approached the BOCC regarding a culvert in the SW ¼ of 18-145-66. There have been recent drain tile projects causing additional water to be pushed in the direction of the culvert. Concerns also included discussion on the ditch needing to be cleaned out to allow water to flow properly. Road Superintendent Monson confirmed to the board that the culvert has water running through it, he had tested it the previous day. Commissioner Scanson noted that the ditch cleanout is assumed to be county responsibility, however, if the culvert is not damaged

and still intact there is no reason for the county to pay to replace the culvert. Commissioner Utke noted that this specific ditch has had problems with causing slow water flow and by cleaning this ditch would not create a precedent for the county. Commissioner Scanson recommended that Road Superintendent work with Pat Biel and test the depth of the ditch and gather information for an estimate to bring to the next BOCC meeting.

Justin Johnson, Sheriff, approached the BOCC regarding his deputies wishing to purchase a firearm through the county buyback program. Previously, the county has purchased equipment and allowed the employee to make equal installments over the course of two years. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to approve the two deputies to purchase a firearm through the gun buyback program, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Ellen Roundy, Auditor/Treasurer, presented two policies to be incorporated into the current policy manual. Section 503 regarding children in the workplace and section 504 regarding employee emergency volunteer work. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve both policies, seconded by Commissioner Roller. All voted aye and the motion passed. Roundy had also reached out to various auditing firms per the BOCC's wishes. The outside firms recommended continuing with the State Auditor's office for another two-year audit and then reaching out again for a one-year audit. Commissioner Utke motioned to move forward with the 2021-2022 Foster County Audit with the State Auditor's office, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed. Roundy presented an updated contract for Software Innovations regarding the county's software. There were no changes to the contract or the contracted dollar amount, however, new ownership has taken place, and a new contract needs to be signed and submitted. Commissioner Roller motioned to approve signing the updated contract seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed. Lastly, Roundy provided an update on the delinquent property unsold during the annual November sale. The City of Carrington will assume ownership of the property and have provided documentation from their April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting. Roundy will get the deed ready for the city.

Karen Evans, Tax Director, approached the BOCC regarding two abatements. The first was for Eugene Drewlow for tax year 2023 homestead credit qualification for \$2,761.16. The second was for Maxine Hoppe for tax year 2024 homestead credit qualification for \$1,212.69. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to approve both abatements seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Kara Brinster, Foster County State's Attorney, provided the updated Databook that has been reviewed by Wold Engineering for the flex funding project. Brinsters recommendation would be to have Wold Engineering continue to reach out to the landowners with the updated easement amounts. Commissioner Utke motioned to set the easement figures based on the Databook for permanent easements, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed. Commissioner Scanson motioned that any temporary easement under a half-acre be paid out at a flat rate of \$300, seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Commissioner Copenhaver reached out to townships regarding cutting a blade for the road department as he had been hearing rumors about removing a blade and a private entity purchasing a blade. Township officials in attendance for the meeting were: Russ Christianson, Jeff Wede, Mike Gussiaas, Elliot Paczkowski, Jordan Kramer and Jeremiah Blahna. Commissioner Hagel reiterated to the townships present that she had gone to Bismarck and testified regarding HB1176 representing small counties and gave an example of what a three-percent cap could look like at the local level. At the previous two meetings the board had discussed the topic noting that it was never on the forefront or a decision that the board would want to make but that a limited cap with the current inflation rate could create tough decisions for the BOCC. Commissioner Utke stated that the articles that have been written have been factual and that he has also reached out to the local legislature and used the road department as an example. The example was used to try and get the legislature's attention as there would be unintended consequences that all counties and local authorities are not going to want to make but that it is understood the immense amount of pressure the legislatures are in for tax reform and relief. Commissioner Scanson noted that he has not attended any meetings where they have talked about cutting a patrol and it has never been on the agenda and never been discussed. The BOCC confirmed that any questions and concerns regarding the rumors coming from Commissioner Copenhaver had been addressed.

Auditor/Treasurer Roundy had presented the only estimate received for the installation of exterior doors at the ambulance building. The estimate was received from Hagel Construction for an hourly rate with total work not to exceed \$2,400. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve the estimate and allow Hagel Construction to begin the work seconded by Commissioner Utke. Roll call voted included:

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

motion passed. Commissioner Hagel provided an update on current bills going forward at the state level.

With no further business, Madam Chair Hagel adjourned the meeting at 5:21 pm.

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Ellen Roundy  
Foster County Auditor/Treasurer

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Becky Sue Hagel, Madam Chair  
Board of County Commissioners