

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 17th, 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 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 June 3rd regular meeting, June 4th Board of Equalization meeting, June 5th special Meeting and June 12th special meeting. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve all sets of minutes, seconded by Commissioner Roller. 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.

38774	ACCO BRANDS DIRECT	89.00
38775	AMERICINN BY WINDHAM FARGO MEDICAL CENTER	413.60
38776	ARROWWOOD PRAIRIE CO-OP	1,042.44
38777	BALCO UNIFORM CO., INC.	172.33
38778	BEVERLY JOHNSON	800.00
38779	C & J OIL COMPANY	7,862.04
38780	CENTRAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS	195.67
38781	CENTRAL CITY H20+	13.50
38782	CENTRAL SQUARE TECHNOLOGIES	315.88
38783	COMPUTER EXPRESS	1,139.00
38784	COREAN SWART	326.76
38785	DACOTAH PAPER COMPANY	151.40
38786	DAVID UTKE	53.20
38787	HAILEY BACHMEIER	33.60
38788	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT.	1,134.15
38789	LEEVEER'S FOODS	7.18
38790	MAERTENS WELDING AND MACHINE COMPANY	269.50
38791	NDACS	50.00
38792	OK TIRE STORE	25.00
38793	PAT BIEL TRUCKING INC.	1,350.21
38794	PATRIOT FUELS	187.95
38795	QUADIENT FINANCE	353.19
38796	R. M. STOUTD	347.65
38797	RUNNING'S SUPPLY, INC.	585.83
38798	STUTSMAN CO. CORRECTION CENTER	1,700.00
38799	STUTSMAN COUNTY AUDITOR	2,000.00

Commissioner Utke 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. Commissioner Utke has visited with Jamie Nelson, Computer Express, regarding IT equipment. Once all the tables arrive, the BOCC would like to meet with Nelson regarding IT items in the Commissioner Room.

New Business

Nate Monson, Road Superintendent, provided an update on the department. While out looking at roads, Monson noticed a truck stuck on a wet gravel road. He approached the driver who was driving for Carstensen Contracting that does work with Garrison Diversion. Monson notified Garrison Diversion, and their response was, “he wasn’t supposed to be there.” Frustrations are running high with Garrison as what they say and do are two different things. The county plans on putting five loads of gravel on the Club Hall Road to firm up soft spots. Discussion continued from the last meeting regarding who must maintain the frontage road on 281. Monson found that a service agreement was signed on August 16th, 1982, by the City of Carrington that the city is responsible for all work on service/frontage roads. The bid opening was held for the 1,000-gallon oil distributor trailer. One bid was received from the City of Elgin for \$26,500. Commissioner Scanson motioned to accept the bid seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed. The Auditor/Treasurer office has received a few applications for haul road agreements. The first application was for RTS Shearing that will be hauling rock where the pipeline is going. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve the application, seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. Discussion was had on whether the policies and applications are effective without an ordinance. Commissioner Hagel was able to reach Foster County State’s Attorney Kara Brinster, who stated that an ordinance will need to be had before applications can be approved. All voted nay and the motion failed.

Auditor/Treasurer Ellen Roundy presented the BOCC with an updated fee schedule to include newly instated road utility permit fees. Commissioner Utke motioned to approve the fee schedule as presented seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. All voted aye and the motion passed. Roundy provided information on bringing multiple buildings up to replacement cost on the insurance schedule. Commissioner Roller motioned to approve the increase in values to match replacement cost, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion

passed. Roundy asked if Commissioner Utke would contact Chris Thomas, EAPC, regarding items that need to be completed for the basement renovation. Dianne Straley has resigned as part-time deputy Auditor/Treasurer. Commissioner Scanson motioned to accept the resignation and advertise for the position, seconded by Commissioner Copenhagen. All voted aye and the motion passed. Lastly, Aflac has provided the county with a new group policy Dental Plan. Roundy stated that at least three employees need to sign up to qualify. There is no employer contribution required, however, unlike other policies the rates may fluctuate from year to year. You must also be employed by Foster County to be eligible for this policy. Once you retire or leave employment, so would the participation in the policy. More than three employees have expressed interest. The board does not need to make formal approval; however, Roundy wanted them to be aware. The consensus from the BOCC is that they would be fine with including this as a benefit for employees.

Tax Director, Karen Evans, provided the BOCC with credits for primary residences that are in a trust that now qualifies for the PRC with the change in legislation. Kathy Fredrickson, David Alley, Vern and Janice Anderson, Carole Pepple and June Stedman have all applied and qualified under the new provisions. Commissioner Copenhagen motioned to approve all PRC for \$500 each, seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed. Evans also provided the BOCC with information on updating her vanguard software. Right now, her office works and duplicates information in three different programs. By purchasing the new ProVision software, it would help streamline some of the work. This program was budgeted for in 2025. Commissioner Scanson motioned to purchase the ProVision software at an initial cost of \$3,525, seconded by Commissioner Copenhagen. Roll call vote included:

- Commissioner Roller – aye
- Commissioner Copenhagen – aye
- Commissioner Hagel – aye
- Commissioner Scanson – aye
- Commissioner Utke – aye

motion passed. Evans also stated that Planning and Zoning (P&Z) projects are starting to ramp up across the state. When she first took over the office, the P&Z board had minimal work required. It is not feasible for her office to handle it anymore. Discussion included hiring an outside firm to help create policies and/or going the moratorium route to give the county more time to process potential permits and projects. Additional discussion included the 911 addressing for the County.

Commissioner discussion included use of the Commissioner Room for outside boards. Commissioner Utke stated that he is part of the radio club in Jamestown, and they are looking for a meeting room to have in August. The BOCC consensus is to look into a policy for this before allowing outside entities during non-working hours. Roundy will reach out to other auditors. Commissioner Utke and Commissioner Scanson visited Juanita Lake. There are a few more items that need to be handled to get the camping and grounds in shape for use. Chief Deputy Auditor/Treasurer Hailey Bachmeier is working on the website and will help create signage for Juanita Lake. The BOCC will also look into contracting with an individual who is willing to keep an eye on the camping spots and grounds on a more full-time basis in exchange for the use of property for parking. The BOCC will visit with Brinster regarding an agreement or contract. Commissioner Utke noted that every other year Jamestown Communications completes standard maintenance on radios and the tower. It has now been two years, the consensus from the BOCC is to allow Commissioner Utke to make arrangements with Jamestown Communications. There will be a special meeting on Tuesday, June 24th at 9:00 AM with CP rail. The Carrington Ambulance district meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 25th at 6:00 PM at the Foster County Courthouse.

With no further business, Madam Chair Hagel adjourned the meeting at 5:16 pm.

Ellen Roundy
Foster County Auditor/Treasurer

Becky Sue Hagel, Madam Chair
Board of County Commissioners