

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

December 2nd, 2025

At 3:30pm, Chairman Copenhaver called the Foster County Commission meeting to order. Roll call included Commissioner Paul Roller, Commissioner Becky Hagel, Commissioner Alan Scanson, Commissioner Pat Copenhaver, and Commissioner David Utke via zoom. 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 November 18th Commission meeting. Commissioner Hagel noted one correction. Commissioner Roller motioned to approve the minutes with the change, seconded by Commissioner Hagel. All voted aye and the motion passed.

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

39452	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, INC.	391.26
39453	AMERICINN BY WINDHAM FARGO MEDICAL CENTER	396.00
39454	BESSETTE MOTORS, INC.	1,119.98
39455	BRINSTER LAW, P.C.	236.85
39456	CENTRAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS	130.00
39457	CENTRAL CITY H20+	39.00
39458	DACOTAH PAPER COMPANY	63.53
39459	DAVID UTKE	175.00
39460	EVERBRIDGE, INC	3,182.70
39461	FARM & HOME PUBLISHERS, LTD.	270.00
39462	FOSTER COUNTY INDEPENDENT	523.93
39463	GILBERTSON'S	7,734.75
39464	HAGEL STORAGE	400.00
39465	JERROD HOLTE	40.60
39466	JUSTIN JOHNSON	82.78
39467	NAPA AUTO PARTS	994.39
39468	ND SHERIFF'S & DEPUTIES ASSOCIATION	125.00
39469	NORMONT EQUIPMENT CO.	2,369.64
39470	OK TIRE STORE	959.50
39471	PAT COPENHAVER	175.00
39472	RANDY'S ELECTRIC	168.93
39473	RDO EQUIPMENT CO.	814.01
39474	RICK'S WHOLESALE TIRE INC.	474.80
39475	SOUTH CENTRAL DAKOTA REGIONAL COUNCIL	6,809.00
39476	STUTSMAN COUNTY AUDITOR	2,000.00
39477	USPS	99.00
39478	USPS	126.00
39479	WILLIAM J GALE	219.10
39480	WOLD ENGINEERING, P.C.	5,150.63

Commissioner Hagel requested to add Water Board appointments under commissioner discussion. Commissioner Roller motioned to approve the agenda with the addition, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Old Business

There is no new update for the lots at Juanita Lake or the Road Ordinance.

New Business

Nate Monson, Road Superintendent, provided an update for the BOCC. The department completed blading for the year on Monday, November 25th. There was a blocked culvert north of Grace City and Biel’s cleaned it out. The landowner, while moving cattails, got stuck and crushed the end of the culvert. Commissioner Scanson will visit with the landowner on how to proceed with costs. Monson noted that Wold Engineering would like to make an addendum to the bid on the 4.5-mile paving project to allow contractors to use the Grace City Road as a haul road with the stipulation that any paving repairs would be the responsibility of the contractor. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve including the addendum to allow the Grace City road as a haul road, seconded by Commissioner Roller. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Ellen Roundy, Auditor/Treasurer, requested approval of transfers from the Road fund to the General fund from a motion made during the July 16th, 2024, BOCC meeting regarding funding for the Club Hall Road. The Road budget has indicated the expense, and general fund has indicated the revenue. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve the \$200,000 transfer from the Road to the General fund, seconded by Commissioner Hagel. All voted aye and the motion passed. Roundy presented the updated fee schedule for 2026. Commissioner Hagel motioned to approve the fee schedule, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed. Bordulac Bar has submitted their beer and liquor license for 2026. Commissioner Roller motioned to approve the beer and liquor license, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Justin Johnson, Sheriff, provided the BOCC with funding received from HB 1193. Foster County has received \$22,556.32 in funding. Johnson proposed \$5,000 to Sergeant Gushwa now and \$5,000 to Sergeant Gushwa in six months, \$500 to deputy Sul and \$12,006.32 to Sheriff Johnson. A resolution was brought to the board for approval indicating the breakdown of HB 1193 for Foster County.

WHEREAS, the 69th North Dakota Legislative assembly passed \$3.5 million in grant funding into HB 1193.

WHEREAS, Similar to the 2023 legislation passed for Back the Blue, lawmakers approved this program as a way to show their appreciation for the work local law enforcement are doing across the state.

WHEREAS, the Foster County Sheriff has indicated that Sergeant Gushwa will receive a \$5,000 stipend now and \$5,000 in six months. Part-time deputy Sul will receive \$500.00, and Sheriff Johnson will receive \$12,056.32.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by majority vote of the Foster County Board of County Commissioners authorize the Sheriff to expend the Peace Officer and Correctional Officer Appreciation Grant Funds approved in HB 1193 which was passed by the 2025 Legislature, per the categories outlined as follows: Funding may be used for providing retention bonuses to current law enforcement and correctional officers and covering tuition and fee payments on behalf of law enforcement trainees

The resolution was made by Commissioner Roller and seconded by Scanson. Roll Call vote included the following:

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

motion passed. Deputy Aberle has submitted his letter of resignation. Commissioner Scanson motioned to accept the resignation and approve opening the position, seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed. Aberle had been making payments for the purchase of a firearm. Commissioner Hagel motioned to approve submitting a reimbursement to Aberle for the amount that has been paid for the firearm, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. The firearm is in the Sheriff Office's possession. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Youthworks contacted Foster County for approval of signing the contract. At the time, Commissioner Hagel was madam chair and would receive the DocuSign contract, however, the contract has not been sent yet. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve signing the contract with Commissioner Hagel signing on behalf of Foster County, seconded by Commissioner Roller. All voted aye and the motion passed. Commissioner Hagel noted that Doug Zink is up for appointment on the Foster County Water Board, she will reach out to Zink to confirm if he would like to continue on the Foster County Water Board or not. Commissioner Utke noted that there is an Ambulance meeting next week and is unable to attend. Commissioner Hagel will attend in his absence. The annual Commissioner Summit will be held in Bismarck on December 9th, 2025. The next six-county meeting will be held in Emmons County on December 11th, 2025, and the next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 16th, 2025.

With no further business, Chairman Copenhaver adjourned the meeting at 3:57 pm.

Ellen Roundy
Foster County Auditor/Treasurer

Pat Copenhaver, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners