

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 17th, 2026

At 8:00 am, Chairman Copenhaver called the Foster County Commission meeting to order. Roll call included Commissioner Paul Roller, Commissioner David Utke, Commissioner Becky Hagel, Commissioner Alan Scanson, and Commissioner Pat Copenhaver. Also present was Foster County State’s Attorney Kara Brinster, Chief Deputy Auditor/Treasurer Hailey K Bachmeier, Road Superintendent Nate Monson, and Foster County Independent Reporter Nathan Price.

The meeting began with approval of the minutes for the February 3rd Commission meeting. Commissioner Utke motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Roller. All voted aye and the motion passed.

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

39809	ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS	130.00
39810	ARROWWOOD PRAIRIE CO-OP	893.62
39811	BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY	31,373.84
39812	C & J OIL COMPANY	553.50
39813	DACOTAH PAPER COMPANY	71.42
39814	ES DOORS	356.00
39815	GRAFIX SHOPPE	368.00
39816	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT.	1,411.05
39817	JESSICA MOSER	246.30
39818	JUSTIN JOHNSON	74.35
39819	MEEHAN MACHINE	772.87
39820	MIDSTATES EQUIPMENT & SUPPLY	17,066.81
39821	ND DEPT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	330.00
39822	OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR	9,322.00
39823	ROCKET WASH	108.00
39824	SOFTWARE INNOVATIONS	750.00
39825	USPS	126.00

Commissioner Utke requested to add Juanita Lake under commissioner discussion and requested to move up Foster County CPKC Committee after the Road Department Update. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve the agenda with a change of order & addition, seconded by Commissioner Hagel. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Old Business

No update for the Road Utility Ordinance.

New Business

Nate Monson, Road Superintendent, provided an update for the BOCC. Snow update totals are 29.55 inches for this snow year. The road crew has put up 16 warning signs for bad bumps on highways. Monson stated he had updated the Grit mapping for the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute to show types of work and when work was done on county highways. Monson stated it will help determine future funding. Monson stated the Tilt Trailer that is used to haul the CAT Skidsteer, oil totes, NUVO totes had welds break underneath the frame. Monson said it had been repaired by Dan Poulan but Monson was advised that Foster County should get a larger trailer due to the weight of the CAT Skidsteer. Nate contacted 813 Sales, who indicated they would accept the County’s trailer as a trade-in. 813 Sales has a promotional trailer from last year available for purchase by Foster County for \$15,500.00 and would allow a trade-in value of \$4,750.00 for the County’s existing trailer. The total cost to Foster County would be \$10,750.00. Commissioner Utke made a motion to approve the purchase of the tilt trailer from 813 Sales in the amount of \$10,750.00, seconded by Commissioner Roller. Commissioner Scanson abstained his vote.

Roll call vote included:

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

Motion passed.

Chief Deputy Auditor/Treasurer Hailey K Bachmeier presented a Flexible Transportation Program Funding Reimbursement Request that will be sent to North Dakota Department of Transportation for invoice 1012480 pertaining to the gravel regrading project by Grace City, project number FXS-1602(067). Bachmeier asked for approval of authorized signatures. Commissioner Scanson made a motion to approve the authorized signatures for the Flexible Transportation Program Funding Reimbursement Request, seconded by Commissioner Hagel. All voted aye and the motion passed.

The meeting moved to executive session at 8:16 AM and was attended by Commissioner Roller, Commissioner Utke, Commissioner Copenhaver, Commissioner Scanson, and Commissioner Hagel. Also present was Foster County State’s Attorney Kara Brinster, Chief Deputy Auditor/Treasurer Hailey K Bachmeier, and Road Superintendent Nate Monson. The executive session ended at 8:30 AM. Nathan Price, Foster County Independent reporter, joined the meeting. Commissioner Hagel motioned to allow Foster County CPKC Committee to negotiate

to the point of bringing a final offer back to the BOCC, seconded by Commissioner Roller. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Chief Deputy Auditor/Treasurer Hailey K Bachmeier presented to the BOCC that a CD is coming due on February 22nd, 2026, at Bank Forward. Options she recommends are a seven month at three-point six five percent, or a fifteen month at three-point five percent. Commissioner Scanson motioned to continue the CD at Bank Forward with the fifteen month CD at three-point five percent, seconded by Commissioner Hagel. All voted aye and the motion passed. Sergeant Gushwa has submitted his letter of resignation. Commissioner Roller motioned to accept the resignation and approve opening the position, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed. Gushwa had been making payments for the purchase of a firearm. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve submitting a reimbursement to Gushwa for the amount that has been paid for the firearm, seconded by Commissioner Hagel. The firearm is in the Sheriff Office's possession. All voted aye and the motion passed. Bachmeier had received a notice from the state court administrator on whether the county would like to enter into a funding agreement for the 2027-2029 biennium to receive reimbursement for providing clerk services. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve entering into a fund agreement for the 2027-2029 biennium to receive reimbursement for providing clerk services, seconded by Commissioner Roller. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Commissioner discussion included the Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan. Commissioner Utke informed the BOCC that the MHMP must be updated every 5 years in order to be eligible for federal grants. Commissioner Utke stated he had contacted Foster County Emergency Manager Jessica Moser. Moser stated that several counties are looking for funding to help update the MHMP. FEMA is currently not providing any funds. Commissioner Scanson suggested we contact NDACo and put the MHMP on the next agenda. Commissioner Hagel stated she would reach out to NDACo to see if they have any guidance. The MHMP for Foster County needs to be updated by January of 2027. Chief Deputy Auditor/Treasurer Bachmeier informed the BOCC that the Auditor/Treasurer's office received a letter from Arrowwood Prairie Co-op that states the propane tank lease for Foster County is now fully satisfied and Foster County is now the owner of the propane tank. Bachmeier also informed the BOCC of the Leak Check Policy that Arrowwood Prairie Co-op provided with the propane tank information. Commissioner Hagel asked if Bachmeier would reach out to Nate, Foster County Road Superintendent to see where that propane tank is located. Bachmeier stated she would ask Nate and inform the BOCC of where the propane tank is located. Commissioner Utke stated he attended the Siren Radio meeting last week. Commissioner Utke informed the BOCC of the Siren Program and showed maps of where the project will start and finish. Commissioner Utke stated Bev Johnson reached out to him and asked if the BOCC wanted them to do the mowing this year at Juantia Lake. Commissioner Utke stated that he would like to meet with Aaron and Bev Johnson to review duties closer to spring. Commissioner Scanson asked to add panic buttons to the next meeting agenda for March 3rd, 2026.

With no further business, Chairman Copenhaver adjourned the meeting at 9:14 am.

Hailey K Bachmeier
Foster County Chief Deputy Auditor/Treasurer

Pat Copenhaver, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners