

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 3rd, 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 17th Commission meeting. Commissioner Hagel motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. 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.

39843	813 SALES, LLC	10,750.00
39844	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, INC.	214.70
39845	ARROWWOOD PRAIRIE CO-OP	239.85
39846	AVID HAWK, LLC	35.00
39847	BERTS TRUCK EQUIPMENT OF MHD INC	808.64
39848	BESSETTE MOTORS, INC.	224.16
39849	BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY	5,762.98
39850	BRINSTER LAW, P.C.	209.42
39851	BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	4,505.60
39852	CARRINGTON MOTORS INC	100.00
39853	COMPUTER EXPRESS	1,349.00
39854	DACOTAH PAPER COMPANY	179.92
39855	DAKOTA FIRE EXTINGUISHERS	991.51
39856	FOSTER COUNTY INDEPENDENT	330.34
39857	HAGEL STORAGE	400.00
39858	HR COLLABORATIVE	150.00
39859	KARPEL SOLUTIONS	1,900.00
39860	KNIFE RIVER	301,579.25
39861	NAPA AUTO PARTS	53.97
39862	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, LLC	850.45
39863	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, LLC	117.47
39864	OK TIRE STORE	35.00
39865	SOUTH CENTRAL DAKOTA REGIONAL COUNCIL	6,809.00
39866	STUTSMAN COUNTY AUDITOR	2,000.00
39867	STUTSMAN COUNTY AUDITOR	512.50
39868	WILLIAM J GALE	223.60
39869	WOLD ENGINEERING, P.C.	750.00

Commissioner Utke motioned to approve the agenda, 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 38.05 inches for this snow year. Maintenance was done on a truck to fix a main hydraulic, and a flat tire was fixed on the white pickup. The road crew repaired the guardrail on the Miller Bridge due to damage sustained earlier this winter. Nate informed the BOCC that effective today, March 3rd at 7:00am load restrictions are in place. Nate stated LOADPASS has been notified, the Sheriff has posted on Foster County Sheriff Department Facebook page, and KDAK radio has been notified and will have it on the radio. Chief Deputy Auditor/Treasurer Hailey K Bachmeier presented the BOCC a Flexible Transportation Program Funding Reimbursement Request #9 for project FXS-1602(067) and was asking for approval of authorized signatures to send to NDDOT for reimbursement. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve authorized signatures for the Flexible Transportation Program Funding Reimbursement Request for project FXS-1602(067), seconded by Commissioner Roller. All voted aye and the motion passed. Jason Vollmer, a Foster County resident, appeared before the BOCC on behalf of Lynn Topp. Vollmer presented documentation indicating that the legal description for Foster County’s clay pit that is adjacent to Lynn Topp’s property does not match the legal description contained in the original land patent. Vollmer stated that he assumes the property has not been surveyed since the patent was handwritten on January 2, 1918. He explained that Lynn Topp is currently in the process of selling the property; however, unless the discrepancy is resolved, the Title Team in Grand Forks, North Dakota will be unable to issue a clean title. Vollmer asked the BOCC how they would like to proceed in addressing the issue. Foster County State’s Attorney, Kara Brinster, stated that she will contact the Title Team to inquire how they recommend correcting or clarifying an original handwritten patent dated January 2, 1918. Brinster will bring a recommendation back to the BOCC for further consideration.

Chief Deputy Auditor/Treasurer Hailey K Bachmeier informed the BOCC of grants that Ellen and herself have been working on for a new phone system. The current phone system is outdated, unreliable, and frequently experiencing service disruptions. Reliable communication is critical to the delivery of county services, and the current system no longer meets the operational demands of Foster County offices, or the needs of the residents Foster County serves. Auditor/Treasurer Ellen Roundy plans to present to the New Rockford Eagles Club to ask for Gaming Funds. Bachmeier also informed the BOCC about the Learning Management System through NDACo that allows the county to earn a 5% discount off the annuals workers compensation premiums if the goals are met within the county and state. Foster county employees will be required to watch a short video once a quarter and answer questions. The BOCC agreed it was a good idea and had no opposition.

Commissioner discussion included the Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan. Commissioner Utke informed the BOCC he had talked with Foster County Emergency Manager, Jessica Moser and stated she has been working with Department of Emergency Services (DES) on Foster County's behalf and was informed that Foster County needs to get bids from companies that would be the facilitator to write up the MHMP. DES knows the cost is an issue and a few other counties are in the same position as Foster County. Some proposals for the MHMP can range from \$20,000 dollars to \$40,000 dollars. Commissioner Hagel wanted to inform the BOCC of the letter that was sent from Garrison Diversion about the Red River Valley Water Supply Project (RRVWSP). The letter was to inform Foster County that land in Eastman township and McKinnon township will be impacted by upcoming construction. Commissioner Utke updated the BOCC that the Foster County CPKC Committee had sent information to Casualty Claims Representative for CPKC, Brent Hills. Hills responded with questions and the Foster County CPKC committee responded to his question on Monday, March 2nd, 2026. The committee will wait to hear back from Hills. Chief Deputy Auditor/Treasurer Hailey K Bachmeier provided information that Foster County could apply for a homeland security grant to update the panic buttons in the courthouse. Bachmeier stated she would get some information about the homeland security grant and panic buttons and bring it back to the BOCC. The BOCC had no committee reports. The commissioner reoccurring calendar was presented by Commissioner Utke. For the month of March, the Safety Committee was up for appointing positions. Commissioner Utke stated he was going to contact Foster County Clerk of Court Danielle Koepplin to see who is on the committee and then update the BOCC of the next steps. Next, Commissioner Utke brought up the Public Right Away Encroachment notice. Commissioner Scanson asked if Chief Deputy Auditor/Treasurer would contact Road Superintendent, Nate Monson to see if he has the notice on file. The last item on the reoccurring calendar was approving the MOU for the four cities to have Emergency Services. Foster County States Attorney stated she would like to see the existing MOU and talk to the current Foster County Emergency Manager to see if the MOU is still a necessary item. Brinster stated she will bring back an update to the BOCC.

With no further business, Chairman Copenhaver adjourned the meeting at 8:56 am.

Hailey K Bachmeier
Foster County Chief Deputy Auditor/Treasurer

Pat Copenhaver, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners