

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 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 March 3rd Commission meeting and the March 10th Special Commission meeting. Commissioner Utke motioned to approve the minutes for the March 3rd Commission meeting and the March 10th Commissioner meeting, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed.

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

39914	ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS	543.78
39915	ARROWWOOD PRAIRIE CO-OP	494.47
39916	AVID HAWK, LLC	35.00
39917	BREMER INSURANCE AGENCIES, INC.	18.00
39918	BRISS OIL COMPANY	104.00
39919	C & J OIL COMPANY	3,881.52
39920	CENTRAL CITY H20+	285.50
39921	CMF	3,604.56
39922	DAVID UTKE	118.90
39923	ELLEN ROUNDY	260.25
39924	GILBERTSON'S	2,039.97
39925	HAILEY BACHMEIER	114.24
39926	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT.	1,411.05
39927	JOHNSON CONTROLS FIRE PROTECTION LP	631.70
39928	ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY & TRIBAL VSO	120.00
39929	ND CLERKS ASSOCIATION	100.00
39930	QUADIENT FINANCE	1,003.00
39931	QUADIENT LEASING USA, INC.	353.19
39932	QUILL CORPORATION	175.03
39933	RESIDENCE INN	220.00
39934	RUNNING'S SUPPLY, INC.	351.16

Commissioner Scanson asked if Notifying the Water Board could be added under Foster County Tax Director, Karen Evans, on the agenda. Commissioner Roller made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition, seconded by Commissioner Utke. 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 40.55 inches for this snow year. Maintenance was done on the Mack Truck. The road crew was at the Barlow railroad crossing and grinded down the heaving asphalt on both sides of the railroad crossing with an asphalt grinder provided by Stutsman County. Commissioner Utke stated he had reached out to NDDOT about the Barlow railroad tracks, and he was given contact information for Jim Styron. NDDOT stated if there is a situation where a railroad crossing intersects with a county road and work is needed on the crossing itself, Jim Styron is person to contact. He works with all the railroads in the state and programs railroad crossing projects with the railroads. Monson brought some advertisements from Bisman Online Sales of some asphalt grinder attachments for the skid steer. The prices ranged from \$2,000 to \$3,000 dollars. Monson stated that Stutsman County uses their asphalt grinder when they patch roads. Commissioner Scanson stated that this could help make the work easier for the road department.

Commissioner Roller motioned to have Road Superintendent Nate Monson and Commissioner Scanson go and look at the asphalt grinders and pre-approve the purchase of an asphalt grinder, not to exceed \$3,000.00, seconded by Commissioner Utke.

Roll call included:

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

Motion passed.

Chief Deputy Auditor/Treasurer Hailey K. Bachmeier provided the Board of County Commissioners with a notice regarding the prohibition of encroaching upon or obstructing county roadways. Commissioner Scanson moved to approve publication of the notice in the Foster County Independent for two consecutive weeks, seconded by

Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed. Bachmeier informed the BOCC that the Auditor/Treasurer's office has been working with Dakota Central on updating the county phone system. The estimate for the new phone system is \$2,043.63. A grant application has been prepared, and Foster County Auditor/Treasurer Ellen Roundy will present it for gaming funds. Bachmeier requested a motion to proceed with the installation of a new phone system if grant funding is awarded. Commissioner Scanson made a motion to proceed with the new phone system contingent upon Foster County receiving grant funding, seconded by Commissioner Hagel. During discussion, Commissioner Roller informed the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) that Troy Roundy had provided an update indicating the current phone system is comprised of four different outdated systems. He further stated that if the system fails again, it may not be repairable. Commissioner Hagel noted that regardless of whether grant funding is received, a new phone system is necessary. Commissioner Hagel then proposed an amendment to the original motion, stating that Foster County should proceed with the new phone system while pursuing grant funding, and if the grant is not awarded, the system will be funded through the Capital Improvement Fund. The amended motion reads as follows, to proceed with the new phone system whether or not grant funding is awarded, seconded by Commissioner Utke.

Roll call vote included:

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

Motioned passed.

Bachmeier informed the BOCC of the upcoming 2026 Primary Election. Bachmeier stated the Foster County Auditor/Treasurer Ellen Roundy wanted to remind everyone that the filing deadline for the primary election is Monday, April 6th at 4:00 PM. All forms must be submitted to our office by then. This deadline also applies to any measures that need to be placed on the primary election ballot. Bachmeier also wanted to remind all residents to make sure all IDs are updated.

Foster County Tax Director, Karen Evans updated the BOCC that the Planning and Zoning Board met this morning for a regular meeting and a public hearing. Evans stated that Timothy Wunderlich has submitted a building permit application for a steel building, which is intended to serve as a combined shop and residential space (shop house). Evans was asking for approval of the building permit. Commissioner Scanson made a motion to approve the building permit, seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed. Evans also stated that the Planning and Zoning Board held a public hearing to approve the verbiage changes to the Floodplain ordinance for compliance with SB 2027 and the ordinance governing encroachment on County Right of Ways. Evans asked for a motion to approve the verbiage for the Floodplain ordinance and the governing encroachment on County Right of Ways ordinance. Commissioner Utke made a motion to approve the verbiage change in the floodplain ordinance for compliance with SB 2027 and the ordinance governing encroachment on County Right of Ways, seconded by Commissioner Roller. All voted aye and the motion passed. Commissioner Scanson stated that when people apply for tile permits the projects usually takes part in the roadway. Scanson suggested that we work with the Foster County Water Board and if someone applies for a tile permit, the individual will be given the roadway permits to complete. Evans stated she would contact Dianne Straley, Foster County Water Board Secretary and send her the roadway permits to give to individuals who apply for a tile permit.

The first item under Commissioner Discussion was the Foster County Water Board – possible snagging and draining project. Commissioner Utke informed the Board of County Commissioners that he had been contacted by Doug Zink, Vice Chairman of the Foster County Water Board. Zink inquired about forming a committee consisting of two members of the BOCC, two members of the Water Board, and one individual to provide information and guidance regarding snagging and draining. Commissioner Scanson stated it would mostly involve Kelly Creek and Carrington Creek. Commissioner Utke made a motion to create a subcommittee and select Commissioner Copenhaver and Commissioner Roller to be on the committee, seconded by Commissioner Hagel. All voted aye and the motion passed. Commissioner Utke informed the BOCC that Jessica Moser is waiting for quotes from facilitators to write up the Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan. Commissioner Utke informed the BOCC that the safety committee needs to appoint new members due to vacant positions. Commissioner Scanson made a motion to fill the vacant positions and appoint Chairman Pat Copenhaver, Emergency Manager Jessica Moser, and Foster County Building Maintenance/Custodian Jerrod Holte, seconded by Commissioner Roller. All voted aye and the motion passed. The Foster County Safety Committee members are Foster County Auditor/Treasurer Ellen Roundy, Foster County Clerk of Court Danielle Koepplin, Foster County Sheriff Justin Johnson, Foster County Emergency Manager Jessica Moser, and Foster County Building Maintenance/Custodian Jerrod Holte. Commissioner Hagel informed the BOCC of the six-county meeting that was held at Kidder County in Steele, North Dakota on March 10th, 2026. Hagel stated Senator Jerry Klein, Representative Robin Weisz, and Representative Jon O. Nelson were present and discussed property taxes.

With no further business, Chairman Copenhaver adjourned the meeting at 9:23 am.

Hailey K Bachmeier
Foster County Chief Deputy Auditor/Treasurer

Pat Copenhaver, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners