

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 30th, 2026

At 9:00 am, Chairman Copenhaver called the Foster County Commission Special Meeting to order. Roll call included Commissioner Pat Copenhaver, Commissioner David Utke, Commissioner Paul Roller, Commissioner Becky Hagel and Commissioner Alan Scanson. Also present was Foster County Independent Reporter Nathan Price, Foster County Water Board Member Doug Zink, and Chief Deputy Auditor/Treasurer Hailey K Bachmeier.

The Club Hall Road was the first item for discussion. Foster County Road Superintendent Nate Monson informed the BOCC that Garrison Diversion met with representatives from Eastman and McKinnon Townships and indicated that the clay material being excavated and hauled away could be used to build up the shoulders along the Club Hall Road. Both Townships requested a decision from the BOCC. Michael Rivinius of Wold Engineering advised the BOCC that the Club Hall Road is a federal aid road, and any work performed would need to meet federal funding requirements. He also noted that the existing right-of-way is limited to 33 feet. Rivinius further stated that there are significant wetland areas along the roadway, and any expansion into these areas could require mitigation. He estimated mitigation costs could range from \$80,000 to \$90,000 per acre. While he noted the proposal has merit, he emphasized that substantial work would be required and that it would not be without cost. Commissioner Copenhaver questioned whether Foster County could afford the project. Commissioner Utke made a motion to deny the request to perform shoulder work on the Club Hall Road, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Foster County Road Superintendent Nate Monson informed the BOCC that a pre-construction meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 31st, at 10:30 a.m. in the Community Room to review project details for the construction and paving project on 11th Street, also known as the McHenry Highway. Monson stated that there is an existing waterline on the east end of the project near the Grace City Highway that was originally planned to be insulated, with a bid line item of \$13,000.00. However, Ramsey County Water has recommended boring a new waterline instead, noting it would provide better long-term results at a lower cost. Michael Rivinius of Wold Engineering reported that Jon Martin of Wold Engineering spoke with a Ramsey County representative, who confirmed that installing a new line would be less expensive than insulating the existing waterline. Rivinius further stated that installing a new waterline at the proper depth would be a more reliable solution than insulating the current line. Commissioner Roller made a motion to authorize Foster County Road Superintendent Nate Monson to sign the no cost/cost reduction change order for boring a new waterline, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Monson informed the BOCC that Knife River has requested to close the entire four-mile stretch of gravel road while it is being reshaped in preparation for the 11th Street paving project. A full closure would result in a higher-quality product and reduced costs but would create an inconvenience for local traffic. Rivinius added that during culvert installation, a full road closure would be beneficial, as it would allow the work to be completed in one installation rather than in phases, resulting in greater efficiency. Commissioner Scanson inquired whether the road could instead be closed in two-mile segments. Rivinius stated that this option could be discussed at the pre-construction meeting. Commissioner Scanson also noted that one resident would be significantly impacted by the closure and would not have an alternate route available. Rivinius responded that the road would be posted as "local traffic only," ensuring continued access for affected individuals. He further stated that the project is expected to take approximately three to six weeks, depending on weather conditions. Commissioner Utke made a motion to authorize Foster County Road Superintendent Nate Monson to approve and sign the change order, and, if feasible, to allow Knife River to close the road in two-mile segments during the project, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Commissioner Utke informed the BOCC that an email was sent from the Foster County Water Board informing the BOCC of a Maintenance, and clean-up of blue line stream project that Eddy County Water Board is having done. The project consists of the maintenance and sediment/vegetation removal for the bed of a blue line stream to promote efficient water flow through the Melby Hill's-James River HUC10 Watershed. All the removed material will be deposited on the landowner's property away from the watershed. This waterway is tributary that flows downstream into Juanita Lake which is connected to the James River. Foster County Water Board Member Doug Zink was in attendance to answer any question that the BOCC may have. Interstate Engineering requested that any comments, questions, or information be forwarded to Interstate Engineering by April 4th, 2026, and if no reply is received it will be assumed that Foster County has no comment on this project. Commissioner Scanson asked Zink whether the Water Board had any concerns. Zink stated that the Foster County Water Board has no concerns at this time. Commissioner Scanson noted a potential concern regarding the location of a culvert at Juanita Lake that crosses a prairie trail. He requested that Chief Deputy Auditor/Treasurer Hailey K. Bachmeier forward the information to Florence Township and Larrabee Township, advising that they may contact Interstate Engineering if they have any concerns. Bachmeier confirmed she would forward the information.

Commissioner Utke also informed the BOCC that CHI had mailed a survey regarding the ambulance building, requesting information about the pipe materials within the structure. Commissioner Hagel stated that the incoming pipe is plastic and transitions to copper within the building. She added that she would gather additional information on the building's history from Karen Evans, Foster County Tax Director.

With no further business, Chairman Copenhaver adjourned the meeting at 9:33 a.m.

Hailey K. Bachmeier
Foster County Chief Deputy Auditor/Treasurer

Pat Copenhaver, Chairman
Board of County Commissioner