

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

April 7th, 2026

At 8:00 am, 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, Chief Deputy Auditor/Treasurer Hailey K Bachmeier, Road Superintendent Nate Monson, Foster County Fair Board Member Kyle Schroeder via phone, Melville Township Supervisor Bruce Willyard, and Foster County Independent Reporter Nathan Price.

The meeting began with approval of the minutes for the March 17th Commission meeting, March 24th Special Commission Meeting, the 8:30 am, March 30th Special Commission Meeting, the 9:00 am, March 30th, Special Commission Meeting, and the 10:00 am, March 30th Special Commissioner Meeting. Commissioner Hagel had a spelling correction for the March 17th Commissioner meeting. Commissioner Scanson made a motion to approval the minutes with the correction on the March 17th Commissioner meeting, seconded by Commissioner Roller. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Chief Deputy Auditor/Treasurer informed the BOCC that check 39935 for ND Association of County and Tribal VSO was paid to avoid late fees and is requesting this check be included with the approval of bills. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve the bills with the inclusion of check 39935, seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed.

39935	ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AND TRIBAL VSO	50.00
39963	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, INC.	519.87
39964	ARROWWOOD PRAIRIE CO-OP	1,021.31
39965	BALCO UNIFORM CO., INC.	627.00
39966	BESSETTE MOTORS, INC.	90.16
39967	BISMARCK HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER	110.00
39968	C & J OIL COMPANY	787.37
39969	CENTRAL CITY H2O+	79.50
39970	CENTRAL CITY LUMBER INC.	292.99
39971	COMPUTER EXPRESS	1,485.99
39972	D & E SUPPLY	85.76
39973	DACOTAH PAPER COMPANY	42.94
39974	FEDEX	22.01
39975	FOSTER COUNTY INDEPENDENT	793.31
39976	FREEDOM AND GLORY	134.48
39977	HAGEL STORAGE	400.00
39978	JERROD HOLTE	8.70
39979	JUSTIN JOHNSON	81.29
39980	LYNELLE R LYMAN HOPPE	79.25
39981	MELANIE G HESCH	19.60
39982	NAPA AUTO PARTS	40.99
39983	NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES	450.00
39984	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, LLC	395.46
39985	OK TIRE STORE	850.62
39986	PATRIOT FUELS	58.43
39987	QUILL CORPORATION	63.34
39988	RDO EQUIPMENT CO.	6,308.23
39989	ROCKET WASH	48.00
39990	RUNNING'S SUPPLY, INC.	115.82
39991	SOFTWARE INNOVATIONS	9,900.00
39992	STUTSMAN CO. CORRECTION CENTER	100.00
39993	STUTSMAN COUNTY AUDITOR	2,000.00
39994	THE VILLAGE FAMILY SERVICE CENTER	1,500.00
39995	WILLIAM J GALE	132.68

Commissioner Roller made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Hagel. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

Nate Monson, Road Superintendent, provided an update for the BOCC. Snow updates totals are 58.30 inches for this snow year. Crack sealing is finished for 2026. The road department will crack seal Grace City and McHenry highways next year in 2027. Monson stated they plan to start dura-patching later this week if weather permits. Monson stated the truck sold at ORR Auctioneers. Monson also stated he plans to go to Valley City to look at a Pull Blade and provide information to the BOCC. Monson wanted to clarify that during the 10:00 a.m. special meeting on March 30th, there was discussion regarding the possible use of a pipeline for dirt work on the east end of Club Hall Road. At that time, it was mentioned that Eastman and McKinnon Townships had an existing right of way of

33 feet and that could be an issue. Monson explained that the right-of-way in McKinnon Township was established through easements granted years ago, likely in the late 1980s or early 1990s—when a project was completed, and that there are no issues with the ditches or right-of-way in McKinnon Township. The only concern is approximately three miles located within Eastman Township. McKinnon Township would like it noted that easements were granted years ago and there are no issues with the ditches or right of ways. Monson informed the BOCC the Murphy Road has a bad break on the east end. Monson asked how the BOCC would like to fix the problem. Commissioner Scanson made a motion to put gravel down on the bad break on the east end of Murphy Road, seconded by Commissioner Roller. All voted aye and the motion passed. Michael Rivinius provided the BOCC with the 2026 Federal Aid Cost Sheet.

Chief Deputy Auditor/Treasurer Hailey K. Bachmeier asked for approval of signatures for the 2026 Support Agreement with Software Innovations. Commissioner Hagel made a motion to approve the signatures for the 2026 Support Agreement, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed. Bachmeier informed the BOCC that on an annual basis Foster County sends out a letter to the North Dakota Highway Patrol requesting assistance with year-round weight enforcement. Bachmeier was asking for approval from the BOCC to send out a letter requesting assistance. Commissioner Scanson made a motion to approve sending out the letter to the NDHP requesting assistance with year-round weight enforcement, seconded by Commissioner Roller. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Kyle Schroeder, a Foster County Fair Board member, attended the BOCC meeting via phone to inquire about liability insurance coverage for the fair. In previous years, Foster County covered the cost of this insurance. Commissioner Hagel stated that, in her view, since the Foster County Fair Board operates as a non-profit and is not a County department, Foster County should not be responsible for providing liability coverage. Commissioner Hagel made a motion that the Foster County Fair Board obtain and maintain its own liability insurance policy, seconded by Commissioner Roller. All voted aye and the motion passed. Schroeder also requested that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) be completed so that both Foster County and the Foster County Fair Board clearly understand their roles and responsibilities. Commissioner Utke stated that the Foster County committee needs to meet more frequently to continue working toward completion of the MOU.

Bruce Willyard, Melville Township Supervisor, had questions about water on the roadway on 67th avenue. Commissioner Scanson informed Mr. Willyard that since it is a township road, it is the township's responsibility, not the county. Mr. Willyard also had a question about who enforces the load restrictions. Commissioner Copenhagen informed Mr. Willyard that Foster County asks the North Dakota Highway Patrol for assistance. Commissioner Hagel suggested that Mr. Willyard reach out to the North Dakota Township Association. Chief Deputy Auditor/Treasurer Hailey K Bachmeier stated she would get contact information for Mr. Willyard.

The first item under Commissioner Discussion was the Ambulance Building outdoor lights and overhead door. Commissioner Utke informed the BOCC that he had been contacted by Allyssa Lewis, Supervisor of the Carrington Ambulance, regarding the building's exterior lighting. Lewis provided an estimate from SKS Electric in the amount of \$350.00 to replace exterior lights on both the front and back of the building. Commissioner Utke noted that, as Foster County is the landlord, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) states that the County is responsible for exterior building maintenance, which includes lighting. He made a motion to approve the repairs based on the estimate provided. Commissioner Hagel advised that the BOCC should obtain two formal quotes rather than relying on a single estimate before taking action. Following this discussion, Commissioner Utke withdrew his motion and stated he would contact Allyssa Lewis to request two quotes for the exterior lighting project. Commissioner Utke also informed the BOCC that CHI intends to purchase a new overhead door through P&S Garage Doors, a vendor they regularly use. P&S Garage Doors had recently been in Carrington working at CHI and was able to repair the ambulance building's overhead door so that it is currently functional. As a result, Foster County is no longer being asked to assist with the overhead door. Commissioner Hagel added that she had spoken with Jodi Hovdenes, Director of the CHI Hospital, who confirmed that CHI is willing to assume responsibility for the overhead door due to the damage they caused. Hovdenes also stated that regular maintenance for the overhead door will be scheduled moving forward. Commissioner Roller and Commissioner Copenhagen informed the BOCC of a Foster County Water Board meeting they attended on March 31st regarding proposed snagging and clearing projects on Carrington Creek and Kelly Creek. Commissioner Roller stated that Century Code 61-16.1-09.1 was referenced during the meeting. The contractor identified for the project is Ryan Johnson, who has completed multiple snagging and clearing projects in Nelson and Ramsey Counties. The proposed Kelly Creek project would cover approximately 10.5 miles, while the Carrington Creek project would cover approximately 9.5 miles. The estimated construction cost for both projects is \$80,000.00, with an anticipated payoff period of four to five years. The projects would impact approximately 21,000 acres. Commissioner Copenhagen stated that affected landowners would not vote on the project. Approval would be determined by the Foster County Water Board and the Foster County Board of County Commissioners. Affected farmland would be assessed at a rate of \$0.50 per acre per year until the project costs are fully paid. It was noted that the City of Carrington would be responsible for an estimated \$4,000 to \$5,000 per year, though higher figures were also discussed. One concern raised during the meeting involved culverts. Ryan Johnson indicated that culvert work is not anticipated; however, if such work becomes necessary, responsibility for the work and associated costs could fall to the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT), the County, or the respective Township. Commissioner Copenhagen recommended waiting until the Foster County Water Board formally submits a request to be placed on a future BOCC agenda. Commissioner Utke informed the BOCC regarding the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP). He stated that Jessica Moser has resigned and had contacted him to report that Pam Blinsky will serve as Interim Emergency Manager and will continue work on the MHMP. Commissioner Roller informed the BOCC about the conference phone system used during commission meetings. Commissioner Utke inquired whether it is possible to identify callers when they dial in. Commissioner Roller stated he has reached out to Troy Roundy of Dakota Central and will report back to the BOCC once he receives additional information.

Committee reports were then discussed. Commissioner Utke stated he will be attending a Siren Regional meeting via Microsoft Teams the following day. Commissioner Scanson reported that he has a South-Central meeting scheduled for later this month. Commissioner Hagel stated she will be attending a CCEDC meeting later that day, as well as the Annual Chamber Meeting on Thursday at the Chieftain, which is open to all Chamber members.

No updates on the Commissioner Reoccurring Calendar.

With no further business, Chairman Copenhaver adjourned the meeting at 9:43 am.

Hailey K. Bachmeier
Foster County Chief Deputy Auditor/Treasurer

Pat Copenhaver, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners