

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

April 21st, 2026

At 8:00 am, Chairman Copenhaver called the Foster County Commission meeting to order. Roll call included Commissioner David Utke, Commissioner Paul Roller, Commissioner Pat Copenhaver, Commissioner Alan Scanson, and Commissioner Becky Hagel. Also present was Foster County State’s Attorney Kara Brinster, Auditor/Treasurer Ellen Roundy, Road Superintendent Nate Monson, Road Foreman Aaron Johnson, Michael Rivinius with Wold Engineering, Carson Lovin and Chris Pierson with Northern Plains and Foster County Independent Reporter Nathan Price.

The meeting began with approval of the minutes for the April 7th Commission meeting. Commissioner Hagel noted one correction. Commissioner Hagel made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed.

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

40045	701 WASH	200.00
40046	ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS	187.15
40047	AVID HAWK, LLC	60.00
40048	BALCO UNIFORM CO., INC.	33.01
40049	BREMER INSURANCE AGENCIES, INC.	39,034.00
40050	COMPUTER EXPRESS	1,100.00
40051	COUNTRY INN & SUITES	220.00
40052	FOSTER COUNTY INDEPENDENT	210.00
40053	GILBERTSON'S	985.35
40054	HR COLLABORATIVE	150.00
40055	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT.	1,384.40
40056	MOTOR VEHICLE DIVISION	10.00
40057	NDSAA	400.00
40058	NDSU EXTENSION - DEPT 7510	12,346.89
40059	NORMONT EQUIPMENT CO.	2,345.58
40060	OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL	18,837.48
40061	QUADIENT FINANCE	1,010.00
40062	QUILL CORPORATION	70.99
40063	RANDY LURA	180.00
40064	SWANSTON EQUIPMENT CORPORATION	396.75
40065	WOLD ENGINEERING, P.C.	133,947.61

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

Old Business

Commissioner Hagel asked about the status of the lot survey at Juanita Lake. Foster County State’s Attorney noted that when the ground was ready, Tamarac had indicated they would be out surveying.

New Business

Nate Monson, Road Superintendent, provided an update to the BOCC. The department has installed blinking warning lights at the Barlow railroad tracks. Monson has been using the reclaimer on a few county gravel roads, and two townships have also reached out for work to be completed. Load restrictions are still in effect. The department has been placing signs throughout the county where roads are broken up. An approach needs to be replaced on the Club Hall County gravel. The landowner will take care of all the dirt work and pay fifty percent of the culvert cost. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve the work be completed on the approach, seconded by Commissioner Roller. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Kara Brinster, Foster County State’s Attorney, provided information from Northern Plains on repositioning power lines along the Barlow/McHenry Road project. There were some lines included in the original project; however, a few adjacent poles will need to be handled. The options are to either move them out of the way now or create an MOU/agreement that the county is responsible for costs. Michael Rivinius, Wold Engineering, stated that the line is still on private property. The right of way obtained is a permanent easement. Additional discussion was had and the BOCC will wait on making any decision until they hear back on whether a change order can be made to the original funding.

Doug Zink, Foster County Resident, approached the BOCC regarding installing rumble strips to Highway 200 and the Bordulac turn intersection. Discussion was had on the process and costs. Commissioner Roller asked if a core study should be done on the road prior to any work. Michael Rivinius, Wold Engineering, stated that the cost to do a core study could be about the same cost as completing a rumble strip project. Commissioner Scanson noted that it maybe wouldn’t hurt to include rumble strips in the Barlow/McHenry project. The BOCC consensus is to have Wold Engineering put bid information together for approval later. Zink also asked if the County had an inventory of culverts. Commissioner Utke is unaware of any inventory but stated it wouldn’t hurt to get it into a format that can help with long term planning. Rivinius stated that they have records of original plans for quite a few culverts but wouldn’t have conditions. Commissioner Scanson would like Wold Engineering to come up with a cost proposal for a basic and then also a more in-depth analysis of county culverts.

Ellen Roundy, Foster County Auditor/Treasurer, requested approval for the Sykeston Community Club gaming site authorization at Bordulac Bar. Commissioner Roller motioned to approve the gaming site authorization seconded by Commissioner Utke, motion passed. Roundy presented a funding agreement for the Clerk of Court services. Commissioner Hagel motioned to approve with necessary signatures, seconded by Commissioner Scanson, motion passed. The office has been working on absentee applications which will be mailed out to all active voters. Any resident can contact the Auditor/Treasurer office if they do not receive one in the mail. Summer Hours for the courthouse will begin on Monday, May 4th and will run through Labor Day.

Foster County Sheriff, Justin Johnson, approached the BOCC regarding the remaining funding from HB 1193. Sergeant Gushwa was expected to receive a second \$5,000 payment in June but left employment with Foster County. Johnson requested the remaining balance be paid out to himself.

WHEREAS, the 69th North Dakota Legislative assembly passed \$3.5 million in grant funding into HB 1193.

WHEREAS, Similar to the 2023 legislation passed for Back the Blue, lawmakers approved this program as a way to show their appreciation for the work local law enforcement are doing across the state.

WHEREAS, on December 2nd, 2025, the Foster County Board of County Commissioner passed Resolution 2025-05 presented by the Foster County Sheriff indicating the breakout of funds from HB 1193.

WHEREAS, Sergeant Gushwa willingly left employment with Foster County prior to receiving his second \$5,000 stipend

WHEREAS, the Foster County Sheriff indicated that Sheriff Johnson receives the remaining funding of \$5,000.

WHEREAS, Commissioner Roller moved to approve the updated plan presented by Sheriff Justin Johnson and Commissioner Utke seconded the motion, and having been submitted to a roll call vote of the elected County Commissioners:

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by majority vote of the Foster County Board of County Commissioners authorize the Sheriff to expend the Peace Officer and Correctional Officer Appreciation Grant Funds approved in HB 1193 which was passed by the 2025 Legislature, per the categories outlined as follows: Funding may be used for providing retention bonuses to current law enforcement and correctional officers and covering tuition and fee payments on behalf of law enforcement trainees.

Commissioner Discussion included review of three estimates received for lighting outside the ambulance building. Commissioner Utke reviewed the bids and deemed them to seem comparable. Randy's Electric bid was \$650.00, SKS Electric bid was \$783.14, and JMS Electric bid was \$711.90. Commissioner Utke motioned to approve the estimate from Randy's Electric, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed. Commissioner Utke would like the committee that was formed to handle correspondence with CPKC to reach out regarding a response. Commissioner Copenhaver stated that he contacted Brent Hills personally. Roundy indicated that her office could send out a response for approval to send to CPKC. Commissioner Roller provided an update from the BOH. Commissioner Copenhaver provided an update from the Council on aging. Commissioner Scanson attended a South-Central meeting. He provided some job employment information for the counties involved. He also noted that there may be a program that could remove the old sheriff's house/jail. Commissioner Hagel will reach out to the Historical Society before any decision is made. Commissioner Utke provided an update from the SORN meeting he attended. It was noted that it'll be a large task to complete all radio tower installations and activation completed by the end of 2027.

With no further business, Chairman Copenhaver adjourned the meeting at 9:37 am.

Ellen Roundy
Foster County Auditor/Treasurer

Pat Copenhaver, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners