

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 2nd, 2026

At 8:00 am, Chairman Copenhaver called the Foster County Commission meeting to order. Roll call included Commissioner David Utke, Commissioner Pat Copenhaver and Commissioner Alan Scanson. Also present was Foster County State’s Attorney Kara Brinster, Auditor/Treasurer Ellen Roundy, Road Superintendent Nate Monson, Michael Rivinius with Wold Engineering, and Foster County Independent Reporters Nathan Price and Erik Gjovik.

The meeting began with approval of the minutes for the May 19th Commission Meeting. Commissioner Scanson made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed.

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

40207	ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS	130.00
40208	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, INC.	35.09
40209	AMRIZE MIDWEST INC.	2,885.61
40210	BRINSTER LAW, P.C.	104.71
40211	CENTRAL CITY H20+	13.50
40212	CENTRAL CITY LUMBER INC.	74.99
40213	DAKOTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS EAST	299.99
40214	ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE	55.16
40215	ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE	1,001.30
40216	ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE	68.93
40217	FOSTER COUNTY INDEPENDENT	1,132.82
40218	HAGEL STORAGE	400.00
40219	JERROD HOLTE	42.05
40220	JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	9.21
40221	KNIFE RIVER MATERIALS	572,095.49
40222	MIDSTATES WIRELESS	53.37
40223	NAPA AUTO PARTS	143.39
40224	NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY	400.22
40225	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, LLC	604.78
40226	OLD NATIONAL BANK	65.00
40227	QUILL CORPORATION	169.15
40228	R. M. STOUTD	771.75
40229	SIDWELL COMPANY	2,439.57
40230	STUTSMAN COUNTY AUDITOR	2,000.00
40231	USPS	126.00
40232	WILLIAM J GALE	192.13
40233	WOLD ENGINEERING, P.C.	148,821.49

Commissioner Scanson requested to add the Grace City pasture to the agenda. Commissioner Utke motioned to approve the agenda with the addition, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Old Business

There was no update under old business.

New Business

Nate Monson, Road Superintendent, provided an update to the BOCC. One bid was received for the mulcher from Ramsey County for \$14,501. Commissioner Utke motioned to accept the bid seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed. Monson provided a mowing notice to be placed in the newspaper. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve the notice seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed. A truck had caught fire on the Kensal Road with the entire trailer and tractor a complete loss. Monson will work on getting an estimate for the road repairs. Additional discussion included concerns regarding the Garrison pipeline and work needed for roads. Commissioner Scanson motioned to authorize Wold Engineering to prepare a utility crossing agreement for the Garrison Diversion water pipeline crossings on the Dump Ground Highway and Kensal Highway, and to prepare a letter to Garrison Diversion rejecting the proposed pavement patch for the Dump Ground Highway, on behalf of Foster County and subject to review by the Foster County State’s Attorney. Commissioner Utke seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion passed. Patching work can be completed on the Barlow Road by Knife River for an estimated \$50,000. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve the work seconded by Commissioner Utke. Roll call vote included:

- Commissioner Utke – aye
- Commissioner Copenhaver – aye
- Commissioner Scanson – aye

motion passed. Commissioner Utke attended a Load Pass meeting. The meeting proposed a change in the fee structure from gross vehicle weight to a road damage formula, no official changes have been made. Commissioner Utke also sent a drainage application from the NDDOT to Foster County State’s Attorney Kara Brinster for review. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve the Flex Funding reimbursement #13 with the Chairman’s signature, seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Auditor/Treasurer, Ellen Roundy, presented the biannual township road mileage certification for approval. Commissioner Utke motioned to approve seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed. Roundy has received three estimates for changing the current website to ADA compliant. No action taken at this time. The Auditor/Treasurer office was informed that Merle Munson was no longer going to be mowing the South James Cemetery. Munson stated that Kevin Guthmiller would mow annually for \$1,500. Commissioner Scanson stated that the Cemetery has a board that also pays for mowing. Commissioner Scanson motioned to offer Guthmiller \$1,000 to mow and if the offer is denied recommends that the county put it out for bids, seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed. Roundy provided a quote of \$1,194 to advertise with the Forum for the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve the advertising seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Jeffrey Jensen approached the BOCC regarding a dock at Dry Lake. Game and Fish are willing to furnish the dock if the county will cover liability and install and remove every season. Roundy stated that the county has liability coverage and will communicate with insurance agent Chad Hoornaert. Commissioner Utke motioned to approve the installation of the dock at Dry Lake seconded by Commissioner Scanson. Discussion included having Foster County State's Attorney work on an MOU with the township, county and Game and Fish. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Karen Evans, Tax Director, presented a 2024 abatement for Tara Jones for \$587.92. The primary residence credit for Mobile Homes owners was received, and payment can go out for those that have paid. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve the abatement and credits seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed. Evans also presented an estimate for training hours with Vanguard of \$4,000 with this being included in her budget. Commissioner Utke motioned to approve seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Commissioner Utke feels it would be beneficial to have an informational meeting regarding the potential reclamation of the Murphy Road. Commissioner Scanson motioned to hold a special meeting on Thursday, June 11th at 2:00 PM regarding the Murphy Road, seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed. Commissioner Utke and Commissioner Scanson visited Juanita Lake to determine necessary repairs. The consensus from the BOCC was to allow Commissioner Utke and Scanson to make minor purchases for updating equipment and the park. The BOCC also wants to thank Dennis Swanson for the work he has put into various items at Juanita Lake, the help is greatly appreciated. Commissioner Scanson stated there are around fifteen acres of pastureland next to the Grace City Shop. Commissioner Scanson motioned to put the pastureland up for bid with a minimum bid of at least \$20 per acre for a three-year lease period, seconded by Commissioner Utke. The bid deadline is Monday, July 6th at 4:00 PM with the bid opening held on July 7th at 7:45 AM at the Foster County Courthouse. All voted aye and the motion passed. There were no committee reports from the BOCC. Commissioner Utke stated he is waiting to hear back from Chris Thomas, EAPC, on the final items remaining for the basement renovation. Commissioner Scanson noted that in the Foster County Independent he saw an ad for tuckpointing and would be willing to visit with the contractor. The Foster County Board of Equalization meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 3rd, 2026, at 8:00 AM.

With no further business, Chairman Copenhaver adjourned the meeting at 9:19 am.

Ellen Roundy
Foster County Auditor/Treasurer

Pat Copenhaver, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners