

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 9th, 2026

At 10:00 am, Chairman Copenhaver called the Foster County Commission Special Meeting to order. Roll call included Commissioner David Utke, Commissioner Pat Copenhaver, and Commissioner Alan Scanson. Also present was Foster County Road Superintendent Nate Monson, Chief Deputy Auditor/Treasurer Hailey K Bachmeier, Deputy Auditor/Treasurer Kate Smith, and Foster County Independent reporter Erik Gjovik.

Chairman Copenhaver read a report provided by Foster County Road Superintendent Nate Monson regarding additional spots needing repairs on the Barlow Highway. Monson reported that Knife River is not honoring the original bid price for the additional repair areas and is not contractually required to do so. Monson stated that Wold Engineering had estimated the cost of the additional repairs at approximately \$45,000 to \$50,000 based on the bid price. However, Knife River later provided an estimate of \$120,000 for the additional work. Monson further reported that Wold Engineering had contacted the North Dakota Department of Transportation (DOT). Jon Martin of Wold Engineering indicated that the NDDOT may match or contribute a portion of the cost due to traffic being diverted from Highway 15. Monson stated that any potential NDDOT participation would be for work only completed by Knife River, as they hold the current bid. Monson also reported that he is awaiting a quote from Border States but has not yet received a response. Commissioner Utke asked Monson how long a decision could be delayed before action would be required. Monson responded that Knife River is currently paving in Benson County and is expected to complete that project by Wednesday, June 10. The company would then move to Foster County to complete four miles of paving on the Barlow Highway. If approved by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), the additional repairs would be completed following the four-mile paving project. Monson stated that Thursday, June 11, at 8:00 a.m. would be the deadline for making a decision. He added that Jon Martin of Wold Engineering advised that an earlier decision would be preferable. Commissioner Utke made a motion to authorize the Road Superintendent Nate Monson to determine the best arrangement between Knife River and Border States, and make a selection by 8:00 am Thursday, June 11th, 2026, with an estimated cost of \$120,000.00 with the possibility of adding more spots at the same price per ton, seconded by Commissioner Scanson.

Roll call vote included:

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

Motion passed.

With no further business, Chairman Copenhaver adjourned the meeting at 10:27 am.

Hailey K Bachmeier
Foster County Chief Deputy Auditor/Treasurer

Pat Copenhaver, Chairman
Board of County Commissioner