

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 16th, 2026

At 8:00 am, Chairman Copenhaver called the Foster County Commission meeting to order. Roll call included Commissioner Paul Roller, Commissioner David Utke, 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, 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 June 2nd Commission Meeting, June 3rd Board of Equalization meeting, June 9th Special Meeting and June 11th Special Meeting. Commissioner Utke made a motion to approve all sets of minutes, seconded by Commissioner Hagel. All voted aye and the motion passed.

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

40285	ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS	240.19
40286	ARROWWOOD PRAIRIE CO-OP	1,578.17
40287	BESSETTE MOTORS, INC.	364.61
40288	BOOTE SEPTIC SOLUTIONS	150.00
40289	BREMER INSURANCE AGENCIES, INC.	14.00
40290	BRISS OIL COMPANY	262.00
40291	BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	4,505.60
40292	C & J OIL COMPANY	12,240.44
40293	CENTRAL CITY H20+	60.00
40294	COREAN SWART	60.00
40295	FREEDOM AND GLORY	113.05
40296	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT.	1,411.05
40297	JERRY BIEL	360.00
40298	NDAAO	50.00
40299	PAT BIEL TRUCKING INC.	11,702.40
40300	PATRIOT FUELS	108.68
40301	QUADIENT LEASING USA, INC.	353.19
40302	RDO EQUIPMENT CO.	103.86
40303	ROAD GROOM MANUFACTURING	25,824.00
40304	RUNNING'S SUPPLY, INC.	178.79
40305	STUTSMAN CO. CORRECTION CENTER	22.89
40306	STUTSMAN CO. CORRECTION CENTER	5,100.00
40307	SWANSTON EQUIPMENT CORPORATION	10,500.00
40308	TRAVIS TESCH	59.12
40309	VANGUARD APPRAISALS, INC.	4,080.00

Foster County State's Attorney Kara Brinster requested to add a correction to a deed with required signatures under old business. Commissioner Hagel motioned to approve the agenda with the addition, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Old Business

Foster County State's Attorney Kara Brinster provided the BOCC with a corrected deed that needs the Chairman's and Auditor's signatures. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve the deed with signatures, seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed.

New Business

Nate Monson, Road Superintendent, provided an update to the BOCC. The bid opening for reclamation of the Murphy Road, project CP-1614 (026), was held at 7:30 AM with three bids received. Border States Paving submitted a bid of \$648,762.20; Central Specialties Incorporated submitted a bid of \$668,146.00 and Knife River submitted a bid of \$585,520.00. Commissioner Scanson motioned to award project CP-1614 (026), full depth reclamation in Foster County, to the low bid of Knife River Materials for \$585,520.00 and authorize the appropriate County Officials to sign the construction contract, seconded by Commissioner Utke. Additional discussion included discussion that occurred during the informational meeting for the public held on June 11th. Commissioner Scanson noted that leaving parts of the Murphy Road to pavement does not address the costs of continuing to maintain those portions. Commissioner Utke travelled the road prior to ag traffic this year and then again after springs work. While parked and inspecting the road could see break-ups outside of where the road department has patched, which would require additional maintenance from the road department. Commissioner Hagel noted that the county cannot afford to maintain all the miles of pavement the county currently has. Roll call vote included:

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

motion passed. The BOCC had questions for Michael Rivinius regarding the overlay that Garrison sent out to bid without the county's oversight. Rivinius stated that the specs in the bid plan do not meet criteria for previous projects on county roads. Commissioner Utke noted that the bid package should not have gone out without county involvement and once Garrison is gone, the county is stuck with the way that Garrison left our roads. Foster County

State's Attorney, Kara Brinster, stated the best way to remedy will be to have a motion to notify Garrison of the additional pieces to the project and amend the bid package. Commissioner Roller motioned to allow Brinster along with Rivinius draft a letter notifying Garrison of the county's concerns along with including additional specs per Wold Engineering recommendation, seconded by Commissioner Hagel. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Auditor/Treasurer, Ellen Roundy, requested board approval to change website providers from Avid Hawk to TAO. New federal regulations require certain ADA changes to websites. To maintain the mandates, Avid Hawk increased their prices from \$35/month to \$425/month. Roundy reached out to other companies and found a reputable option with TAO having an annual cost of \$600. Commissioner Roller motioned to approve the change from Avid Hawk to TAO, seconded by Commissioner Utke. Additional discussion included that there will be an initial set up fee to switch the website interface over. All voted aye and the motion passed. Roundy presented an updated JPA with Stutsman County for EM services. There were changes due to turnover in staff. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve the JPA with required signatures seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed. Commissioner Utke had notified the Auditor/Treasurers office of a correction to the May 19th, 2026, minutes. Commissioner Scanson motioned to amend the May 19th, 2026, BOCC meeting minutes with the correction seconded by Commissioner Hagel. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Commissioner Utke reviewed the draft minutes from the latest six-county meeting and noted some important talking points. The NTSB released the final report on the 2024 Train derailment citing a culvert the cause of the accident. Commissioner Utke and Scanson provided an update on Juanita Lake Park. They've provided replacement swings for the BOCC to review as well as discussion including the removal of an unsafe merry-go-round. Commissioner Hagel motioned to purchase the replacement swings and have the county remove the merry-go-round seconded by Commissioner Roller. All voted aye and the motion passed. The Foster County Canvass board will meet on Monday, June 22nd at 9:00 AM. Roundy noted that the election went very smoothly. There were no major issues, and Foster County was one of the first counties to get reports into the State on election night.

With no further business, Chairman Copenhaver adjourned the meeting at 9:13 am.

Ellen Roundy
Foster County Auditor/Treasurer

Pat Copenhaver, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners