

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 21st, 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, Stutsman/Foster EM Pam Blinksy with office assistant Holly Neys and Foster County Independent Reporter Erik Gjovik.

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

Auditor/Treasurer Ellen Roundy presented lost check affidavit for check number 40051 to be included with the bills. Commissioner Hagel motioned to approve the bills, including the lost check affidavit, seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed.

40411	701 WASH	200.00
40412	AVID HAWK, LLC	35.00
40413	BALCO UNIFORM CO., INC.	108.17
40414	BLUE TO GOLD, LLC	474.00
40415	BRINSTER LAW, P.C.	155.36
40416	BRISS OIL COMPANY	360.90
40417	CENTRAL CITY LUMBER INC.	16.50
40418	COMPUTER EXPRESS	1,329.99
40419	COREAN SWART	113.33
40420	*** VOID *** COUNTRY INN & SUITES	220.00
40421	COUNTY INN & SUITES BY RADISSON	220.00
40422	CTK GROUP	150.00
40423	ELLEN ROUNDY	231.25
40424	FOSTER COUNTY INDEPENDENT	2,207.11
40425	FOSTER COUNTY WEED BOARD	36.00
40426	HIGH PLAINS EQUIPMENT	862.68
40427	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT.	1,411.05
40428	JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	27,624.99
40429	JUSTIN JOHNSON	355.00
40430	KARA BRINSTER	242.00
40431	KAREN EVANS	60.99
40432	LAW ENFORCEMENT SEMINARS LLC	445.00
40433	NAPA AUTO PARTS	394.48
40434	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, LLC	423.29
40435	OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL	18,706.35
40436	OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL	120.00
40437	PAT BIEL TRUCKING INC.	1,013.20
40438	QUADIENT FINANCE	1,003.00
40439	RESIDENCE INN	110.00
40440	TOM GILBERTSON & SONS	575.00
40441	WOLD ENGINEERING, P.C.	23,420.80
40442	YELLOWSTONE NARCOTICS	897.00

Commissioner Scanson requested to add lots at Juanita Lake under old business. Commissioner Utke motioned to approve the agenda with the addition, seconded by Commissioner Roller. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Old Business

Foster County State’s Attorney, Kara Brinster, noted that the surveyor has been out to Juanita. Brinster stated that he has some questions that the two need to touch base on.

New Business

Nate Monson, Road Superintendent, provided an update to the BOCC. Michael Rivinius, Wold Engineering, visited the county and assisted Monson with review of work completed for the flex funding project. Both Rivinius and Monson noted the transition around the railroad tracks was rough. Rivinius was going to submit a letter on behalf of the county. Old breaks in the murphy road are starting to loosen up causing chunks and additional break ups in the road. The department completed mowing ditches. Monson noted that there was traffic hauling for the pipeline on non-haul roads and made some phone calls to redirect traffic.

Auditor/Treasurer Ellen Roundy requested the BOCC to set the 2026 preliminary budget hearing date and time. Commissioner Scanson motioned to set the 2026 preliminary budget hearing for Tuesday, September 15th at 9:00 AM at the Foster County Courthouse, seconded by Commissioner Roller. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Stutsman/Foster County Emergency Manager, Pam Blinksy, attended the meeting to introduce herself and her office staff. Daniel Schwartz with Nexus Planning attended the meeting via zoom. Blinsky provided an update on the MHMP and requested approval with signatures for the state contract. Blinksy stated that the contract with Nexus had been signed April 21st, 2026, and the grant was awarded on June 24th, 2026, for \$30,613.56 with the county share

being eligible for in-kind work. Commissioner Utke motioned to move forward with the MHMP seconded by Commissioner Scanson. Discussion included the timeline of the plan. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Haylee Viger, ND Department of Agriculture, attended the meeting via zoom to discuss the regional livestock development and planning grant program. This program breaks down GIS mapping and takes the layers into consideration to assist counties, townships and regional planning councils for livestock development planning. There is no cost to the county to join the program. Commissioner Hagel motioned to seek the grant be awarded to Foster County, seconded by Commissioner Roller. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Commissioner Utke provided pricing on tables for the community room from Office Experts. A sixty-inch table would cost \$800, and a forty-eight-inch table would cost \$750. The BOCC tabled purchasing any additional furniture for the community room. Commissioner Hagel provided an update from the personnel committee. An employee requested a mid-year adjustment for years of service. This department received a substantial increase in 2023 and is currently above their years of service on the current pay scale. Commissioner Scanson motioned to allow Commissioner Hagel to draft a letter with the Chairmans signature outlining the BOCC’s decision, seconded by Commissioner Roller. Commissioner Scanson noted that at the last regional council meeting he attended that two other counties around us have hired four individuals in the same role for below what Foster County currently offers for starting wages. All voted aye and the motion passed. The BOCC discussed employee nominations for NDACo awards. Commissioner Utke motioned to approve the BOCC draft and submit nominations for employee awards seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed.

With no further business, Chairman Copenhaver adjourned the meeting at 9:17 am.

Ellen Roundy
Foster County Auditor/Treasurer

Pat Copenhaver, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners