

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 18th, 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, Foster County Fair Board member Joel Lemer and Foster County Independent Reporter Taylor Rau.

The meeting began with approval of the minutes for the August 4th Commission Meeting and August 6th Special Commission meeting. Commissioner Hagel made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed.

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

40551	AMERICINN BY WINDHAM FARGO MEDICAL CENTER	99.00
40552	ARROWWOOD PRAIRIE CO-OP	1,234.44
40553	AVID HAWK, LLC	35.00
40554	BALCO UNIFORM CO., INC.	110.17
40555	BARNES COUNTY CORRECTIONS	100.00
40556	BESSETTE MOTORS, INC.	90.16
40557	BRISS OIL COMPANY	495.00
40558	BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	55.04
40559	C & J OIL COMPANY	15,967.91
40560	CENTRAL CITY H20+	13.50
40561	COREAN SWART	60.00
40562	DACOTAH PAPER COMPANY	103.28
40563	HEARTLAND HEATING & COOLING	354.76
40564	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT.	1,417.65
40565	MIDSTATES EQUIPMENT & SUPPLY	63.00
40566	NAPA AUTO PARTS	42.07
40567	ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AND TRIBAL VSO	120.00
40568	OK TIRE STORE	994.08
40569	SOFTWARE INNOVATIONS	5,800.00
40570	STUTSMAN CO. CORRECTION CENTER	500.00

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

Old Business

No discussion had with old business.

New Business

Nate Monson, Road Superintendent, provided an update to the BOCC. Monson contacted four dealerships for a disc mower. Butler Machinery was the only dealership with access to a twelve-foot disc mower and carried applicable parts. Commissioner Utke motioned to approve the purchase for \$23,500 seconded by Commissioner Roller. Roll call vote included:

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

motion passed. There were two utility permits submitted for approval. One from North Dakota Telephone company to bury a fiber optic cable and the second from Greater Ramsey to install a two-inch pipe. Commissioner Hagel motioned to approve both utility permits seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed. Wold Engineering provided an easement overlap document for approval with applicable signatures. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve the agreement seconded by Commissioner Roller. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Jeff Gale and Carrie Nichols presented results from the NDSF. Twenty Foster County 4-H’ers exhibited projects at the NDSF. In livestock competitions, participants exhibited seven beef, four dairy, one goat, nine sheep and fifteen swine with several earning class, breed and overall champion honors. Foster County also had strong results in showmanship, including grand champion in the round-robin contest. The 4-H’ers also exhibited fifty-two static projects, earning numerous grand champions, reserve champion and Awards of Excellence honors in areas such as agriculture, science, technology, arts, food and civic engagement. Two 4-H’ers also received an Award of Excellence in the State 4-H Communication Arts Contest.

Auditor/Treasurer Ellen Roundy requested approval for supplies from NAPA for the generator. Commissioner Hagel motioned to approve the purchases, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed. The Auditor/Treasurer office is working on record retention and would like a roll-off dumpster to dispose of items. One estimate was received from Bryce Carr. Commissioner Hagel motioned to approve Carr’s estimate seconded by Commissioner Roller. All voted aye and the motion passed. Roundy has reached out to other auditing firms to complete 2023-2024 audits. The office has worked with the State Auditors office but has noticed delays due

to other projects being placed in front of the counties. Roundy requested to move forward with Widmer & Roel once the 2021-2022 Audits are completed. Commissioner Utke commended the Auditor/Treasurer’s office in getting the county caught up from delinquent audits dating back to 2013 and motioned to provide notice to Widmer and Roel to accept the proposal for the 2023–2024-year audits as soon as the state completes the 2021 – 2022 audits seconded by Commissioner Hagel. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Karen Evans, Tax Director, presented one abatement for the 2025 tax year for Tara Jones in the amount of \$640.40 for Homestead Credit. Commissioner Roller motioned to approve the abatement seconded by Commissioner Hagel. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Commissioner discussion included placing a question on the ballot to increase County Agent mills. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve the resolution to increase mills for the County Agent from two up to four, seconded by Commissioner Hagel. Resolution 2026-03 was read:

WHEREAS, Section 57-15-06.7 of the North Dakota Century Code allows the Board of County Commissioners to assess up to four mills for county agent extension services, and

WHEREAS, the County Agent’s office is involved in agricultural programs, 4-H and youth activities and in providing information to the communities in Foster County, and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has been advised that an additional two mills would aid in the operation of the County Agents work, and

WHEREAS, The Board has, through its own investigation and observation, confirmed that the current mill levy of 2.00 mills is not sufficient for the Office’s operation and the County has been obligated to help the County Agent’s office by subsidizing the funding from the County General Fund;

WHEREAS, appropriate funding is desirable for continuation of these services and the question must be submitted to the electors of Foster County for approval or disapproval,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Foster County Board of Commissioners propose an increase of 2 mills for the maximum of 4 mills levied to the county agent extension services for a time period of ten years pursuant to Section 11-38-01 of the North Dakota Century Code and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT approval of this question be submitted to the electors of Foster County at the General Election to be held on November 3rd, 2026, in which the ballot should read as follows:

COUNTY MEASURE NO. 1

Authorized Mill Levy for Extension Services

Shall the Board of County Commissioners of Foster County be authorized to assess up to four (4) mills for county agent extension services for a period not to exceed ten (10) years in accordance with Sections 57-15-06.7(2) and 11-38-01 of the North Dakota Century Code?

A “YES” vote means you approve the measure as summarized above

A “NO” vote means you do not approve the measure as summarized above

Roll call vote included:

Commissioner Roller – aye

Commissioner Utke – aye

Commissioner Copenhaver – aye

Commissioner Scanson – aye

Commissioner Hagel – aye

motion passed. Additional discussion included easement with the Murphy road and how to proceed with landowners. Commissioner Utke motioned to contact Wold Engineering that Foster County will remove the pavement within the easement for the grinding project and ask Wold Engineering to notify the landowners regarding the excess pavement via certified mail, seconded by Commissioner Hagel. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Commissioner Utke provided an update on the SIRN project. There is a tree located on the west side of the playground by the courthouse that needs to be removed. Commissioner Hagel motioned to approve Jesse Schroeder’s quote of \$1,100 to remove the tree and grind the stump down seconded by Commissioner Scanson. Roll call voted included:

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

motion passed. The next six-county meeting will be held in McIntosh County on Thursday, September 10th, 2026, at 10:00 AM. The 2026 preliminary budget hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, September 15th, 2026, at 9:00 AM at the Foster County Courthouse.

With no further business, Chairman Copenhaver adjourned the meeting at 9:20 am.

Ellen Roundy
Foster County Auditor/Treasurer

Pat Copenhaver, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners