

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 1st, 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 and Foster County Independent Reporter Taylor Rau.

The meeting began with approval of the minutes for the August 18th Commission Meeting. Commissioner Hagel noted a correction. Commissioner Utke made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction, seconded by Commissioner Roller. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Commissioner Hagel noted that the Foster County Independent published on August 24th, 2026, that the road department was purchasing a handi-hitch for \$34,000 when it was a disc mower for \$23,500. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve the bills, seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed.

40593	ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS	130.00
40594	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, INC.	230.62
40595	BESSETTE MOTORS, INC.	670.37
40596	BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY	9,820.85
40597	BRINSTER LAW, P.C.	104.71
40598	BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	23,500.00
40599	CARRINGTON MOTORS INC	10,719.19
40600	CENTRAL CITY H20+	60.00
40601	COMPUTER EXPRESS	1,139.99
40602	CTK GROUP	525.00
40603	ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE	360.00
40604	FOSTER COUNTY INDEPENDENT	671.09
40605	HAGEL STORAGE	400.00
40606	JOHNSON CONTROLS FIRE PROTECTION LP	1,305.23
40607	JUSTIN JOHNSON	594.16
40608	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, LLC	165.17
40609	PAT BIEL TRUCKING INC.	9,450.40
40610	RDO TRUCK CENTERS	851.91
40611	STUTSMAN COUNTY AUDITOR	2,000.00
40612	TRAVIS TESCH	56.96
40613	WILLIAM J GALE	113.87

Commissioner Scanson requested to add an update on Ramsey rural water at the Grace City Shop to the agenda. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve the agenda with the addition, seconded by Commissioner Hagel. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Old Business

Commissioner Utke provided an update to community room furniture options; no decision was made.

New Business

Nate Monson, Road Superintendent, provided an update to the BOCC prior to the meeting. Rain total for the year through August 2026 is eleven inches. Signs are up on the South Bordulac road for work to begin on the ½ mile broken up spot. Signs are up on the Murphy Road with shoulder prep starting this week and main milling will begin on September 8th. Monson noted that the new disc mower has worked great. Garrison Diversion submitted a utility permit application for approval. The BOCC reviewed minutes from October 2nd, 2024. In 2024, the BOCC approved open cuts on the Dump Ground Road and Kensal highway for payment of \$10,000 and maintenance provided by Garrison indefinitely with prior cuts to be determined later. The utility permit was submitted for the Kensal highway and Bordulac Road. The Bordulac road was not previously addressed as the work had been completed prior to GDCCD coming to the BOCC for approval. Commissioner Utke motioned to reject the utility permit with a memo sent to GDCCD from the BOCC indicating that, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Kyle Schroeder, Foster County Fair Board, approached the BOCC with items to include on the bid sheet for the fairground building roofs. Hailey Bachmeier, Chief Deputy Auditor/Treasurer, has put together bid specs based on information provided by the Fair Board, BOCC and State’s Attorney. Discussion included clarification on how the project should be bid. Commissioner Utke commended the time and effort that Bachmeier has put into the bid spec sheet. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve the bid for the Fairground roofs with a bid deadline of September 28th, 2026, at 4:00 PM and bid opening Tuesday September 29th, 2026, at 8:00 AM, seconded by Commissioner Utke. Additional discussion included having the ad in the paper for a total of three weeks. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Auditor/Treasurer, Ellen Roundy, informed the BOCC that the county will need to look at purchasing a new server in 2028. She received a quote from Software Innovations and Computer Express for roughly \$38,000. Two years prior, the same estimate would have been \$26,000. Inflation, Data Centers, supply and demand have driven costs. The programmer and software company would allow split payments between two years if necessary. No action taken. Roundy stated that the safety committee completed work updating the security policy. Commissioner Utke motioned to approve the security policy, seconded by Commissioner Roller. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Commissioner discussion included easements on the Murphy Road. Foster County State’s Attorney, Kara Brinster, stated that there are serious concerns about not milling all county ownership within the easements. The BOCC does not want to set a precedent or make a decision that would negatively impact on the Road Department and future BOCC. The commissioners have traveled to the site and viewed where the markings are that extend to the easements. Commissioner Utke stated that the road remains a county road, the BOCC is still the road authority. This road was paved forty-seven years ago and the easements that were allowed back then may differ from what is required today. The BOCC reiterated that this decision is not the road department’s decision, it’s not Wold Engineering’s decision, it’s the Foster County Board of Commissioners decision and they will remain with the original motion from August 18th, 2026, to grind the pavement through to the county’s easement. Discussion continued with items needed at Juanita Lake. Signage has been put together by Bachmeier with sizing and estimate information provided to the BOCC. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve the purchase of a four-foot by five-foot sign with two posts, seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed. Commissioner Scanson updated the BOCC that Ramsey Rural Water will be bringing water to the Grace City Shop next week. Roundy presented an MOU with the State for 911 lines. Prices are going to \$1.59 per line effective July 1, 2027, through June 30, 2029. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve the MOU with the chairman’s signature, seconded by Commissioner Roller. All voted aye and the motion passed. Commissioner Hagel attended NDACo meetings. Most counties indicated their COLA increases are at around three percent. NDPHIT health insurance has seen a substantial increase across the state as well. Additional discussion included selecting a voting delegate for the NDSF and placing a hay removal notice in the Foster County Independent.

With no further business, Chairman Copenhaver adjourned the meeting at 9:39 am.

Ellen Roundy
Foster County Auditor/Treasurer

Pat Copenhaver, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners