

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021

At 3:30pm, Chairman Hagel called the Foster County Commission meeting to order. Roll call included Commissioner Alan Scanson, Commissioner Becky Hagel, Commissioner Pat Copenhaver, Commissioner David Utke and Commissioner Scott Beumer. Also present were Auditor Brad Solberg, Road Superintendent Nate Monson, States Attorney Kara Brinster and Foster County Independent Reporter Leasa Lura.

The meeting began with approval of the minutes. Commissioner Scanson made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 meeting, seconded by Commissioner Beumer. All voted aye and the motion passed.

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

31549		ARROWWOOD PRAIRIE CO-OP		977.58
31550		AVID HAWK, LLC		35.00
31551		BERTS TRUCK EQUIPMENT OF MHD INC		523.30
31552		BRISS OIL COMPANY		76.00
31553		BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY		1,244.45
31554		C & J OIL COMPANY		901.70
31555		CENTRAL CITY LUMBER INC.		99.81
31556		COMPUTER EXPRESS		240.00
31557		DACOTAH PAPER COMPANY		612.91
31558		DAKOTA FIRE EXTINGUISHERS		418.60
31559		ENVELOPES.COM		403.80
31560		FOSTER COUNTY INDEPENDENT		191.00
31561		FOSTER COUNTY TREASURER		276.20
31562		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT.		792.00
31563		JOHNSON CONTROLS FIRE PROTECTION LP		447.51
31564		JUSTIN JOHNSON		170.00
31565		LEAF		74.80
31566		LISA D HILBERT		12.00
31567		MATTHEW BENDER & CO., INC.		44.43
31568		MIDSTATES EQUIPMENT & SUPPLY		13,028.85
31569		NAPA AUTO PARTS		204.86
31570		ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES		25.00
31571		ND STATE RADIO COMMUNICATION		10.00
31572		NDACO RESOURCES GROUP		40.00
31573		NORMONT EQUIPMENT CO.		3,800.00
31574		OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL- 1250		560.00
31575		OK TIRE STORE		33.00
31576		PATRIOT FUELS		280.41
31577		PHARMCHEM INC		28.55
31578		QUADIENT LEASING USA, INC.		417.00
31579		QUILL CORPORATION		401.89
31580		RICK'S WHOLESALE TIRE INC.		28.00
31581		RUNNING'S SUPPLY, INC.		279.87
31582		SIDWELL COMPANY		6,420.00
31583		SOFTWARE INNOVATIONS		9,500.00
31584		STUTSMAN CO. CORRECTION CENTER		150.00
31585		SYNCB/AMAZON		44.95
31586		THOMAS MOTORS		976.09
31587		WATCH GUARD VIDEO		11,495.00

Auditor Solberg requested to add lawn mower to the agenda. Commissioner Utke asked to have EAPC update on the agenda. Commissioner Scanson made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Old Business

Discussion was had on the County Gravel Pit. Commissioner Hagel stated that there is a Fee Simple Title on the property and that it belongs to Foster County. BOCC is waiting on written verbiage from ND Attorney General's office.

#### New Business

Nate Monson, Road Superintendent, mentioned to the BOCC that there has been little to no maintenance needed since the last meeting. Monson stated that crack sealing has started on the Grace City Road. Monson also mentioned that the Road Department has started to blade some washboard areas as well.

Auditor Solberg presented two options for the current lawn mower from Leading Edge. The first option was to purchase the mower for \$2,857.90 or lease a new mower for 36 months at an annual cost of \$1,364.81. Commissioner Scanson made a motion to lease the new mower for 36 months at an annual cost of \$1,364.81, all voted aye and the motion passed.

Commissioner Hagel stated that she had spoken to Tom Lind from the Historic Society about future projects around the building. Solberg is working with EAPC to get an updated report for estimated costs on future projects.

Tax Equalization Director Karen Evans presented the BOCC with 5 Homestead credit abatements. Commissioner Scanson made a motion to approve all 5 abatements, seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Sidwell and Foster County personnel (Scott Beumer and Karen Evans) discussed the most recent contract, the county-wide ag land review project, and Sidwell's request for additional funds to complete the ag land review project. When the most recent contract came up for renewal with Sidwell (October 2020) and with Sidwell aware that we would be doing a county-wide ag land review project, the contract was signed at a flat-rate fee of \$4,920 for each of 2 years. Both Arlette and I thought the changes from the county-wide ag land review project would be mostly land use changes (i.e., ag land to non-crop land that would require only "pushing a button" to make the change). However, after processing 751 of the 1,082 changes, Arlette's staff indicated that many parcels required acreage changes and a redrawing of the parcel map, which is much more work. In addition, in the ag land review, Dustin used 2019 imagery and Sidwell had 2014 imagery. This added another layer of complexity to the changes Sidwell had to make. I was unaware that the 2019 imagery would increase Sidwell's workload. Had Sidwell correctly anticipated the work that needed to be done for the county-wide ag land review project, they would not have negotiated the October 2020, 2-year contract at \$4,920; it would have been much higher. The \$9,900 that Sidwell is requesting to complete the county-wide ag land review project is for an estimated 90 hours additional work at a reduced rate of \$110/hour. Their usual hourly rate is \$120/hour. The next step is to propose to Sidwell that \$4,920 for the second year of the current contract be paid now and end that contract. Then set up a new contract that will be a per-parcel contract for the next 2 years, which will include the completion of the county-wide ag land review project in the first year of the contract (\$4,980) and an unknown dollar amount in the second year of the contract (probably 20-50 parcel changes at a per-parcel fee, which has been \$15/parcel change and \$15/polygon change). Thus, this year we would pay \$4,920 and \$4,980, which is \$9,900 to complete the ag land review project (1st year of new contract) and set us up for actual changes with significantly less expense after the ag land review project is completed (2nd year of new contract). Commissioner Beumer made a motion to pay \$4,920 and \$4,980 to complete the ag land review project, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Kyle Schroeder and Darwin Solberg presented a request to the BOCC about getting new stage and risers for the fairgrounds. These risers would need to be ordered through the county to receive the discount. The BOCC's consensus was to allow that to happen. Next, they requested to sell the old food building at the fairgrounds. They would like to put it up for bids and would like to turn it into a picnic area. States Attorney Brinster stated that she would look into bid details about the project.

Covid-19 vaccine numbers were discussed.

The BOCC discussed about where to hold future commission meetings. The consensus was to continue to meet upstairs in Courtroom for the near future.

Emergency Manager Devereaux presented a burn ban to the BOCC. The burn ban would be in effect when the fire index rating is Very High/Extreme/Red Flag Warning. Commissioner Beumer made a motion to approve the burn ban, seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. All voted aye and the motion passed.

With no further business, Commissioner Hagel adjourned the meeting at 5:07pm.

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Brad Solberg  
Foster County Auditor

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Becky Hagel, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners