

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 2nd, 2022

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

The meeting began with approval of the minutes. Commissioner Hagel made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 19th, 2022, regular meeting with one spelling correction seconded by Commissioner Beumer. All voted aye and the motion passed.

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

34028	701 WASH	180.00
34029	BALCO UNIFORM CO., INC.	107.00
34030	BECKY HAGEL	45.00
34031	BRIGID GLENNEN	45.00
34032	BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	8,644.54
34033	CENTRAL CITY H20+	61.00
34034	CENTRAL CITY LUMBER INC.	489.11
34035	CMF	1,344.97
34036	DACOTAH PAPER COMPANY	258.52
34037	DAKOTA DUST-TEX INC	119.95
34038	DIANNE HERTEL	65.02
34039	DR. JAY BAUER	45.00
34040	DR. MICHAEL PAGE	45.00
34041	ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE	4,921.40
34042	FARMERS UNION INSURANCE	920.00
34043	FOSTER COUNTY INDEPENDENT	1,990.37
34044	HOLLY N. ZIEMAN	112.50
34045	JACQUI NELSON, PAC	45.00
34046	LEAF	64.00
34047	MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS, INC.	40,085.60
34048	NATHAN MONSON	23.50
34049	NORMONT EQUIPMENT CO.	1,217.91
34050	QUILL CORPORATION	97.27
34051	RDO EQUIPMENT CO.	1,482.07
34052	RUNNING'S SUPPLY, INC.	553.09
34053	US RECORDS MIDWEST LLC	195.92
34054	USPS	1,446.00
34055	WILLIAM J GALE	628.38
34056	WOLD ENGINEERING, P.C.	4,496.76

Commissioner Beumer made a motion to approve the agenda seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Old Business

No new business reported for the gravel pit.

Commissioner Hagel stated there is no update with NEXUS contract.

Commission Policy Updates will remain on the agenda until taken care of, nothing new to report.

New Business

Nate Monson, Road Superintendent, approached the BOCC with an update from the Road Department. There have been no major or minor repairs to any equipment. A total of 1.85" rain for the month of July. The McHenry washout is done except for getting the flared ends put on. Monson found two options for porta potty's at the Grace City Shop. Option one is a rental that includes maintenance for \$3,000 per year. Option two would be to purchase a porta potty and have it maintained for \$2,650 for the first year and \$1,800/ year after thereafter. Commissioner Beumer made a motion to go with option two of purchasing the porta potty and having it maintained seconded by Commissioner Hagel. Roll call vote included: Commissioner Beumer: aye, Commissioner Hagel: aye, Commissioner Copenhaver: aye, and Commissioner Scanson: aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Utke arrived at the meeting at 3:45pm

The BOCC discussed the two options for motor graders. The total for the RDO bid after trade in with the 2016 John Deere 772GP is \$86,260.00 for a 2023 John Deere model 772GP, an additional trade in for the 2016 CAT 140M3 is \$89,260.00 for a 2023 John Deere model 772GP. Butler bid for a 2023 CAT model 150 AWD after trade in using the 2016 CAT 140M3 is \$188,000.00. Additional trade in for another 2023 CAT model 150 AWD of 2016 John Deere 772GP is \$178,400.00. Commissioner Beumer made a motion to purchase two 2023 John Deere model 772GP from RDO bid seconded by Commissioner Utke. Roll call vote included: Commissioner Beumer: aye, Commissioner Hagel: aye, Commissioner Copenhaver: aye, Commissioner Scanson: aye, and Commissioner Utke: aye. Motion carried. The Commissioners thanked Kevin and Butler for their time in the bid process.

Lisa Hilbert, Public Health Administrator, approached the board about hiring for the Prevention Coordinator position. They had an applicant and interviewed. The position currently is not on the Foster County Salary Scale. Discussion was had on where to place the position on the scale and what step to place the applicant on with years of service. Commissioner Hagel made a motion to place the Prevention Coordinator position on Grade 9, and placing the current applicant on Step 7, seconded by Commissioner Beumer. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Thomas Erdmann, City of Carrington Mayor, approached the board about the current assessing contract that the City of Carrington has with Foster County. He would like to see the amount reduced. Discussion was had regarding the change in requirements for certified assessors. Also included was discussion from NDCC 11-10.1-05. The BOCC had previously approved the contract and will continue with the contract price of \$15,000.

Ellen Roundy, Interim Auditor, made a recommendation to the BOCC to move the Clerk of Court up from Grade 9, step 6 to Grade 11, step 6. This puts the position in line with other department heads. Commissioner Beumer made a motion to move the Clerk of Court from Grade 9, step 6 to Grade 11, step 6, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed. Roundy also asked the BOCC to bring agenda items to the next commissioner meeting for the upcoming 6-County meeting to be held in Foster County, September 13th.

The BOCC had originally approved a 5% increase in wages for the 2022 year. They reduced it to 4% at the final budget meeting in 2021, holding back 1% if adjustments needed to be made. The Commissioners would like to see that 1% go back to the employees with the increased cost. Interim Auditor Roundy had presented the BOCC with a lump sum amount even across the board for all full-time employees with part time employees receiving a pro-rated amount. Casual employees were not figured in. Commissioner Beumer made a motion to pay out the 1% to employees following the figures provided to the BOCC in one lump sum, seconded by Commissioner Hagel. Roll call included: Commissioner Beumer: aye, Commissioner Hagel: aye, Commissioner Copenhaver: aye, Commissioner Scanson: aye, and Commissioner Utke: aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Hagel presented new information about the current mills that are set to expire for Farm to Market in January 2025. Option 1: we can let that expire. The BOCC can levy 10 mills without voter approval. This would be a wash and we could levy for that in the Highway fund. The Farm to Market fund would then be gone. Second item that could be done in conjunction with option one would be to levy up to another 10 mills for highway. This would have to be voter approved. If we were to do this, each city would get a portion of that total. Another 10 mills could be added on with voter approval No sharing involved in the third set of mills. Clarification would still be needed on if the mills would expire or not. Option 2: We could put Farm to Market back on the ballot to be voted on and extended for another ten years. Option 3: Add ballot question for current two mills for County Road. The BOCC would like to wait and see financials once the audit is completed before moving forward.

At the previous commissioner meeting, the Historical Society had approached the BOCC about additional funding. Interim Auditor had contacted the State Auditor's office on the boards behalf and their conclusion was: We are hesitant to see the county give from the general fund; this sets a precedent for other fiduciary entities. If this is going to be something that the Historical Society is going to be looking for every year, they should look at increasing their mill rate. The BOCC will relay this information to the Historical Society.

Commissioner Utke is waiting on EAPC for more information to bring to the BOCC regarding the basement project. Nothing new was reported with NDPHIT. Nothing new to report for the Ambulance building. Commissioner Beumer gave an update for JDA/CDC. Commissioner Hagel had attended the BOH meeting. There are septic issues with landowners not responding that will have to be sent to the State's Attorney. Commissioner Hagel also attended Human Services zone meeting. The new director is doing well. Discussion was had for the human services proposal to add time clocks for employees. Commissioner Utke and Commissioner Scanson had spoken with the soil conservation. Two of the three varieties that were planted at Juanita Lake are not responding well. They will look at the potential of replanting next spring.

With no further business, Commissioner Copenhaver adjourned the meeting at 5:12pm.

Ellen Roundy
Foster County Interim Auditor

Patrick Copenhaver, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners