

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 19th, 2023

At 3:32pm, Vice-Chairman Utke called the Foster County Commission meeting to order. Roll call included Commissioner David Utke, Commissioner Pat Copenhaver, Commissioner Alan Scanson via phone, and Commissioner Becky Hagel via phone. Also, present were Auditor/Treasurer Ellen Roundy, State's Attorney Kara Brinster, and Foster County Independent Reporter Leasa Lura.

The meeting began with approval of the minutes for the September 5th, 2023, regular meeting, September 8th, 2023, Special Meeting, September 11th, 2023, Public Hearing, and September 13th, 2023, Special Meeting. Commissioner Hagel motioned to approve all minutes, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed.

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

36096	ARROWWOOD PRAIRIE CO-OP	520.26
36097	AUTO VALUE PARTS STORE	56.98
36098	AVID HAWK, LLC	35.00
36099	BARNES COUNTY CORRECTIONS	2,992.89
36100	BESSETTE MOTORS, INC.	803.46
36101	BRAGER DISPOSAL SERVICE	349.00
36102	BREMER BANK, N.A.	70.00
36103	BRISS OIL COMPANY	233.20
36104	BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	262.51
36105	CARRINGTON MOTORS INC	1,180.00
36106	CENTRAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS	157.80
36107	CMF	1,065.93
36108	COMPUTER EXPRESS	10,294.35
36109	COMPUTER EXPRESS	900.00
36110	HANSON-RUNSVOLD FUNERAL HOME	372.75
36111	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT.	909.95
36112	JEFF GOLZ	1,500.00
36113	JUSTIN JOHNSON	97.55
36114	KOLLMAN FURNACE REPAIRS	1,516.49
36115	MERLE OR EUNICE MUNSON	700.00
36116	NORMONT EQUIPMENT CO.	1,571.22
36117	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, LLC	278.99
36118	PAT BIEL TRUCKING INC.	7,753.00
36119	QUADIENT FINANCE	1,000.00
36120	QUADIENT LEASING USA, INC.	417.00
36121	RUNNING'S SUPPLY, INC.	63.01
36122	STUTSMAN CO. CORRECTION CENTER	6,975.00
36123	WHOLESALE AG PRODUCTS	118.75
36124	WILLIAM J GALE	347.81

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

Old Business

No old business to report.

New Business

Ellen Roundy, Auditor/Treasurer, presented the BOCC with the final budget for 2024. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to approve the 2024 budget, seconded by Commissioner Hagel. All voted aye and the motion passed. Roundy informed the BOCC that when their IT Contractor was at the Courthouse installing equipment, he indicated that it is too warm in the server room. The plan has always been to move the server, but it needs to be done sooner rather than later. There was no objection from the BOCC allowing Roundy to start prepping that work. Roundy provided the BOCC with the resignation from the EM/911 Coordinator Darlene Thomas. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to approve the resignation and open the position, seconded by Commissioner Hagel. Commissioner Hagel stated that she spoke with Joe Lies and there is potential for a temporary agreement however it is not permanent, it would cover the position until hired and they are not prepared for that to happen yet. All voted aye and the motion passed. A committee met to review the Security plan. Commissioner Hagel motioned to approve the updated security plan with changes, seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. All voted aye and the motion passed. Roundy presented the Juanita Lake Rental Agreement. Their office didn't have a lot to work with. The consensus is to continue last year's process for this year and Commissioner Utke and Commissioner Scanson will go out to the lake this winter to assess the situation. Roundy presented the BOCC with corrections to Aflac and Retirement. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to approve the corrections, seconded by Commissioner Hagel. All voted aye and the motion passed. At 3:00pm earlier that day, they held the bid opening for the JD 4440 Tractor. They received five bids with the high bid being \$28,000 to Stuart Walen. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to accept the high bid, seconded by Commissioner Hagel. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Justin Johnson, Sheriff, approached the BOCC requesting higher starting wages for the deputy position and additional money for Seargeant Kruse. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to approve advertising the starting salary at \$55,000, seconded by Commissioner Hagel. All voted aye and the motion passed. Commissioner Hagel wanted to note that when the BOCC voted to approve the additional overtime it was a huge step financially for the office. Commissioner Hagel motioned to approve an additional dollar raise for Seargeant Kruse on top of the 3% COLA starting in 2024, seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Nate Monson, Road Superintendent, provided the BOCC with an update from the Road Department. The department finished mowing highway ditches on September 18th. The docks at Juanita Lake were taken out earlier this month. Monson has ordered salt for sanding this winter. Commissioner Scanson had requested costs for a Ready Hitch for the mower. RDO priced one at \$22,000 and Butler priced one at \$33,000. The BOCC requested more information on the hitch.

Discussion was had on adding a tax per ton on trucks using the gravel pit. Auditor Roundy will do some research. There is potential for county roads to be opened again next year with the Garrison Diversion project. The County will look at haul maps and consequences for not hauling on designated roads. Roundy provided the BOCC with information from Tax Director Evans on the valuation for permanent and temporary easements. States Attorney Kara Brinster stated that the individual would still own the land and if they choose to sell the land, they will receive money for the 3.48 acres in the easement. Commissioner Hagel motioned to change the fee schedule to \$1,000 per acre for permanent easement and \$500 per acre for temporary easement, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. Discussion was had and the motion failed. Commissioner Hagel motioned to change the fee schedule to \$1,200 per acre for permanent easement and \$600 for temporary easement, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed. Brinster stated based on the statute, no other action is required for the combination, consolidation, and appointment of the Foster County Auditor/Treasurer office. The resolution stands. Discussion was had on the current organization of committees for the BOCC. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to appoint Commissioner Hagel to the JDA and remove her appointment from the Board of Health, and to appoint Commissioner Beumer to the Board of Health and remove his appointment from the JDA, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed. The BOCC allowed Commissioner Utke permission to start contacting electricians for repairs at Juanita Lake Campground. EAPC was at the Courthouse last week meeting with contractors for the basement project. Jeff Gale had provided documents to the BOCC for scope of work that the Extension office does. The County will have to look at increasing their mills and how they want to educate the public.

With no further business, Vice-Chairman Utke adjourned the meeting at 5:05 pm.

Ellen Roundy
Foster County Auditor/Treasurer

David Utke, Vice-Chairman
Board of County Commissioners