

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 7th, 2023

At 3:30pm, Chairman Scanson called the Foster County Commission meeting to order. Roll call included Commissioner Scott Beumer, Commissioner Becky Hagel via phone, Commissioner Alan Scanson, Commissioner Pat Copenhaver, and Commissioner David Utke. Also present was Auditor/Treasurer Ellen Roundy, Road Superintendent Nate Monson, State's Attorney Kara Brinster, Foster County Independent reporter Leasa Lura and Joelle VanderLinden with Load Pass.

The meeting began with approval of the minutes for the October 17th, 2023, regular meeting and October 17th, 2023, public hearing. Commissioner Beumer motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed.

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

36270	ALAN SCANSON	181.70
36271	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, INC.	603.01
36272	ARROWWOOD PRAIRIE CO-OP	690.41
36273	AUTO VALUE PARTS STORE	9.18
36274	BALCO UNIFORM CO., INC.	75.82
36275	BECKY HAGEL	108.08
36276	BESSETTE MOTORS, INC.	194.64
36277	BISMARCK RAMKOTA HOTEL	96.30
36278	BRINSTER LAW, P.C.	238.23
36279	BRISS OIL COMPANY	474.60
36280	C & J OIL COMPANY	17,379.43
36281	CENTRAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS	112.27
36282	CENTRAL CITY H20+	22.50
36283	CRAIG WIESZ	45.85
36284	DACOTAH PAPER COMPANY	78.90
36285	FOSTER COUNTY INDEPENDENT	1,001.27
36286	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT.	948.40
36287	J & J STRIPING (TRUCKING)	23,119.88
36288	JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	88.66
36289	KARA BRINSTER	163.75
36290	KAREN EVANS	316.05
36291	LAKE REGION LAW ENFORCE. GEN.	255.00
36292	LYNELLE R LYMAN HOPPE	206.57
36293	MAERTENS WELDING AND MACHINE COMPANY	2,666.69
36294	NAPA AUTO PARTS	1,040.11
36295	ND STATE RADIO COMMUNICATION	17,136.32
36296	ND STATE UNIVERSITY	250.00
36297	NDACO RESOURCES GROUP	1,251.20
36298	NEWMAN TRAFFIC SIGNS	3,014.41
36299	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, LLC	517.71
36300	PATRIOT FUELS	59.27
36301	PHARMCHEM INC	31.95
36302	POST BOARD	45.00
36303	RUNNING'S SUPPLY, INC.	861.35
36304	SIDWELL COMPANY	5,450.00
36305	STUTSMAN CO. CORRECTION CENTER	10,725.00
36306	THE MEDICINE SHOPPE	61.29
36307	USPS	118.00
36308	VETERANS INFORMATION SERVICE	65.00
36309	WILLIAM J GALE	523.92

Commissioner Utke asked to include Township Cost Allocation under commissioner discussion. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to approve the agenda with the addition, seconded by Commissioner Beumer. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Old Business

No old business to report.

New Business

Nate Monson, Road Superintendent, provided the BOCC with an update from the Road Department. Snow totals for the season in the Carrington area is 10.50". J & L striping painted new lines on Grace City and Kensal highways as it had been six years since it was last done. The road department has also switched to their winter hours.

Joelle VanderLinden, Load Pass representative provided information to the BOCC regarding permits for non-divisible overweight and oversized loads on participating county, township, and city roadways. There are currently 34 counties signed up with the permitting system. The county would be able to retain control of local roadways and increase revenue to help with maintenance. The initial set up cost would be \$1,500 and then for every year after that the cost is based on the number of permits requested from the previous year. Discussion was had on set up and clarification on fees. Commissioner Copenhagen motioned to sign on with load pass on the county level seconded by Commissioner Utke. Roll call voted included:

- Commissioner Beumer – aye
- Commissioner Hagel – aye
- Commissioner Scanson – aye
- Commissioner Copenhagen – aye
- Commissioner Utke – aye

motion passed.

Kale VanBruggen, Foster County Water Board Attorney, spoke with the BOCC regarding the next steps for project Drain #1. The landowners approved the project at 74.35%. The Water Board engineers have obtained the permits and all appeal timelines have expired. Financing has been approved by the Department of Water Resources and the Bank of ND. VanBruggen discussed the easement process with the BOCC. Commissioner Utke asked for clarification on quick take and eminent domain and VanBruggen provided further explanation.

Commissioner discussion included the upcoming meetings with the township on November 14th and updating the road maintenance rates and credit allocation program. Nate Monson, the road superintendent had previously provided the BOCC with actual hourly costs. Currently the county charges \$110.00/hour for contracted rates and \$150.00/hour for non-contracted rates. The cost to the county to operate is \$141.52/hour. State's Attorney Kara Brinster stated that we shouldn't be undercutting private entities by offering it at a lower amount. There is an AG's opinion that states we should be charging at a minimum the cost to operate or close to it. Commissioner Scanson stated that every dollar the county loses is one less dollar that can be put towards county roads. Brinster stated that if individuals in the county are concerned about county roads, we need to do our part to maintain that and we are not in competition with private industries. Commissioner Copenhagen asked Brinster about the contract. Brinster stated that it's similar to an MOU, we need to know where we are at as far as allocating resources to the road department and if we do not know how many roads need to maintain we do not have the ability to properly staff and finance resources to the road department. Commissioner Hagel discussed the delinquency of payments for services and the importance of getting townships paying in the current year. Commissioner Utke motioned to increase the contracted road maintenance hourly rate to \$140.00/hour seconded by Commissioner Beumer. All voted aye and the motion passed. Commissioner Hagel motioned to increase the non-contracted maintenance rate to \$180.00/hour, seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed. Commissioner Copenhagen motioned to leave the township cost allocation as is, seconded by Commissioner Beumer. All voted aye and the motion passed. Commissioner Utke stated that one bid was received for the basement project in the amount of \$2,499,317. There are also alternatives that would add costs to the project. Commissioner Utke stated that he and Commissioner Scanson along with Auditor/Treasurer Roundy have met and discussed options with Chris Thomas from EAPC. As soon as additional information is available, there will be a special meeting to discuss the bid and options. The BOCC will meet with each township on November 14th to discuss contracts and snowplow routes. There will be a Six-County meeting held in Linton, ND on December 12th at 10:00 AM.

With no further business, Chairman Scanson adjourned the meeting at 5:16 pm.

Ellen Roundy
Foster County Auditor/Treasurer

Alan Scanson, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners