

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 21st, 2023

At 3:30pm, Chairman Scanson called the Foster County Commission meeting to order. Roll call included Commissioner Scott Beumer, Commissioner Becky Hagel, 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, and Foster County Independent reporter Leasa Lura.

The meeting began with approval of the minutes for the November 7th, 2023, regular meeting and November 9th, 2023, special meeting. Commissioner Utke motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Hagel. 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.

36352	AARON DEVEREAUX	22.95
36353	AVID HAWK, LLC	35.00
36354	BARNES COUNTY CORRECTIONS	2,684.95
36355	BLUE 360 MEDIA	158.41
36356	BRAGER DISPOSAL SERVICE	349.00
36357	CITY OF CARRINGTON	20.00
36358	COMPUTER EXPRESS	900.00
36359	EAPC ARCHITECTS ENGINEERS	2,172.29
36360	FOSTER COUNTY INDEPENDENT	33.50
36361	JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	80,897.91
36362	JUSTIN JOHNSON	960.03
36363	ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES	8,425.00
36364	ND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION	1,725.00
36365	ND STATE RADIO COMMUNICATION	17,513.07
36366	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, LLC	91.99
36367	WESTERN DAKOTA ENERGY ASSOCIATION	1,500.00

Commissioner Copenhaver asked to add grant discussion under the road department. Commissioner Hagel asked to include USDA grant information under Commissioner Discussion and Commissioner Scanson asked to add lots in the City of Juanita under Commissioner Discussion. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to approve the agenda with all additions, seconded by Commission Utke. 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. The department has been blading to get roads back in shape after the snow and harvest. Material costs for the year to repair spots on Club Hall highway and south Bordulac are estimated to be \$72,000. The department met with township supervisors to review rates, maps, and maintenance. Commissioner Copenhaver discussed grants for grinding up roads. Commissioner Hagel recommended that the Chairman visit with Mike Rivinius with Wold Engineering on project priority. The BOCC agreed and Chairman Scanson will provide an update.

Justin Johnson, Foster County Sheriff, presented the BOCC with information pertaining to HB1307 Back the Blue. Johnson presented the plan and discussed the extra hours the office is putting in with the vacancy. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to increase the starting wage to \$60,000 and approve the proposed plan for HB1307. Motion failed for lack of second. Commissioner Copenhaver proposed the resolution that the Foster County Commission authorizes the Sheriff to expend the Back the Blue Grant Funds approved in HB1307 which was passed by the 2023 Legislature, per the categories outlined as follows: retention and recruitment plan as provided by Sheriff Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed. Commissioner Copenhaver motion to increase the starting wage for the vacant position to \$60,000, seconded by Commissioner Utke. Roll call vote included:

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

motion passed. Johnson also stated that he has ordered the new squad vehicle for 2024. Johnson thanked the BOCC for their continued support.

Lee Wahlund, Foster County Resident, approached the BOCC regarding adding an approach. The BOCC stated that the local road authority falls to the township, and he had their approval. No action required by the BOCC.

Karen Evans, Tax Director, presented the BOCC with abatements for Homestead Credit and Disabled Veterans Credit. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to approve the abatements for Tara Jones year 2022, Dee Stedman years 2021 and 2022, Ken Wobbema years 2021 and 2022, Jason Hust year 2022, seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Ellen Roundy, Auditor/Treasurer, informed the BOCC that one property on the delinquent tax list had been redeemed prior to the sale and no one showed up so the County will have two properties in its name. She will post the lots for sale on the website. Roundy presented an agreement and membership agreement for LoadPass. Commissioner Utke motioned to approve both, seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. All voted aye and the motion passed. She presented the yearly Juanita Lake RV/Campground renewal license. Commissioner Utke motioned to approve the license, seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. All voted aye and the motion passed. Caring-ton preschool had submitted a local raffle for 2024 to be approved. Commissioner Beumer motioned to approve the raffle, seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. All voted aye and the motion passed. While working on audit items, it was noted that on January 21st, 2020, BOCC minutes the bills had been incorrect and copied from the January 7th, 2020, meeting. Roundy presented the bills that should be in the minutes and asked for a motion to correct the January 21st, 2020, minutes. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to approve the minutes with the corrected bills, seconded by Commissioner Utke. Roll call vote included:

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

motion passed.

Commissioner Hagel attended a presentation for USDA grants. It may be something that Foster County could apply for with energy efficient updates. Commissioner Scanson had an individual approach him regarding lots that Foster County owns in the City of Juantia. Commissioner Hagel motioned to approve the bid process for the four lots located in the City of Juanita, seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed. Commissioner Utke motioned to rescind the burn band, seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. All voted aye and the motion passed. Commissioner Utke noted that there have not been many updates on the building project since the last meeting. The contractors have approved to extend the bid acceptance date by two weeks. Commissioner Utke has been in communication with Chris Thomas, EAPC, and will discuss next steps if they cannot move forward with the entire project. Foster County State's Attorney has sent the lease agreement to the Ambulance legal team. No committee report updates.

With no further business, Chairman Scanson adjourned the meeting at 4:49 pm.

Ellen Roundy
Foster County Auditor/Treasurer

Alan Scanson, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners