

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

December 19th, 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, Central Prairie Zone Director Julie St. Germaine and Foster County Independent reporter Leasa Lura.

The meeting began with approval of the minutes for the December 5th, 2023, regular meeting and December 11th, 2023, special meeting. Commissioner Hagel noted two corrections. Commissioner Beumer motioned to approve the minutes with the corrections, 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.

36460	ARROWWOOD PRAIRIE CO-OP	416.17
36461	AVID HAWK, LLC	35.00
36462	BALCO UNIFORM CO., INC.	69.96
36463	BOOTE SEPTIC SOLUTIONS	125.00
36464	BRINSTER LAW, P.C.	129.44
36465	BRISS OIL COMPANY	406.90
36466	CMF	237.96
36467	COMPUTER EXPRESS	7,434.75
36468	DACOTAH PAPER COMPANY	87.20
36469	DAVID UTKE	64.19
36470	FOSTER COUNTY TREASURER	160.65
36471	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT.	948.40
36472	JUSTIN JOHNSON	230.62
36473	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, LLC	322.99
36474	PAT BIEL TRUCKING INC.	3,819.20
36475	QUADIENT FINANCE	1,000.00
36476	QUADIENT LEASING USA, INC.	417.00
36477	RUNNING'S SUPPLY, INC.	533.68
36478	SIDWELL COMPANY	890.00
36479	SOFTWARE INNOVATIONS	950.00
36480	TEAM LABORATORY CHEMICAL CORP.	884.50
36481	UNDERGROUND VAULTS & STORAGE	200.00
36482	WSI	250.00

Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner 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 county received around six inches of snow in December with the wind contributing to the clean up process. Monson provided the BOCC with two grant applications for the flex funding program. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to approve both applications, seconded by Commissioner Beumer. Discussion was had on the funding process; however, the county would still have to accept a grant before committing to the work. All voted aye and the motion passed. Monson provided the BOCC with an updated bid for the motor grader. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to approve advertising for the motor grader, seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Ellen Roundy, Auditor/Treasurer, presented two resolutions. One for the establishment of precincts and polling locations and one for the selection of election inspector. Roundy had spoken with Michele Seil at the Library and approved both the 2024 Primary and General Election location to be held at the Carrington Library. She also spoke with Marlene Boyer who has served as Foster County Election Inspector for many years and Boyer stated she would serve the role in 2024 as well.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Foster County approve the establishment of precincts and polling locations for the 2024 election cycle per NDCC 16.1-04, 16.1-07, and 16.1-11.1.

WHEREAS, currently, under state law, the Board of County Commissioners, in cooperation with the county auditor, shall set precinct boundaries by December 31st of the year preceding an election. Polling locations must be established by the 64th day before the election though traditionally, Foster County has set polling locations at the same time as precinct boundaries.

WHEREAS, the Foster County Auditor/Treasurer is committed to providing a positive voting experience to all voters within Foster County while simultaneously upholding the security and integrity of elections. Precinct boundaries were determined using logical boundaries within the county. Proximity, accessibility, and availability of locations were considered when selecting polling locations. The recommendation includes establishing one precinct and one polling location in Foster County.

WHEREAS, it is recommended that the Foster County Board of Commissioners adopt the proposed resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Foster County Commission approves the establishment of precincts and polling locations for the 2024 election cycle as presented; and authorizes the Foster County Auditor/Treasurer to establish early vote as presented and absentee ballot precinct, as necessary.

and

WHEREAS, The Board of County Commissioners of Foster County approve the appointment of election inspector for the 2024 election cycle per NDCC 16.1-05-01.

WHEREAS, Currently, under state law, the Board of County Commissioners, in cooperation with the county auditor, shall appoint the inspector of the election for all polling locations within Foster County by 40 days preceding the election. Each election board must be comprised of at least one election inspector per polling location within the county. The election inspector supervises the conduct of the election and ensures that all election workers are performing their duties. Additionally, the inspector and judges verify the results of the election and return the election results and associated ballots to the county auditor at the close of polls.

WHEREAS, The Foster County Auditor is committed to providing a positive voting experience to all voters within Foster County while simultaneously upholding the security and integrity of elections. The enclosed list of election inspectors ensures Foster County's success for the upcoming elections.

WHEREAS, it is recommended that the Foster County Board of Commissioners adopt the proposed resolution.

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Foster County Commission approves the enclosed list of election inspector and approves the county auditor to fill any vacancies that may exist for the 2024 Primary and General Elections

The resolutions were made by Commissioner Beumer and seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. All voted aye and the motion passed. Roundy had spoken with Sheriff Justin Johnson on advertising in the NDNA for the vacant deputy sheriff position. This twenty-word ad reaches all papers across the state and is \$160.00 per week. Commissioner Beumer motioned to run the ad for four weeks, seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. Roll call vote included:

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

motion passed. Roundy presented year end transfers. The transfer from the general fund to the capital improvement fund had been discussed during budget time. Transfers between roads funds would also take place. Commissioner Utke motioned to approve the year end transfers, seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. All voted aye and the motion passed. Lastly, Roundy received the last two liquor license applications from establishments located in the county. A beer license for Cows & Co. Creamery and a Beer and Liquor License for Cork and Barrel. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to approve both licenses, seconded by Commissioner Beumer. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Lee Wahlund, Foster County resident, approached the board to provide additional information regarding the closure of the section line. Information included minutes from other counties closing section lines, the extra territorial mile within the city and NDCC requirements. The BOCC thanked him for doing the additional research and stated when Foster County State's Attorney provides an update, they will keep him informed.

Jerome Zink, Foster County resident, approached the BOCC regarding a lot that Foster County owns by Juanita Lake. The legal description is Lot 10, Block 1 North Juanita Lake Park, First Addition (parcel 02115745). Zink was wondering if the county would be interested in selling the west half and maintaining ownership of the east have for the right of way. The BOCC will review the information provided and consult with Foster County State's Attorney, Kara Brinster and make a decision at a later date.

Chris Thomas, EAPC, joined the commissioner meeting via phone. Thomas established the next steps for the basement project renovation would be for the BOCC to approve the notice of award to the bidder. From there he will notify the bidder and send over a contract for the Foster County State's Attorney to review. Thomas will then reach out to departments that are affected by the remodel and work on vacating the office space and where temporary walls will be placed during the construction period. Thomas stated he is tempering the expectation on the bidders

anticipated start date. It is important for all parties to work through the process and have due diligence with planning so not to interrupt the day-to-day operations of those who work in the courthouse. Commissioner Utke motioned to approve the notice of award, seconded by Commissioner Hagel. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Commissioner discussion included the 2024 Commissioner Committee Appointments. Commissioner Hagel motioned to appoint Commissioner Utke as the 2024 Chairman and Commissioner Beumer as the 2024 Vice-Chairman, and to maintain current committee appointments, seconded by Commissioner Beumer. All voted aye and the motion passed. Roundy presented the 2024 Commissioner Meeting schedule, there was one date change noted. Commissioner Beumer motioned to approve the 2024 Commissioner Meeting schedule with the change, seconded by Commissioner Hagel. All voted aye and the motion passed. The year end special meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 29th at 8:30 AM. Commissioner Utke attended the ambulance building meeting. He stated that they need more ambulance drivers. Commissioner Hagel attended an NDACo meeting and noted that the 9-1-1 fees will be taken over by NDACo at the start of 2024. Commissioner Utke and Commissioner Scanson attended the six-county meeting, the consensus is all counties are struggling with the same items such as employment and roads. Commissioner Scanson noted that we could add the meeting with the ND pipeline association as a reminder on the next agenda. The board consensus with the basement project is that information needs to be relayed, Commissioner Utke or Commissioner Scanson can handle relaying the information versus having a special meeting.

With no further business, Chairman Scanson adjourned the meeting at 4:56 pm.

Ellen Roundy
Foster County Auditor/Treasurer

Alan Scanson, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners