

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 5th, 2024

At 11:00 am, Chairman Utke called the Foster County Commission Special Meeting to order. Roll call included Commissioner Scott Beumer, Commissioner Becky Hagel, Commissioner Alan Scanson, Commissioner David Utke, and Commissioner Pat Copenhaver via phone. Also present was Auditor/Treasurer Ellen Roundy, Chris Thomas with EAPC via Teams, General Roofing and Construction via Teams, Foster County State's Attorney Kara Brinster, Sarah Ludwig with Housing Authority, Building Maintenance Craig Wiesz, and Foster County Independent Reporter Leasa Lura.

Commissioner Utke updated the group on where they are at on the progress and what they hope to accomplish with the meeting. Chris Thomas, EAPC, noted that he is working on the contract to be signed. The BOCC chose to move on to the next agenda item while waiting for the group to get connected.

Kara Brinster, Foster County State's Attorney, approached the BOCC regarding meal reimbursements for her office and additional staff during the upcoming jury trial. Commissioner Scanson noted that he would like to visit with Aaron Birst at NDACo. Commissioner Hagel questioned whether there are reimbursements that should be taxed. Commissioner Beumer motioned to allow meals and mileage to be paid for the SA office and help, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. Discussion included mileage reimbursement for the remote assistant state's attorney. Roll call vote included:

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

motion failed. Commissioner Utke noted that he will contact Aaron Birst on the issue and provide an update at the next regular BOCC meeting.

At 11:20 AM the basement project update line item resumed. Commissioner Utke updated the board with the packing and moving process for the offices affected. Chris Thomas provided an updated phased timeline of the project. Phase one will begin on the lower East side of the building and they will work their way to the West. Once the East side is completed, those offices can return to their normal location. The BOCC was happy with the phased outline and felt it would alleviate some of their concerns with moving offices around. There is currently no set timeline for when the construction will start. Thomas would like to visit onsite and have a kickoff meeting with the building committee to review expectations and general items. Commissioner Hagel will communicate with the Central Prairie Human Service Zone on relocation options and update the BOCC at the next meeting.

With no further business, Chairman Scanson adjourned the meeting at 12:16 pm.

Ellen Roundy
Foster County Auditor/Treasurer

David Utke, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners