

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025

At 3:30pm, Vice-Chair Copenhaver called the Foster County Commission meeting to order. Roll call included Commissioner Paul Roller, Commissioner Pat Copenhaver, Commissioner Alan Scanson and Commissioner David Utke. Also present was Foster County State’s Attorney Kara Brinster, Auditor/Treasurer Ellen Roundy, Road Superintendent Nate Monson, and Foster County Independent Reporter Nathan Price.

The meeting began with approval of the minutes for the May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, regular meeting and May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, special meeting. Commissioner Utke motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed.

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

38663	ARROWWOOD PRAIRIE CO-OP	961.30
38664	AVID HAWK, LLC	35.00
38665	BEVERLY JOHNSON	800.00
38666	BREMER BANK, N.A.	35.00
38667	BREMER INSURANCE AGENCIES, INC.	44,598.00
38668	COMPUTER EXPRESS	1,693.96
38669	COREAN SWART	400.00
38670	DACOTAH PAPER COMPANY	287.86
38671	EAPC ARCHITECTS ENGINEERS	224.80
38672	HOLCIM - MWR, INC.	2,854.30
38673	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT.	1,155.35
38674	JAMESTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER	1,249.00
38675	JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	151.22
38676	JUSTIN JOHNSON	550.00
38677	KELTON ROY HAGEL	400.00
38678	LEO STRALEY	295,500.00
38679	MAERTENS WELDING AND MACHINE COMPANY	778.68
38680	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, LLC	437.73
38681	RUNNING'S SUPPLY, INC.	229.30
38682	TRIFECTAH SOLUTIONS	246.00
38683	WORKFORCE SAFETY & INSURANCE	252.56

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

Old Business

There was no update on the lots by Juanita Lake or IT supplies for the commissioner room.

New Business

Nate Monson, Road Superintendent, provided an update on the department. County roads have been very soft due to the rainfall received in the area. One bid was received for the 1000-gallon distributor trailer. Greencat services LLC submitted a bid in the amount of \$8,550.00. Commissioner Utke motioned to reject the bid seconded by Commissioner Scanson. Discussion was had on being able to trade in the equipment or wait a few weeks and put it out for bids again. All voted aye and the motion passed. Monson provided a notice to be placed in the Foster County Independent for mowing ditches. Commissioner Roller motioned to approve the ad, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed. Computer Express provided an estimate for cameras on the exterior of the shop for the road department. The estimate for four cameras came out to \$3,750. Commissioner Utke motioned to approve the camera estimate and have them installed on the building, seconded by Commissioner Roller. Roll call voted included:

- Commissioner Roller – aye
- Commissioner Copenhaver – aye
- Commissioner Scanson – aye
- Commissioner Utke – aye

motion passed. Auditor/Treasurer Roundy presented the BOCC with a Memo to be sent to CP regarding the July 2024 train derailment. Commissioner Utke motioned to approve the memo having Madam Chair Hagel and State’s Attorney Brinster sign and send off, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Ellen Roundy, Auditor/Treasurer, provided information to the BOCC on increasing building coverage to match replacement costs. Currently, the courthouse is insured at just under six million. The replacement cost for the courthouse is estimated to be thirteen million. A few other county buildings are under insured. The estimated cost to bring the buildings up to replacement cost would be \$4,680.04. The building coverage renewal date is July 1, 2025. Commissioner Scanson would like to table the decision until the second BOCC meeting in June.

Karen Evans, Equalization Director, approached the BOCC regarding items approved at the May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, planning and zoning board (P&Z) meeting. Caylor Rosenau has indicated his willingness to serve on the board as a representative from Commissioner District 5. Commissioner Roller motioned to approve the appointment of Caylor Rosenau, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed. Three building permits were

approved at the P&Z meeting. Louis Halvorson applied for a house on Juanita Lake, Jason Sisson applied to have a garage brought in on his property, and Verizon requested a one-year extension for equipment modification on existing towers. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve all three building permits, seconded by Commissioner Roller. All voted aye and the motion passed. A public hearing was held for Central Power Electric Cooperative at the P&Z meeting. Proposed is an overhead transmission line to run from the Kensal substation to the Glenfield substation. During the P&Z meeting, no one from the public attended and the board approved of a conditional use permit. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve the conditional use permit, seconded by Commissioner Roller. Discussion included location and height of the lines. Evans stated the work will begin in June. Roll call voted included:

- Commissioner Roller – aye
- Commissioner Copenhagen – aye
- Commissioner Scanson -aye
- Commissioner Utke – abstained

motion passed. Lastly, Jamie with Computer Express had reached out to Evans regarding the server that holds property information. The server has a bad hard drive. The hard drive needs to be replaced soon or upgrade the server itself. The cost to upgrade the server is \$2,024.95 and replacing the hard drive is estimated to be around \$800.00. Commissioner Roller motioned to approve replacing the server, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. Roll call vote included:

- Commissioner Roller – aye
- Commissioner Copenhagen – aye
- Commissioner Scanson – aye
- Commissioner Utke – aye

motion passed.

Commissioner discussion included liability coverage that the county currently pays for the Historical Society and Fair Board. This coverage covers the boards for liability, not the building or grounds. The county currently pays a total of \$4,953 for coverage of the boards. Options the county has are to continue paying for the liability coverage, have a cost share of their portion with each entity, or move to their own policy. NDIRF and our insurance agent do not require one way or another. Commissioner Utke would like a letter sent to each entity letting them know what the BOCC is considering. The basement renovation is nearing completion. All major items have been addressed and taken care of. The new fire alarm system comes with an option for an annual subscription of call-out services. The BOCC will get the estimates and review if that is something they wish to move forward with. Commissioner Utke provided an update on the Ambulance service. New requirements mandate that ambulance services not privately owned move to a district. Carrington Ambulance and McHenry Ambulance are working on cleaning up the district lines. Carrington Ambulance must also form a district, creating a board and holding an election. Commissioner Utke has been in contact with Jodi Hovdenes at the Hospital regarding this transition and will update the BOCC when dates are provided. Commissioner Utke and Commissioner Scanson have been working on creating a strategy that will work for camping at Juanita Lake. They have been in contact with a resident who is willing to keep an eye on the campgrounds throughout the season. This individual has also sprayed for weeds and cleaned up county property on their own time and dollar. The consensus from the BOCC is to continue to allow Commissioner Utke and Commissioner Scanson the authority to visit with the individual, along with working with the Auditor's Office regarding new signage.

With no further business, Vice-Chair Copenhagen adjourned the meeting at 4:30 pm.

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Ellen Roundy  
Foster County Auditor/Treasurer

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Pat Copenhagen, Vice-Chair  
Board of County Commissioners