

Public Notices

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING JUNE 4, 2024

At 3:30pm, Chairman Utke called the Foster County Commission meeting to order. Roll call included Commissioner Scott Beumer, Commissioner David Utke, Commissioner Alan Scanson, and Commissioner Pat Copenhaver via phone. Also present was Auditor/Treasurer Ellen Roundy and Foster County Independent reporter Leasa Lura.

The meeting began with approval of the minutes for the May 21st, 2024, regular meeting, and May 24th, 2024, Special Meeting. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve both sets of minutes, seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve the bills, seconded by Commissioner Beumer. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Bills: Amazon Capital Services, Inc., \$37.84; Andrew Kirking, 160.80; Balco Uniform Co., Inc., 172.00; Barnes County Corrections, 3,049.95; Bessette Motors, Inc., 779.98; Butler Machinery Company, 187.12; C&J Oil Company, 10,741.40; Central City H2O+, 13.50; Craig Wiesz, 42.88; David Utke, 50.92.

EAPC Architects Engineers, 6,715.95; Ellen Roundy, 8.91; Foster County Independent, 1,546.68; Foster County Treasurer, 4,110.90; General Roofing and Construction, 247,500.00; Holcim - MWR, Inc., 2,762.97; Hoyt Enterprises, Inc., 150.00; National Association of Counties, 450.00; NDACS, 50.00.

ODP Business Solutions, LLC, 322.99; Office of Attorney General -1250, 155.00; OK Tire Store, 234.43; R.M. Stoudt, 1,814.66; RDO Equipment Co., 345.97; Sidwell Company, 1,771.29; Team Laboratory Chemical Corp., 183.50; USPS, 120.00; William J. Gale, 493.83.

Commissioner Scanson requested the cost of gravel vs pavement be added to the agenda. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve the agenda with the addition seconded by Commissioner Beumer. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Old Business
There was nothing new to report for the empty lots by Juanita Lake.

New Business
Andrew Kirking, Stutsman/Foster Emergency Manager, informed the board of potential projects through the homeland security grant. They were looking at applying for windows, new lighting and updating the alarm system. He received two quotes for the alarm system. Electro watchman was higher than Reliance Telephone, however, the Reliance Telephone system required a monthly payment for monitoring and updates that would not be covered under the grant. Commissioner Beumer motioned to approve moving forward with applying for the homeland security grant with Electro watchman, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Kip Kovar and Scott Mehring approached the BOCC regarding the Garrison Pipeline project. Discussion included establishing an agreement with the contractors. Foster County State's Attorney Kara Brinster has reviewed the proposed agreement and had a few provisions that she would like addressed in sections 2.1, 3.2, 3.3, and 3.4. She also noted there was no signature page and that should be included. Kip Kovar noted that although it's not specifically stated, the concerns that the BOCC is part of Garrisons intent when repairing and maintaining roads. Commissioner Utke also stated that he would like the townships to have the opportunity to review the terms of the agreement. Kip Kovar will review their specifications to make sure it covers the BOCC's concerns and send it over for review.

Ellen Roundy, Auditor/Treasurer, approached the BOCC regarding the fifth of July. The County currently has summer hours and closes at 1:00 PM on Fridays. She asked for approval to close the entire day, however, the employees must either take the time unpaid or use vacation time, it would not be a paid holiday. Commissioner Beumer motioned to allow the courthouse to be closed July fifth, allowing employees to take time unpaid or vacation time, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed.

The BOCC reviewed the road department update provided by Nate Monson. Commissioner Beumer had noted that if the cost to cut the road was a substantial cost savings, that the county should consider adding into the agreement additional funding to maintain the road for years down the road, not just while the project is taking place as it creates a potential weak spot in the road. Nate had noted that he recommended placing the 1983 IH with Detroit, no plow, and the 1996 IH with plow attached, up for auction after purchasing the recent snowplow truck. Commissioner Scanson motioned to allow Nate Monson to take the two trucks down to be auctioned off at Orr auction

in Jamestown, seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. All voted aye and the motion passed. Monson had listed that an 18" culvert approximately fifty feet in length is collapsing on an approach on the Murphy Highway at Section line 7 and 8. The landowner said that they would install it if the county purchased the culvert. Commissioner Utke called Monson and he stated that we have done this before for a collapsed culvert, but not for a rusted-out culvert. The cost would be around \$1,500 to purchase the culvert. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve the purchase of the culvert if the landowner installs at their cost, seconded by Commissioner Beumer. Roll call vote included:

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

Monson had also provided information for a mowing ad to be published on June sixteenth, twenty-third, and thirtieth. Commissioner Beumer motioned to place the ad in the paper seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed. Commissioner Scanson was approached by a concerned resident regarding grinding up a paved road and the cost to maintain gravel vs. pavement. Commissioner Scanson and Road Superintendent Monson sat down and put some figures together. To blade a mile of gravel per year costs roughly \$1,200 along with adding gravel to the mile (\$4,000 per mile, done every three years) is \$1,200 per mile therefore maintaining the gravel is estimated to be \$2,400 per mile per year. The cost to overlay one mile of pavement is estimated to be \$250,000 per mile that can last at least ten years and sometimes extending it to twenty years would be \$12,500 per mile per year. Chipping the pavement is estimated to be \$40,000 per mile that lasts ten years totaling \$4,000 per mile per year therefore maintaining pavement is estimated to be \$16,500 per mile per year.

Commissioner Utke updated the BOCC regarding camping reservations at Juanita Lake. He has worked with the Auditor's office to create envelopes that could be used and displayed as a permit for reservations. Commissioner Utke also stated that Jeff Golz requested half of the year's payment. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve to pay \$1,250 to Jeff for maintaining the grounds on July 1st, seconded by Commissioner Beumer. Roll call vote included:

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

Commissioner Copenhaver – aye motion passed. Foster County State's Attorney Kara Brinster was going to look at what Barnes County does for groundskeeping and update the BOCC later. The Foster County Board of Equalization will meet on June 5th, at 6:00 PM.

Chris Thomas, EAPC, joined the meeting via phone. The basement project is moving along, and they have almost completed phase one of the project. They will be installing carpet and completing necessary finishes in the next two weeks and then Central Prairie Zone employees will be able to move back down to their offices.

With no further business, Chairman Utke adjourned the meeting at 5:04 pm.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION JUNE 5, 2024

At 6:00 pm, Chairman Utke called the Foster County Board of Equalization meeting to order. Roll call included Commissioner David Utke, Commissioner Becky Hagel (via phone), and Commissioner Alan Scanson (via phone).

Also present was Auditor/Treasurer Ellen Roundy, and Tax Director Karen Evans.

Foster County Tax Director, Karen Evans, provided information on notice of increases that were sent out throughout the county. The median sales ratio must be between ninety and one hundred percent. The residential median sales ratio was eighty-two percent in the City of Carrington and eighty-four percent overall in Foster County. Adjustments to lot and structural values increased the ratio to ninety-two percent, bringing it into compliance. The commercial sales ratio was seventy-six percent, and an adjustment was required and the county wide adjustment in commercial structures brought the sales ratio to ninety-two percent. Lastly, the ag land review was completed in 2020 and values have continued to be adjusted since then. Evans stated no increase in ag land values is expected for 2024. Commissioner Scanson motioned to certify the values as presented seconded by Commissioner Hagel. All voted aye and the motion passed.

With no further business, Chairman Utke adjourned the meeting at 6:15 pm.

SPECIAL MEETING JUNE 13, 2024

At 8:01 am, Chairman Utke called the Foster County Commission Special Meeting to order. Roll call included Commissioner Becky Hagel, Commissioner David Utke, Commissioner Alan Scanson, and Commissioner Pat

Copenhaver via phone. Also present was Auditor/Treasurer Ellen Roundy and Road Superintendent Nate Monson.

Road Superintendent Nate Monson approached the BOCC regarding his department's employees request to switch the Juneteenth observed holiday to June 20th as they work a four-day work week. Monson stated he told his department he was OK with it, however, if it was too wet to blade on Wednesday, they would get that day off and work on Thursday June 20th and they acknowledge his request and agreed. Auditor/Treasurer Roundy stated it may be beneficial to have their acknowledgement documented. Commissioner Hagel noted that she is concerned about setting a precedent. Commissioner Scanson said that the Road Department cannot be treated the same as other departments due to the hours they put in on weekends and other holidays throughout the year. Commissioner Scanson motioned to allow the road department to float the June 19th holiday to June 20th as long as they are able to blade on Wednesday per Monson's request with acknowledgement from the department for holiday pay and not overtime, seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. All voted aye and the motion passed.

With no further business, Chairman Utke adjourned the meeting at 8:14 am.

JUNE 18, 2024

At 3:30pm, Chairman Utke called the Foster County Commission meeting to order. Roll call included Commissioner Scott Beumer, Commissioner David Utke, Commissioner Alan Scanson, and Commissioner Pat Copenhaver. Also present was Michael Rivinius with Wold Engineering, Auditor/Treasurer Ellen Roundy and Foster County Independent reporter Leasa Lura.

The meeting began with approval of the minutes for the June 4th, 2024, regular meeting, June 5th, 2024, Public Hearing and June 13th Special Commissioner Meeting. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve all minutes, seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Commissioner Beumer motioned to approve the bills, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Bills: 701 Wash, \$200.00; Arrowwood Prairie Co-op, 404.18; Avid Hawk, LLC, 35.00; Balco Uniform Co., Inc., 322.64; Barnes County Corrections, 3,139.96; Becky Hagel, 20.40; Brager Disposal Service, 349.00; Briss Oil Company, 72.00; Central Business Systems, 190.52; Central Business Systems, 552.18; Clubhouse Hotel & Suites, 288.90; CMF, 520.93.

Computer Express, 1,139.00; D&E Supply, 51.48; Dacotah Paper Company, 45.07; Election Systems & Software, 138.17; Ellen Roundy, 9.99; Information Technology Dept., 953.75; Lisa F. Scanson, 53.60; Midstates Wireless, 187.50; Motor Vehicle Division, 11.50; Napa Auto Parts, 3.98; NDSAA, 300.00; Otis Elevator Company, 1,192.50; Pat Biel Trucking, Inc., 1,640.00; Patriot Fuels, 32.65.

Quadient Finance, 1,003.00; Quadient Leasing USA, Inc., 417.00; R. M. Stoudt, 2,194.09; RDO Truck Centers, 1,809.96; Runnings Supply, Inc., 99.90; Stutsman County Correction Center, 399.49; Stutsman County Auditor, 2,000.00; Tami L. Beckley, 88.00.

Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve the agenda seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Old Business
There was nothing new to report for the empty lots by Juanita Lake.

New Business
Michael Rivinius, Wold Engineering, provided bid results for reclaiming of the Club Hall Road. There were two bid options. The first bid option is to have the contractor complete the entire project. The second bid option is to have Foster County employees help with some of the blading and watering. There were five total bids received.

- Engineer Estimate: Bid Amount
Option #1 \$473,268.50
Option #2 \$357,768.50
- Border States Paving
Bid Amount - Option #1 \$460,291.71
Option #2 \$428,875.71
- Allstates Pavement Recycling & Stabilization
Bid Amount - Option #1 \$497,634.28
Option #2 \$456,054.28
- Close Construction Co., Inc
Bid Amount - Option #1 \$603,122.63
Option #2 \$545,372.63
- Central Specialties Incorporated
Bid Amount - Option #1 \$665,235.89
Option #2 \$655,418.39
- Strata Corporation
Bid Amount - Option #1 \$768,158.60
Option #2 \$721,958.60

Border States Paving was the low bid received. Commissioner Utke brought up the potential of the property tax measure and how that could affect the mills received for next year. The start of the proj-

ect would be planned for the end of summer, beginning of fall and it would cover eight miles on the Club Hall Road. Rivinius also stated that this strip of road was laid with cold mix, and he is amazed at how they are staying together for their age and how they are constructed. The consensus of the BOCC is they understand the project needs to be done or more direction given to Monson, Road Superintendent, on maintenance of the road, however, they would like to decide until the deadline for the property tax measure has passed on June 29th.

Kip Kovar and Scott Mehring approached the BOCC regarding the Garrison Pipeline project. Discussion continued on the agreement and whether or not the BOCC would allow the contractors to cut into the road or if they would require them to bore under them. Foster County State's Attorney Kara Brinster will send her requested changes to Kip, and he will have their legal review and update the plan. Commissioner Utke did have a concerned resident reach out regarding allowing them to cut into the best roads in Foster County. The BOCC would like to visit with Michael Rivinius on specifications if they were to allow Garrison to cut into the road. Brinster wanted to clarify that what the BOCC is discussing are currently two separate issues. Kip will reach out to Michael Rivinius to discuss the options and if needed, a special meeting can be held regarding the decision.

Chris Thomas, EAPC, emailed over an update for the basement renovation project. The installation of new water lines has started, and gas lines have been marked. The electrical is just about wrapped up, Dakota Central will be in to complete the IT work and the electrician is planning on providing temp power to the social services area as they are still waiting on parts. Carpet and countertop installations are just about completed. The tentative move in date for social services will be June 24th and then they will start working on the temporary construction walls for phase two.

Ellen Roundy, Auditor/Treasurer, provided an update for the Road Department. The two trucks sold at Orr auction for a combined \$19,150.00. Rain totals for the month of June is 5.60". The mowing notice has been placed in the The Foster County Independent and the department was able to

mow the fairgrounds except for the north end track as it was under water.

Commissioner Utke noted that the SIRN/CRIB meeting was postponed from June to July so he anticipates there will be a meeting in July. No other Commissioners had committee reports. The Election Canvas board will certify Foster County Election results on

Monday, June 24th, at 9:00 AM.

With no further business, Chairman Utke adjourned the meeting at 4:14 pm.

Ellen Roundy, Auditor/Treasurer
David Utke, Chairman,
Foster County
Board of Commissioners
(Publish July 15, 2024)



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