

Public Notice

Continued from PLUS Page 3

years ago, likely in the late 1980s or early 1990s—when a project was completed, and that there are no issues with the ditches or right-of-way in McKinnon Township. The only concern is approximately three miles located within Eastman Township. McKinnon Township would like it noted that easements were granted years ago and there are no issues with the ditches or right of ways. Monson informed the BOCC the Murphy Road has a bad break on the east end. Monson asked how the BOCC would like to fix the problem. Commissioner Scanson made a motion to put gravel down on the bad break on the east end of Murphy Road, seconded by Commissioner Roller. All voted aye and the motion passed. Michael Rivinius provided the BOCC with the 2026 Federal Aid Cost Sheet.

Chief Deputy Auditor/Treasurer Hailey K. Bachmeier asked for approval of signatures for the 2026 Support Agreement with Software Innovations. Commissioner Hagel made a motion to approve the signatures for the 2026 Support Agreement, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed. Bachmeier informed the BOCC that on an annual basis Foster County sends out a letter to the North Dakota Highway Patrol requesting assistance with year-round weight enforcement. Bachmeier was asking for approval from the BOCC to send out a letter requesting assistance. Commissioner Scanson made a motion to approve sending out the letter to the NDHP requesting assistance with year-round weight enforcement, seconded by Commissioner Roller. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Kyle Schroeder, a Foster County Fair Board member, attended the BOCC meeting via phone to inquire about liability insurance coverage for the fair. In previous years, Foster County covered the cost of this insurance. Commissioner Hagel stated that, in her view, since the Foster County Fair Board operates as a non-profit and is not a County department, Foster County should not be responsible for providing liability coverage. Commissioner Hagel made a motion that the Foster County Fair Board obtain and maintain its own liability insurance policy, seconded by Commissioner Roller. All voted aye and the motion passed. Schroeder also requested that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) be completed so that both Foster County and the Foster County Fair Board clearly understand their roles and responsibilities. Commissioner Utke stated that the Foster County committee needs to meet more frequently to continue working toward completion of the MOU.

Bruce Willyard, Melville Township Supervisor, had questions about water on the roadway on 67th avenue. Commissioner Scanson informed Mr. Willyard that since it is a township road, it is the township's responsibility, not the county. Mr. Willyard also had a question about who enforces the load restrictions. Commissioner Copenhaver informed Mr. Willyard that Foster County asks the North Dakota Highway Patrol for assistance. Commissioner Hagel suggested that Mr. Willyard reach out to the North Dakota Township Association. Chief Deputy Auditor/Treasurer Hailey K Bachmeier stated she would get contact information for Mr. Willyard.

The first item under Commissioner Discussion was the Ambulance Building outdoor lights

and overhead door. Commissioner Utke informed the BOCC that he had been contacted by Allyssa Lewis, Supervisor of the Carrington Ambulance, regarding the building's exterior lighting. Lewis provided an estimate from SKS Electric in the amount of \$350.00 to replace exterior lights on both the front and back of the building. Commissioner Utke noted that, as Foster County is the landlord, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) states that the County is responsible for exterior building maintenance, which includes lighting. He made a motion to approve the repairs based on the estimate provided. Commissioner Hagel advised that the BOCC should obtain two formal quotes rather than relying on a single estimate before taking action. Following this discussion, Commissioner Utke withdrew his motion and stated he would contact Allyssa Lewis to request two quotes for the exterior lighting project. Commissioner Utke also informed the BOCC that CHI intends to purchase a new overhead door through P&S Garage Doors, a vendor they regularly use. P&S Garage Doors had recently been in Carrington working at CHI and was able to repair the ambulance building's overhead door so that it is currently functional. As a result, Foster County is no longer being asked to assist with the overhead door. Commissioner Hagel added that she had spoken with Jodi Hovdenes, Director of the CHI Hospital, who confirmed that CHI is willing to assume responsibility for the overhead door due to the damage they caused. Hovdenes also stated that regular maintenance for the overhead door will be scheduled moving forward. Commissioner Roller and Commissioner Copenhaver informed the BOCC of a Foster County Water Board meeting they attended on March 31st regarding proposed snagging and clearing projects on Carrington Creek and Kelly Creek. Commissioner Roller stated that Century Code 61-16.1-09.1 was referenced during the meeting. The contractor identified for the project is Ryan Johnson, who has completed multiple snagging and clearing projects in Nelson and Ramsey Counties. The proposed Kelly Creek project would cover approximately 10.5 miles, while the Carrington Creek project would cover approximately 9.5 miles. The estimated construction cost for both projects is \$80,000.00, with an anticipated payoff period of four to five years. The projects would impact approximately 21,000 acres. Commissioner Copenhaver stated that affected landowners would not vote on the project. Approval would be determined by the Foster County Water Board and the Foster County Board of County Commissioners. Affected farmland would be assessed at a rate of \$0.50 per acre per year until the project costs are fully paid. It was noted that the City of Carrington would be responsible for an estimated \$4,000 to \$5,000 per year, though higher figures were also discussed. One concern raised during the meeting involved culverts. Ryan Johnson indicated that culvert work is not anticipated; however, if such work becomes necessary, responsibility for the work and associated costs could fall to the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT), the County, or the respective Township. Commissioner Copenhaver recommended waiting until the Foster County Water Board formally submits a request to be placed on a future BOCC agenda. Commissioner Utke informed the BOCC regarding the Multi-Hazard

Mitigation Plan (MHMP). He stated that Jessica Moser has resigned and had contacted him to report that Pam Blinsky will serve as Interim Emergency Manager and will continue work on the MHMP. Commissioner Roller informed the BOCC about the conference phone system used during commission meetings. Commissioner Utke inquired whether it is possible to identify callers when they dial in. Commissioner Roller stated he has reached out to Troy Roundy of Dakota Central and will report back to the BOCC once he receives additional information.

Committee reports were then discussed. Commissioner Utke stated he will be attending a Siren Regional meeting via Microsoft Teams the following day. Commissioner Scanson reported that he has a South-Central meeting scheduled for later this month. Commissioner Hagel stated she will be attending a CCEDC meeting later that day, as well as the Annual Chamber Meeting on Thursday at the Chieftain, which is open to all Chamber members.

No update on the Commissioner Reoccurring Calendar.

With no further business, Chairman Copenhaver adjourned the meeting at 9:43 am.

Hailey K. Bachmeier, Chief Deputy Auditor/Treasurer Pat Copenhaver, Chairman

APRIL 21, 2026

At 8:00 am, Chairman Copenhaver called the Foster County Commission meeting to order. Roll call included Commissioner David Utke, Commissioner Paul Roller, Commissioner Pat Copenhaver, Commissioner Alan Scanson, and Commissioner Becky Hagel. Also present was Foster County State's Attorney Kara Brinster, Auditor/Treasurer Ellen Roundy, Road Superintendent Nate Monson, Road Foreman Aaron Johnson, Michael Rivinius with Wold Engineering, Carson Lovin and Chris Pierson with Northern Plains and Foster County Independent Reporter Nathan Price.

The meeting began with approval of the minutes for the April 7th Commission meeting. Commissioner Hagel noted one correction. Commissioner Hagel made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed.

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

Bills: 701 Wash, \$200.00; Advanced Business Methods, 187.15; Avid Hawk, LLC, 60.00; Balco Uniform Co., Inc., 33.01; Bremer Insurance Agencies, Inc., 39,103.40; Computer Express, 1,100.00; Country Inn & Suites, 220.00; Foster County Independent, 210.00; Gilbertson's, 985.35; HR Collaborative, 150.00; Information Technology Dept., 1,384.40; Motor Vehicle Division, 10.00.

NDSAA, 400.00; NDSU Extension - Dept. 7510, 12,346.89; Normont Equipment Co., 2,345.58; Office of the Adjutant General, 18,837.48; Quaid Finance, 1,010.00; Quill Corporation, 70.99; Randy Lura, 180.00; Swanston Equipment Corporation, 396.75; Wold Engineering, P.C., 133,947.61.

Commissioner Scanson made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Roller. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Old Business

Commissioner Hagel asked about the status of the lot survey at Juanita Lake. Foster County State's Attorney noted that when the ground was ready, Tamarac had indicated they would be out

surveying.

New Business

Nate Monson, Road Superintendent, provided an update to the BOCC. The department has installed blinking warning lights at the Barlow railroad tracks. Monson has been using the reclamer on a few county gravel roads, and two townships have also reached out for work to be completed. Load restrictions are still in effect. The department has been placing signs throughout the county where roads are broken up. An approach needs to be replaced on the Club Hall County gravel. The landowner will take care of all the dirt work and pay fifty percent of the culvert cost. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve the work be completed on the approach, seconded by Commissioner Roller. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Kara Brinster, Foster County State's Attorney, provided information from Northern Plains on repositioning power lines along the Barlow/McHenry Road project. There were some lines included in the original project; however, a few adjacent poles will need to be handled. The options are to either move them out of the way now or create an MOU/agreement that the county is responsible for costs. Michael Rivinius, Wold Engineering, stated that the line is still on private property. The right of way obtained is a permanent easement. Additional discussion was had and the BOCC will wait on making any decision until they hear back on whether a change order can be made to the original funding.

Doug Zink, Foster County Resident, approached the BOCC regarding installing rumble strips to Highway 200 and the Bordulac turn intersection. Discussion was had on the process and costs. Commissioner Roller asked if a core study should be done on the road prior to any work. Michael Rivinius, Wold Engineering, stated that the cost to do a core study could be about the same cost as completing a rumble strip project. Commissioner Scanson noted that it maybe wouldn't hurt to include rumble strips in the Barlow/McHenry project. The BOCC consensus is to have Wold Engineering put bid information together for approval later. Zink also asked if the County had an inventory of culverts. Commissioner Utke is unaware of any inventory but stated it wouldn't hurt to get it into a format that can help with long term planning. Rivinius stated that they have records of original plans for quite a few culverts but wouldn't have conditions. Commissioner Scanson would like Wold Engineering to come up with a cost proposal for a basic and then also a more in-depth analysis of county culverts.

Ellen Roundy, Foster County Auditor/Treasurer, requested approval for the Sykeston Community Club gaming site authorization at Bordulac Bar. Commissioner Roller motioned to approve the gaming site authorization seconded by Commissioner Utke, motion passed. Roundy presented a funding agreement for the Clerk of Court services. Commissioner Hagel motioned to approve with necessary signatures, seconded by Commissioner Scanson, motion passed. The office has been working on absentee applications which will be mailed out to all active voters. Any resident can contact the Auditor/Treasurer office if they do not receive one in the mail. Summer Hours for the courthouse will begin on Monday, May 4th and will run through Labor Day.

Foster County Sheriff, Justin Johnson, approached the BOCC regarding the remaining funding from HB 1193. Sergeant Gushwa was expected to receive a second

\$5,000 payment in June but left employment with Foster County. Johnson requested the remaining balance be paid out to himself.

WHEREAS, the 69th North Dakota Legislative assembly passed \$3.5 million in grant funding into HB 1193.

WHEREAS, Similar to the 2023 legislation passed for Back the Blue, lawmakers approved this program as a way to show their appreciation for the work local law enforcement are doing across the state.

WHEREAS, on December 2nd, 2025, the Foster County Board of County Commissioners passed Resolution 2025-05 presented by the Foster County Sheriff indicating the breakout of funds from HB 1193.

WHEREAS, Sergeant Gushwa willingly left employment with Foster County prior to receiving his second \$5,000 stipend. WHEREAS, the Foster County Sheriff indicated that Sheriff Johnson receives the remaining funding of \$5,000.

WHEREAS, Commissioner Roller moved to approve the updated plan presented by Sheriff Justin Johnson and Commissioner Utke seconded the motion, and having been submitted to a roll call vote of the elected County Commissioners:

Commissioner Roller – aye
Commissioner Utke – aye
Commissioner Hagel – aye
Commissioner Scanson – aye
Commissioner Copenhaver – aye

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by majority vote of the Foster County Board of County Commissioners authorize the Sheriff to expend the Peace Officer and Correctional Officer Appreciation Grant Funds approved in HB 1193 which was passed by the 2025 Legislature, per the categories outlined as follows:

Funding may be used for providing retention bonuses to current law enforcement and correctional


officers and covering tuition and fee payments on behalf of law enforcement trainees.

Commissioner Discussion included review of three estimates received for lighting outside the ambulance building. Commissioner Utke reviewed the bids and deemed them to seem comparable. Randy's Electric bid was \$650.00, SKS Electric bid was \$783.14, and JMS Electric bid was \$711.90. Commissioner Utke motioned to approve the estimate from Randy's Electric, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed. Commissioner Utke would like the committee that was formed to handle correspondence with CPKC to reach out regarding a response. Commissioner Copenhaver stated that he contacted Brent Hills personally. Roundy indicated that her office could send out a response for approval to send to CPKC. Commissioner Roller provided an update from the BOH. Commissioner Copenhaver provided an update from the Council on aging. Commissioner Scanson attended a South-Central meeting. He provided some job employment information for the counties involved. He also noted that there may be a program that could remove the old sheriff's house/jail. Commissioner Hagel will reach out to the Historical Society before any decision is made. Commissioner Utke provided an update from the SIRM meeting he attended. It was noted that it'll be a large task to complete all radio tower installations and activation completed by the end of 2027.

With no further business, Chairman Copenhaver adjourned the meeting at 9:37 am.

Ellen Roundy, Auditor/Treasurer Pat Copenhaver, Chairman, Foster County Board of Commissioners (Publish May 11, 2026)

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Special thank you to the volunteer chaperones!