

Public Notice

Public Notices

“Because the public has the right to know”

HEARING NOTICE

TWO RIVERS RURAL AMBULANCE DISTRICT, situated in the North Dakota counties of Eddy, Foster, and Wells, will hold a Budget Hearing and board meeting on September 17, 2025 between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. This will be held at the Community Ambulance Service of New Rockford, located at 818 1st Avenue North, New Rockford, ND. Board members will be present to answer any questions the members of the District have on the budget.

The budget for TRRAD is available for review prior to the hearing at the offices of the county auditors of Eddy, Foster and Wells Counties.

Board meeting agenda items include treasurer's report, minutes and other reports from the board members.

(Publish September 8, 2025)

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOSTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AUGUST 5, 2025

At 3:30pm, Madam Chair Hagel called the Foster County Commission meeting to order. Roll call included Commissioner Paul Roller, Commissioner David Utke, Commissioner Becky Hagel, Commissioner Alan Scanson and Commissioner Pat Copenhaver. 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 July 15th Commissioner Meeting. Commissioner Roller motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed.

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

Bills: Amazon Capital Services, Inc., \$335.91; Auto Value Parts Store, 355.06; Avid Hawk, LLC, 35.00; Bremer Insurance Agencies, Inc., 11,432.00; Brinster Law, P.C.,104.72; C & J Oil Company,10,395.66; Central Business Systems,122.86; Central City Lumber Inc., 23.58; CMF, 5,601.97; Computer Express, 1,136.98.

Dacotah Paper Company, 80.07; Evans Funeral Home, 2,470.00; Foster County Treasurer, 1,873.34; Heartland Heating & Cooling, 881.50; High Plains Equipment, 886.18; Jerrod Holte, 81.20; Joel Gussiaas, 449.70; Kelton Roy Hagel, 800.00; Midstates Wireless, 163.50; ND Association of County and Tribal VSO, 120.00.

NDSU Extension Service, 10,742.12; ODP Business Solutions, LLC, 599.83; Office Depot, 523.32; OK Tire Store, 197.24; Patriot Fuels, 245.79; Quadiant Finance, 1,003.00; Quill Corporation, 246.80; RDO Equipment Co., 5,445.87; Residence Inn, 440.00; Runnings Supply, Inc., 728.98.

Sidwell Company, 2, 707.78; Stutsman Co. Correction Center, 224.00; Stutsman County Auditor, 2,000.00; Tom Gilbertson & Sons, 1,865.00; US Records Midwest LLC, 2,273.72; Vanguard Appraisals, Inc., 6,175.00; Western Dakota Energy Association, 500.00; William J Gale, 300.30; Wold Engineering, P.C., 1,750.00.

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

Old Business

There was no update on the lots by Juanita Lake. Commissioner Scanson noted that Dennis Swanson has been doing an outstanding job at Juanita Lake for the County. The beach has been cleaned up among many other items and he deserves recognition. The BOCC requested that Auditor/Treasurer Roundy reach out to Jamie Nelson with Computer Express for IT options in the community room now that the tables have arrived and been arranged.

New Business

Nate Monson, Road Superintendent, provided an update on the department. Out of the last fifteen days the county has seen rain for nine of them. Commissioner Utke provided a data sheet for durapatching in 2025. Discussion was had on the bridge project and flex funding project. The BOCC will need to decide their match amount for the Flex Funding application by the next meeting. CPKC has provided the BOCC with a response to their \$2.7 million request. CPKC still believes \$225,000 is adequate payment to the county for damages. Commissioner Utke would

like the BOCC to have a special meeting regarding the issue. The BOCC has set a special meeting for Wednesday, August 13th at 8:00 AM at the Foster County Courthouse.

Auditor/Treasurer Ellen Roundy asked the BOCC if they would be OK with switching with Emmons County and hosting the next Six-County Meeting. The consensus was that it was good with the board, and they would like to have Roundy reach out to the Chieftain for the meeting location and meal. Roundy presented the preliminary 2025 budget to the BOCC for approval. The valuation for Foster County is \$35,152,488 which is an increase from 2024's valuation of \$32,500,075. HB1176 allows a three-percent increase from the previous year budgeted dollar amount. The calculation can be figured from the base year calculation which includes the last three-year levy dollar amount or an adjusted year calculation which considers properties added to the tax year and removed from the tax year. For Foster County, the adjusted fund levy is currently set at \$987,317.97 compared to last year's dollar amount of \$959,567.76. Roundy presented the combined county funds preliminary budget at \$3,035,828. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to approve the preliminary budget at \$3,035,828, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed. Roundy provided an update that the county should be receiving funding from the state for the replacement of culverts from back in 2022. Michael Rivinius, Wold Engineering, has been working on getting the reimbursement since 2023.

Karen Evans presented three abatements to the BOCC. Chaz Bauer and Taylor Sabinash for \$182.19, Leo and Julie Laube for \$660.44 and two for Bobbie Joe Theis for \$50.91 and \$46.37. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to approve all abatements seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Commissioner discussion included closing of the section lines from the public hearing held on August 5th, 2025, at 3:00 PM. Commissioner Utke felt he received clarification on the public benefit portion requirement. Foster County State's Attorney Kara Brinster noted that it is not as unique as Lee Wahlund, however, there are special circumstances that surround this situation and the Township also signed off on approving the closure. Roundy presented the following resolution to the BOCC:

WHEREAS, the petition was duly and properly submitted to the Foster County Board of County Commissioners pursuant to N.D.C.C. § 24-07-03; and

WHEREAS, the Foster County Board of County Commissioners having published a Notice of Public Hearing in accordance with law, and a public hearing having been held on August 5th, 2025, according to the published notice of public hearing, and having considered the petition and any support and opposition thereto;

WHEREAS, the Foster County Board of County Commissioners, after having held a public hearing on the matter, makes the following findings: there is public benefit in closing the herein described section line; that said section line has not been used for over ten years; that said section line is not traveled due to natural obstacles or difficulty of terrain and/or readily accessible alternate routes of travel; that said section line does not deprive adjacent land owners of access to the landowners' property; and that after closure said section line may be used to benefit of adjacent landowners; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Scanson moved to approve closure of the section lines requested by Petitioners and Commissioner Copenhaver 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

– aye

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by majority vote of the Foster County Board of County Commissioners that the petition is granted and the following section lines in Longview Township is hereby closed by public travel as provided in N.D.C.C. § 24-07-03, subject to all existing easements of record and subject to the use of such section line to the benefit of adjacent landowners:

Between the NW ¼ of Section 27-145-67 and the NE ¼ of Section 28-145-67 AND between the NW ¼ of Section 33-145-67 and SW ¼ of Section 28-145-67 in Foster County, North Dakota

Dated at Carrington, North Dakota, this (5th day of August 2025).

Resolution passed. Discussion continued to work needing to be completed on the Foster County Tower. Commissioner Roller motioned to allow county officials to install the ties on the tower and to pick up the necessary equipment, seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. All voted aye and

the motion passed. Commissioner Hagel had contacted three local painters to touch up the stairwell area. Only one provided an estimate. Lois Clark submitted an estimate for \$975.00. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to approve the work with Lois, seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed. During the last BOCC meeting, an update was suggested to the policy manual in section 208 allowing the department head to adjust the annual increase below the recommended amount if they felt that employees were not working to standards. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve the update seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. All voted aye and the motion passed. Hagel construction has completed work at the ambulance building for installation of new doors. The old doors could be used in other areas of the building. The BOCC will look into options for the existing doors. The BOCC has concerns with outside entities meeting at the building and requesting employees to arrive prior to their start time or staying later than scheduled work time. Roundy will work on a policy to present to the BOCC. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to publish the county right-of-way encroachment notice in the paper, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed. With no further business, Madam Chair Hagel adjourned the meeting at 5:12 pm.

PUBLIC HEARING
AUGUST 5, 2025

At 3:00 pm, Madam Chair Hagel called the Foster County Commission Public Hearing to order. Roll call included Commissioner David Utke, Commissioner Becky Hagel, Commissioner Alan Scanson and Commissioner Pat Copenhaver. Also present was Foster County State's Attorney Kara Brinster, Auditor/Treasurer Ellen Roundy, Foster County Independent Reporter Nathan Price and Residents Jeremiah and Angie Blahna.

Auditor/Treasurer Roundy presented the BOCC with the petition from Jeremiah and Angie Blahna, a memo from Kara Brinster and read a letter on behalf of Jim Blahna. Foster County State's Attorney provided information on closing a section line. One of the following must apply to the line to be considered for closure:

- Not used for ten years
- Not traveled due to natural obstacle or difficult terrain
- Not required due to readily accessible alternate routes of travel
- Intersected by public highways that cause the section line to be a dead end.

After the section line is closed, it may be used for the benefit of the landowner for agricultural or related purposes; survey or property reference markers may not be disturbed, removed, or destroyed. Pursuant to NDCC 24-06-28, a person may not permanently obstruct the section line without first receiving written permission from the county commission or township board. The counties' easement on the section line is permanent. Should it become necessary to construct a road on a closed section line, the county would have the ability to reopen said section line. Discussion included what the public benefit to closing the section line would be. Jeremiah Blahna stated that Sheriff Johnson thought this would be a reasonable route to take to keep the peace and for public safety.

With no further business, Madam Chair Hagel adjourned the meeting at 3:21 pm.

SPECIAL MEETING
August 13, 2025

At 8:00 am, Madam Chair Hagel called the Foster County Commission Special Meeting to order. Roll call included Commissioner Paul Roller, Commissioner David Utke, Commissioner Becky Hagel, Commissioner Alan Scanson and Commissioner Pat Copenhaver. Also present was Foster County State's Attorney Kara Brinster, Auditor/Treasurer Ellen Roundy, Road Superintendent Nate Monson, Stutsman/Foster Emergency Manager Jessica Moser, Foster County Independent reporter Nathan Price and Michael Rivinius with Wold Engineering.

The first item on the agenda was information for repairs at the Grace City Shop. Central City Lumber provided an estimate of \$14,129.97 for materials. Mon-

arch Handyman provided a labor estimate of \$20,000. Commissioner Alan Scanson will visit with agent Hooley on where the appraiser is at on an estimate.

The special meeting moved to executive session at 8:04 AM and was attended by Commissioner Roller, Commissioner Utke, Commissioner Hagel, Commissioner Scanson and Commissioner Copenhaver. Also present was Foster County State's Attorney Kara Brinster, Auditor/Treasurer Ellen Roundy, Road Superintendent Nate Monson, Stutsman/Foster Emergency Manager Jessica Moser and Michael Rivinius with Wold Engineering. The executive session ended at 9:38 AM. Foster County Independent Reporter Nathan Price joined the open session of the special meeting. Consensus from the executive session is that Foster County is going to continue to gather data to support their numbers. Wold Engineering will assist with further documentation of road damage. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to allow Commissioner Scanson to contact the Public Service Commission for the full board of Foster County Commission to meet with the PSC in a special meeting, to allow Foster County State's Attorney to contact the governor's office to meet during the special meeting with the PSC, to allow Commissioner Utke to contact local legislators and to allow Commissioner Hagel to contact NDIRF now for direction if negotiations fail, seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed.

With no further business, Madam Chair Hagel adjourned the meeting at 9:43 am.

August 19, 2025

At 3:30 pm, Madam Chair Hagel called the Foster County Commission meeting to order. Roll call included Commissioner Paul Roller, Commissioner David Utke, Commissioner Becky Hagel, Commissioner Alan Scanson and Commissioner Pat Copenhaver. Also present was Foster County 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 August 5th Public Hearing, August 5th Commissioner Meeting and August 13th Special Meeting. Commissioner Utke motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Auditor/Treasurer Roundy presented a check that was missed from the last meeting and a lost check affidavit. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve the check, lost check affidavit and bills, seconded by Commissioner Roller. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Bills: Beverly Johnson, \$800.00; Amazon Capital Services, Inc.; 125.96; Arrowwood Prairie Co-op, 1,399.84; Avid Hawk, LLC, 35.00; Bessette Motors, Inc., 224.37; Beverly Johnson, 800.00; Border States Paving Inc., 2,969.58; Briss Oil Company, 72.00; C & J Oil Company, 439.60; Central Business Systems, 250.00.

Computer Express, 1,039.99; Foster County Independent, 1,386.90; Hagel Construction, 2,400.00; Information Technology Dept., 1,384.40; Jessica Moser, 179.20; John Deere Financial, 80,897.91; Justin Johnson, 190.95; Lois Clark, 975.00; NAPA Auto Parts, 744.54; ODP Business Solutions, LLC, 395.76.

Pat Biel Trucking Inc., 2,861.38; Quadiant Finance, 1,057.92; Rachel Stokes, 225.00; Residence Inn, 220.00; Stutsman Co. Correction Center, 1,900.00; Joseph Gushwa, 180.00.

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

Old Business

There was no update on old business.

New Business

Nate Monson, Road Superintendent, provided an update on the department. Durapatching has slowed down, the department is still managing spots on the Murphy Road and South Bordulac from the train derailment. Demo on the old Wright Bridge will begin on September 15th and could be completed as early as October 1st but must be completed no later than November 7th. Additional discussion included the flex funding project and what

percentage the county is willing to contribute to the application. Monarch Handyman submitted a quote for \$20,000 for repair work on the Grace City Shop. Central City Lumber provided a material estimate of \$14,129.97. Discussion included bringing water to the building. Commissioner Copenhaver would also like to look into building a new shop in Grace City. Roundy provided information from NDIRF on insurance coverage. The building was under insured so that reduced the claim by around \$8,000. After receipts are turned in, the county could recoup about half of that amount. Commissioner Roller motioned to accept the quote from Monarch Handyman and Central City Lumber for repair work on the Grace City shop roof, seconded by Commissioner Scanson. Roll call vote included:

- Commissioner Roller – aye
- Commissioner Utke – aye
- Commissioner Hagel – aye
- Commissioner Scanson – aye

– aye

- Commissioner Copenhaver

– aye

Motion passed. Justin Johnson, Sheriff, approached the BOCC regarding the status of Deputy Gushwa. Gushwa has been with the office for just over six months. Johnson is very pleased with his work and willingness to help. He would like to officially promote Gushwa to Sergeant, second in command. Discussion included current rate of pay and placement on the salary scale. Commissioner Scanson motioned to promote Gushwa to Sergeant at a new hourly rate of \$32.24 seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. Roll call vote included:

- Commissioner Roller – aye
- Commissioner Utke – aye
- Commissioner Hagel – aye
- Commissioner Scanson – aye

– aye

- Commissioner Copenhaver

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Roundy also received a local raffle permit for Carrington Youth Football. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to approve the local raffle seconded by Commissioner Scanson. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Commissioner discussion included Commissioner Utke motioning to allow Stutsman/Foster EM Jessica Moser as proxy to the SIRN meetings seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. All voted aye and the motion passed. Chris Thomas, EAPC, emailed the BOCC with an update on the basement. The painting has been completed. General Roofing and Construction would seal the vault and closet floors for an estimate of \$1,600. The tile work in basement bathrooms will be worked on over the weekend. Commissioner Hagel viewed blind options and General Roofing will measure, order and install the blinds for the Commissioner Room. General Roofing will also repair wainscoting in the Commissioner Room and anchor the condensation line where a leak was noticed in the mechanical room. Roundy also presented a repair estimate from Johnson Controls to replace an expired heat detector and replace it with a standard heat detector as the boiler is no longer located in that area for a cost of \$979.69. Commissioner Scanson motioned to approve the work seconded by Commissioner Roller. Roll call vote included:

- Commissioner Roller – aye
- Commissioner Utke – aye
- Commissioner Hagel – aye
- Commissioner Scanson – aye

– aye

- Commissioner Copenhaver

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