

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF FOSTER COUNTY MARCH 3, 2023

At 9:00 am, Chairman Scanson 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. Also present was Interim Auditor Ellen Roundy and Deputy Auditor Hailey Bachmeier.

Commissioner Beumer made a motion to offer Garrett Matteson \$30.00/hour for the equipment operator position, seconded by Commissioner Hagel. Discussion included making an adjustment to the entire road department. The BOCC will have to look at potentially increasing blade rates for townships or removing the yearly credit to help cover some of these costs for the following year. Commissioner Hagel stated that this will put these employees between steps 8 and 9 and they will sit at that until the COLA catches up to where they are at on the scale. Options the BOCC can do are to move all employees, adjust the scale, or move some employees. There was discussion that if other employees questioned this that Commissioner Beumer and Commissioner Scanson would be available. Commissioner Utke believes that the BOCC will have a responsibility to look at all positions and all departments come budget time. Commissioner Beumer stated that if they cannot fill the open equipment operator position that they would have to look at contracting out in the private sector. Roll call vote included:

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

Commissioner Hagel made a motion to move all full-time equipment operators from grade 11 to grade 13 and that we pay them \$30.00/hour. The part-time operator would be at \$25.45, the Road Foreman would move from grade 13 to grade 14 at step 9 and the road superintendent from grade 14 to grade 15, step 9. This would also move the maintenance employee that helps the road department to \$27.46 for the difference in job classifications, seconded by Commissioner Utke. It was stated that the employees would sit at that step until the COLA reaches up to them.

Commissioner Utke stated that the BOCC should appoint portfolios to the commissioners to work with the road superintendent and his crew on expectations and the new departmental phone system. They will discuss doing portfolios for all county departments at a later date.

- Roll call vote included:
- Commissioner Beumer – aye
 - Commissioner Hagel – aye
 - Commissioner Scanson – aye
 - Commissioner Copenhaver – aye
 - Commissioner Utke – aye

Commissioner Beumer added that the Sheriff's department and Road department differ from offices inside the courthouse. Commissioner Hagel explained why the grades were set up the way they were based on responsibility impact to the county, supervision and working conditions.

With no further business, Chairman Scanson adjourned the meeting at 9:39 am.

MARCH 7, 2023

At 3:30pm, Chairman Scanson called the Foster County Commission meeting to order. Roll call included Commissioner Becky Hagel, Commissioner Alan Scanson, Commissioner Pat Copenhaver, and Commissioner David Utke. Also, present were Interim Auditor Ellen Roundy, State's Attorney Kara Brinster, Foster County Independent Reporter Leasa Lura, Road Superintendent Nate Monson, and World Engineering Vice President Michael Rivinius.

The meeting began with approval of the minutes for the February 21st, 2023, regular meeting and March 3rd, 2023, special meeting. Commissioner Hagel had two changes and motioned to approve the minutes with the changes seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Interim Auditor Roundy presented the BOCC with lost check affidavits for Alan Scanson, Nick Oster and Thomas Voglewede. Commissioner Copenhaver made a motion to approve the bills including the lost check affidavits, seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Bills: 35137, Alan Scanson, \$201.25; 35138, Amazon Capital Services, Inc., 224.95; 35139, Andrew S. Marquart, 153.00. 35140, Arrowwood Prairie Co-op, 1,690.00; 35141, Bessette Motors, Inc., 190.52; 35142, Brinster Law, P.C., 895.77; 35143, C&O Oil Company, 12,107.39; 35144, Carrington Motors, Inc., 662.58; 35145, Central City H2O+, 13.50; 35146, Craig Wiesz, 11.14; 35147, Dakota Dust-Tex, Inc., 1104.20; 35148, Dakota Fire Extinguishers, 625.74; 35149, EAPC Architects Engineers, 9,214.79. 35150, Evans Funeral Home, 1,090.00; 35151, Everbridge, Inc.

DBA Nixle, 3,000.00; 35152, Foster County Independent, 1,353.92; 35153, Foster County Treasurer, 170.18; 35154, Justin Johnson, 190.67; 35155, LEAF, 128.00; 35156, Melanie G. Hesch, 45.24; 35157, ND Sheriff's & Deputies Association, 400.00; 35158, Nickolas Oster, 18.55; 35159, Office of Attorney General - 1250, 280.00.

35160, Patriot Fuels, 281.37; 35161, Rick's Wholesale Tire, Inc., 38.00; 35162, Running's Supply, Inc., 191.87; 35163, Stutsman Co. Correction Center, 2,625.00; 35164, Thomas Vogelwede, 74.00; 35165, Uniform Center, 186.99; 35166, William J. Gale, 150.00; 35167, Wold Engineering, P.C., 7,807.50.

Commissioner Utke asked to add Public Health Transition under commissioner discussion. Roundy asked to add a gaming site authorization to the agenda. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to approve the agenda with the additions, seconded by Commissioner Hagel. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Old Business
No new business reported for the gravel pit.

New Business
Nate Monson, Road Superintendent, approached the BOCC with an update from the Road Department. The Road Department has put a total of 13,000 miles on the plows this winter. Repairs to the blade and cutting edges have been made, all being minor. Monson planned a crack sealer and will plan to use it for 55 hours this year. Load restrictions are coming up and the BOCC should consider when they would like to discuss. Michael Rivinius updated the BOCC with bid information for the McHenry Highway. A total of five bids were received:

- Bituminous Paving, Inc. \$3,311,561.24
- Border States Paving, Inc. \$2,559,225.05
- Central Specialties, Inc. \$2,760,191.75
- Mayo Construction Company, Inc. \$2,614,653.00
- Strata Corporation \$3,143,507.70

The engineering estimated \$2,585,000.00. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to accept the low bid from Border States Paving, Inc. for \$2,559,225.05, seconded by Commissioner Utke. The County will plan to use funds from Prairie dog, HB 1505 and Farm to Market to cover the expenses. If there is short comings they will proceed with a decision at that time. Roll call vote included:

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

Commissioner Rivinius also discussed the five-year plan with the BOCC. There are forty-two miles throughout the county that need to have an overlay or widening and an overlay. Rivinius also stated that he received a letter from game and fish inquiring about installing a fishing area or canoe launch where the Wright bridge will be removed. Rivinius will reach out to game and fish to provide more details to the BOCC.

Interim Auditor Roundy presented tablet information to the BOCC. The IT coordinator was unable to attend the meeting so they will table this until he is able to provide information. Roundy asked for board approval to appoint Tom Erdmann to the South Central Regional Council Loan Committee. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to appoint Erdmann to the South Central Regional Council Loan Committee, seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed. Roundy asked for approval to be the designation of Entity Administrator for the System Award Management (SAM). The County is required to have a SAM number to bid on and get paid for federal contracts or to receive federal funds. The county has a SAM number, but administrative information has not been updated for many years. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to approve Roundy as the entity administrator for SAM, seconded by Commissioner Hagel. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Roundy asked for approval for a raffle permit for Circle Trail Riders, Inc. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to approve the permit, seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed. Roundy provided a Gaming Site Authorization for Rice-Deed Post 205 American Legion for gaming at the Bordulac Bar. The fee has not yet been received for the authorization. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to approve the gaming site authorizing but to hold off sending the paperwork in until the fee is received, seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Justin Johnson, Foster County Sheriff, approached the BOCC with an estimate from Midstate Wireless on equipment for the new squad vehicle. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to approve Johnson to order the materials needed for the new squad vehicle for \$9,758.85, seconded by Commissioner Utke. Roll call vote included:

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

budgeted items from \$1,000. He did ask the surrounding counties and as long as the item(s) are budgeted for, they do not need to approach their respective boards with additional approval. Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to move the spending limit for the Sheriff's office to \$12,000, seconded by Commissioner Utke. Discussion was had. All voted nay and the motion was denied. Commissioner Hagel motioned to approve the pre-approval amount to \$2,000, seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Karen Evans, Tax Director, updated the BOCC with progress from the Foster County Planning and Zoning board. She asked for approval for the current board members and terms.

Tom Erdmann
At Large from City of Carrington 2 year term (2024)

Jason Wolsky
At Large from City of Carrington 2-year term (2024)

Alan Scanson
County Commissioner
Year of term of office
Cash Biel

At Large District 1
4-year term (2026)

Piet Van Bedaf
At Large District 2
3-year term (2025)

Justin Topp
At Large District 2
1-year term (2023)

Jon Johnson
At Large District 3
4-year term (2026)

Jason Jarrett
At Large District 4
3-year term (2025)

Cameron Roundy
At Large District 5
1-year term (2023)

Commissioner Copenhaver motioned to approve the Planning and Zoning Board members, seconded by Commissioner Hagel. All voted aye and the motion passed. Two building permits were presented that were approved that morning at the Planning and Zoning meeting, one for Jerry and Jackie Nicholson and one for Joe and Angela Bolonchuk. Commissioner Utke motioned to approve the building permits, seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. All voted aye and the motion passed.

The Planning and Zoning Board had no opposition and no comments to placing building permit signs throughout the county. The Planning and Zoning Board approved a Road access permit fee for \$50.00 and a Fee for failure to obtain a permit for \$50.00. Discussion was had on road speed limits with no additional action taken. Evans updated the BOCC

on the subdivision regulations. They will continue to research the issue. The BOCC was informed that the city holds jurisdiction on speed limits for an additional mile outside of city limits. A complaint was brought up for junk accumulation on a property in Barlow. State law requires that vehicles must be operational and licensed if not inside of a building.

Commissioner Scanson provided legislative updates on bills pertaining to Townships. No update on the door security system. Commissioner Utke updated the BOCC that no bids were received for the basement remodel project. Commissioner Utke, Commissioner Scanson and Interim Auditor Roundy had visited with EAPC on the next steps on the project. They will plan to bid the project out again in June or July for a fall/winter start date. They are hoping this will attract contractors for interior work in the winter. Commissioner Utke provided the BOCC with an update on the ambulance building. They are working together to come up with an agreement that works for all parties involved. Commissioner Scanson attended an NDSU extension advisory meeting, he asked that they provided the county employees and officials with the monthly events they have planned as they do a lot for the county. Commissioner Hagel stated that Human Services has interviewed for the open eligibility position in Foster County. She has not heard if Public Health has had any applicants for the open RN position. Commissioner Utke read off items for the reoccurring calendar. Discussion was had on the transition with Public Health. State's Attorney Kara Brinster stated that they will need to come up with a contract or lease similar to the ambulance building for the Public Health building. The county owns and will continue to own that building until another option is presented.

With no further business, Chairman Scanson adjourned the meeting at 5:40pm.

MARCH 21, 2023

At 3:30pm, Chairman Scanson called the Foster County Commission meeting to order. Roll call included Commissioner Scott Beumer, Commissioner Becky Hagel, Commissioner Alan Scanson, Commissioner Pat Copenhaver, and Commissioner David Utke. Also, present were Interim Auditor Ellen Roundy, State's Attorney Kara Brinster, Foster County Independent Reporter Leasa Lura, and Road Superintendent Nate Monson. The meeting began with ap-

proval of the minutes for the March 7th, 2023, meeting. Commissioner Beumer motioned to approve the minutes seconded by Commissioner Hagel. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Interim Auditor Roundy presented the BOCC with two lost check affidavits for Cassie Ness. Commissioner Hagel motioned to approve the bills including the lost check affidavits, seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Bills: 35192, Avid Hawk, LLC, \$35.00; 35193, Central Business Systems, 221.02; 35194, Central Valley Health District, 2,547.75; 35195, Computer Express, 1,200.00; 35196, Dan Becker, 750.00; 35197, David Utke, 191.75; 35198, EAPC Architects Engineers, 2,545.13; 35199, Information Technology Dept., 877.35. 35200, Johnson Controls Fire Protection LP, 531.69; 35201, Leavers Foods, 6.95; 35202, NAPA Auto Parts, 470.59; 35203, NDACO Resources Group, 140.00; 35204, Quadient Finance, 1,000.00; 35205, Quadient Leasing USA, Inc., 417.00; 35206, Residence Inn, 264.60; 35207, Stutsman County Auditor, 5,000.00; 35208, Cassie Ness, 50.00; 35209, Cassie Ness, 31.05.

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

Old Business
No new business reported for the gravel pit.

New Business
Nate Monson, Road Superintendent, approached the BOCC with an update from the Road Department. There have been maintenance repairs on the trucks. Snow total for the winter season is up to 105". Monson wanted to thank the residents of Foster County that have been helping with snow removal. It is a long hard job pushing snow and without help from others many roads would not be opened. Chairman Scanson and Monson will determine when to put load restrictions on. Discussion was similar to when the state puts on, but they will decide what is best for our area.

Doug Zink and Brent Bachmeier, Foster County Water Board, approached the BOCC regarding Senate Bill 2372. Zink wanted to make the BOCC aware of the bill and what the repercussions were if it passed. Commissioner Utke plans to attend a meeting in Cooperstown regarding the joint waterboards.

Commissioner Beumer made

a motion to publish for encroachment in the newspaper for the next two weeks, seconded by Commissioner Utke. All voted aye and the motion passed. Legislative discussion was had on bills relevant to Foster County. Commissioner Utke motioned to authorize Chairman Scanson to send a letter to legislatures for shortfalls associated with snow removal costs, seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. All voted aye and the motion passed. Kara Brinster, States Attorney, updated the BOCC about House Bill 1213 and asked for support in do not pass from the BOCC. Roundy has received one more quote for door security and is waiting for the final one to come in. Commissioner Utke stated that the surface of the dome will need to be repainted in 2023. He has contacted EAPC and they will give a proposal to write the specs and will also include information for the old shop building. Commissioner Hagel discussed HB1046 regarding indirect costs from the Human Services Zone. There is potential to receive additional funding with new wording added to the bill if the remodel of the basement is done. Commissioner Utke motioned to operate under the existing lease for the Ambulance building pending the potential revision of a new lease agreement, seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. All voted aye and the motion passed. The BOCC discussed updates from their committees. Commissioner Scanson stated that we will have to look at putting a ballot question for NDSU extension on next year, along with a ballot question for the road department. There will be a school land annexation public hearing on March 23rd, 1:30 PM at the Courthouse. Discussion was had for reimbursements to members. Per NDCC 15.1-10-01 subpart 4 the reimbursement rate is stated for members and that is what Foster County will follow. Commissioner Hagel motioned to appoint the Auditor, Clerk of Court, Foster County Board of Commissioners Chairman, Building Maintenance, Sheriff and Emergency Manager to the safety committee. The committee will review the safety policy and provide any updates to be approved by the BOCC by September of 2023, seconded by Commissioner Copenhaver. All voted aye and the motion passed.

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

Ellen Roundy, Auditor
Alan Scanson, Chairman,
Foster County Board
of Commissioners
(Publish April 17, 2023)

PRAIRIE FARE

What would you call these foods?

By Julie Garden-Robinson
Food & Nutrition Specialist
NDSU Ext. Service

Whenever I travel, I enjoy the "local foods" and recipes. I often bring another cookbook home in my suitcase.

Besides having many flavors and forms, food has many meanings. Some foods bring promises of fortune and reminders of religious holidays. Others spark memories of our relatives.

For example, cake is traditionally served after many wedding celebrations. In fact, some references say that wedding cake dates back to ancient Rome. Back then, a soft cake was broken above a bride's head for luck. The couple would eat some of the crumbs from the grain-based cake to launch their lives together.

You may have observed the custom of tossing rice at a newly married couple. The guests were wishing them prosperity and many children.

Pretzels were given to children by monks in ancient Italy to reward them for saying their prayers. The shape of a pretzels was a reminder to the children to fold their arms across their chest in prayer.

During modern-day Mardi Gras celebrations, a king cake often is served with a plastic baby doll baked into the cake. Whoever finds the doll in their dessert becomes the "king" or "queen" for the day. They receive promises of good luck.

We have distinct food traditions throughout the U.S., and the names of foods and recipes can vary quite a bit, even though the recipes are similar.

Just for fun this week, I asked my Facebook friends to name some foods that have other names depending on where they live. I was happy to receive 70

comments on my question, with suggestions ranging from "schmere" (cream cheese spread) to "chips" (french fries, as in "fish and chips").

I sifted through their responses and developed some questions. You probably have other names for some of the foods.

1. What would you call a sweet carbonated beverage?
 - a. Pop
 - b. Soda
 - c. Coke
 - d. Soda pop
 - e. Punch
2. In the Midwest, "funeral hotdish" often is served after memorial services. Which of these would be a typical menu item?
 - a. Cheesy hashbrowns
 - b. Macaroni with ground beef and a tomato-based sauce
 - c. Scalloped potatoes and ham
 - d. Macaroni hotdish
 - e. Ghoulish
 - f. I have no idea.
3. What do you call a dessert baked in a pan and cut into squares or rectangles?
 - a. Bars
 - b. Pan cookies
 - c. Dessert bars
 - d. Cookie squares
 - e. Something else
4. What would you call a mixture of ground beef, tomato-based sauce (or ketchup), chopped onions and other ingredients served on a bun? There are so many names for these that you get extra choices.
 - a. Slushburger
 - b. Sloppy joe
 - c. Loose-meat sandwich
 - d. Barbecue
 - e. Made-rights
 - f. Tavern
5. What is the name of seasoned meat wrapped in cabbage leaves and served with a tomato-based sauce?
 - a. Cabbage rolls
 - b. Pigs in a blanket
 - c. Halupsi
 - d. Goabki ("little pigeons")
 - e. I would never eat anything like that.



"Tater tot hotdish" is an example of a regional comfort food. (NDSU photo)

6. What do you call slightly spicy meat, chopped tomatoes, lettuce and/or salsa that is fairly portable depending on its "wrapper"?
 - a. Walking taco
 - b. Taco in a bag
 - c. Navajo taco
 - d. Frybread taco
 - e. Something else
 7. What do you call the accompaniment to turkey on Thanksgiving dinner that may be cooked inside the turkey or in a separate pan?
 - a. Stuffing
 - b. Dressing
 - c. Breeding
 - d. Sleep-inducing carbohydrates
 - e. Something I'd never eat
 8. What would you call a cone filled with soft ice cream and sometimes dipped in chocolate or another coating?
 - a. Creamee
 - b. Dip cone
 - c. Whirl-a-whip
 - d. Soft serve cone
 - e. Now I am hungry for one regardless of the name.
- Most of these questions have multiple answers that are correct and vary depending on where you live. For example, all the answers to questions 4, 5 and 6 were provided by friends.
- Search online for NDSU Extension's food and culture handouts, including "Exploring North Dakota's Foodways: "Germans from

Russia" at ndsu.ag/germans-russia and "Scandinavian Cuisine Past and Present" at ndsu.ag/scandinavian.

I grew up eating "Tator Tot Hotdish" in Minnesota, and my kids still enjoy this comfort food. My colleagues modified a recipe to be healthier and also slow-cooker friendly.

Healthier Slow-cooker Tator Tot Hotdish
1 pound ground turkey or extra-lean beef, cooked
1 small onion, diced
1 16-ounce bag frozen mixed vegetables
1 (14.5-ounce) can cream of mushroom soup, reduced sodium
1 (5.3-ounce) container plain Greek yogurt
1 tablespoon garlic powder
8 ounces tater tots
3 tablespoons colby jack cheese, shredded
Brown ground turkey or beef in a skillet. Add onion and cook until translucent. Add ground turkey and onion mixture, vegetables, soup, yogurt and garlic powder to slow cooker. Stir to combine. Top with tater tots and sprinkle with shredded cheese. Cook on low for 6 hours or on high for two to three hours.
Makes six servings. Each serving has 230 calories, 7 grams (g) fat, 23 g protein, 18 g carbohydrate, 1 g fiber and 290 milligrams sodium.