

February 2025 City News

City of Fosston | 220 1st St E Fosston, MN 56542 | 218-435-1959 | 218-435-1961 fax |
www.fosston.com

Fosston Police Department 24/7 Non Emergency Line—218-435-6611. For emergencies dial 911



Jim Offerdahl



Meet the elected officials that serve you!
Term started at city:
2000—Council
2006—Mayor

Favorite part of being Mayor:

Serving the community as Mayor is very rewarding. I enjoy being part of a great group of city employees and the council. It is an honor and privilege to serve my hometown

Hobbies/activities: I collect old microphones. I own the same microphone that I first spoke into in 1972 when I went to work at the Fosston Radio station, at the time known as KEHG.

I enjoy traveling to see my daughter in Orlando and spending time with her there with her pooch. This past November she and I made a trip to the place where I married her mother, Nashville, TN where we celebrated both of our birthdays and attended the Grand Ole Opry.

Fun fact about Jim: "When I was a little boy, on Christmas Eve, my sister and I were not allowed to open any Christmas presents until we ate our Christmas Eve dinner which consisted of lutefisk, lefse and mashed potatoes. I tried to require the same of my children but my wife would not allow me to. I now make it every Christmas now and finally my kids at least try it every year."

Motto: "Live like there is no tomorrow. Enjoy life while you can."

Sanitation Rate Increase

The City of Fosston today announced its new rates for the sanitation service. The new rate for regular residential customers will be \$16.50 per month, an increase of \$1.50. Residential customers 65 years and older will be eligible for a senior rate of \$15.50 per month. The new rates will go into effect on this billing. Commercial rates will also increase and will be based on the volume of garbage each commercial customer generates. The minimum commercial customer rate increase \$.95 per month and will be \$21.16 per month.

Director of Public Works, Steven Lyseng says factors in the decision include employee support costs, fuel costs, increasing repair & maintenances costs and rising capital costs for new equipment. The City will be implementing and providing new cans with a handle and wheels to all residential customers this Spring. We are doing this in hopes of decreasing the likelihood of injury to our sanitation staff as they will now be able to utilize the can lifter that is installed on our garbage truck. The new cans will be maintained by the city. If something on your new garbage can happens to break, we ask that you call city hall to let us know. We will then bring you another can and fix the one that is broken so that it can be returned to the residence. More information about these new cans will be provided prior to implementation. Overall, the cans will be more efficient for residents and our crews.

City Administrator Heide noted that despite the rate increase, Fosston Sanitation Service is still a great value for its customers. Fosston Sanitation service is still priced at just fifty three cents per day for residential customers, providing customers with not only weekly pickup of trash, but also weekly pickup of leaves, brush and other debris.

Coming Events:

- Monday, February 10—City Council, 7pm
- City departments closed—Monday, February 17th
- Community Concert—Johnny Holmes—Saturday, April 26th at Ventures

City Departments Closed Presidents' Day

City departments will be closed on Monday, February 17 in observance of Presidents' Day. There will be no garbage pickup Monday. Monday garbage will be picked up on Tuesday along with Tuesday's garbage.

Thank you

Greetings from the Fosston Police Department

Happy New Year to you all.



For your information, each homeowner in Fosston is required by city ordinance to keep the sidewalk clear around their home. Please either clear it yourself or make arrangements to have it cleared. It is important to clear it all the way up to your mailbox, so the carrier doesn't have to trudge through the snow to deliver your mail also.

Just a reminder that most of the city streets are snow and ice covered, so please keep your speeds down and be extra careful while driving. We have many individuals crossing the streets, especially by the schools, so please be extra cautious. As the snow builds up along the road, you may need to creep out into the intersection to make sure it is safe to proceed.

Please be aware that Fosston also has an ordinance pertaining to parking on the street after a snowstorm. The ordinance prohibits parking on the street until snow removal has been completed. Please make sure your vehicles and trailers are in your driveway or in another parking area on your property when the city plows are out removing snow from the streets. The Fosston maintenance crew is up very early at times clearing the streets of snow so that we are able to get around in the morning and plowing around vehicles makes their job more difficult.

Did you know the city of Fosston has its' own Transit Bus?

It runs from 8am-4:30pm Monday through Friday, and 9am-1pm Saturday within the city of Fosston and up to a mile of city limits. (except on Federal Holidays)

Just call: 218-435-1969 to ride. (\$1/ride)

Please see below for an opportunity to fill out a survey and voice your thoughts and ideas on how to enhance rural transit!

Shape the future of transit in greater Minnesota!

The Minnesota Department of Transportation is developing a Greater Minnesota Transit Plan (GMTP). This plan will set priorities and outline strategies to enhance public transit across rural and urban regions outside the Twin Cities. Gathering feedback from you on your transit experiences and needs is an essential part of updating policies and recommendations. MnDOT wants to learn how you use transit and hear your suggestions for improving services in your community. To ensure the plan reflects the needs of all Minnesotans, MnDOT is seeking community members with diverse perspectives to join an Advisory Task Force that will help shape the future of transit.

Visit talk.dot.state.mn.us/greater-minnesota-transit-plan to learn more about joining the RIDE Advisory Task Force, fill out a survey, and share your ideas.



Polk County Social Services - Information for Residents

Polk County Social Services is the county's public welfare and social services agency. The department is divided into three divisions and assists county residents with Child Support, Income Maintenance Programs and Social Services Programs. If you need assistance contact 218-435-1585. To apply online for SNAP (food) and Cash programs go to <https://applymn.dhs.mn.gov/>. To apply for health care program go to <https://www.mnsure.org> if you are under 65 and DO NOT have a disability. If you are over 65 and/or have a disability, please call the office to request a paper application for health care be mailed to you .