

January 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

Lookback on 2024:

2024 proved to be another busy year for the City of Fosston. Several projects were completed, new grants awarded, new staff members joined the city, and great events held.

Some of the projects that were completed in 2024 included a fully grant funded paving improvement project at Omland Court. Thanks to a \$320,000 Minnesota Manufactured Housing grant the cul de sacs were paved, parking spaces were added and some water infrastructure was updated within the park.

The 2023 street and utility improvement project on Johnson Avenue, which consisted of upgraded water lines and a mill and overlay of the edges of the street was completed this summer.

The Fourth Addition to the Industrial Park and six unit T Hangar project started later in the summer and much headway was made on this project thanks to the favorable weather. The total cost of this project is approximately \$7 million. A Federal Economic Development Grant in the amount of \$5.79 million was awarded to the City of Fosston. The state BDPI program is partnering with \$960,000 in additional grant funds to bring the local share of the project cost down. The local share is estimated to be under \$800,000. Lot sales and levy will cover the local share of the project.

The City of Fosston has been fortunate to receive federal and state funds to support the projects we complete. The city's FIT trail system continues to grow thanks to state transportation grants.

The boardwalk was finally updated this Fall and it looks great! We were able to find an experienced contractor who gave a favorable quote. This year the Berge Stafford park trail will be completed. This will provide paved trail from Johnson Avenue through to Larson Avenue and include a sidewalk on the east side of Larson to the public restrooms. This will be 80% funded by MNDOT.

In 2026, the 2nd St NE sidewalks will be improved or added where this isn't currently sidewalk as well as the first phase of trail expansion from the complex FIT trail to Calvary Church.

The utilities department has continued their work to ensure the electrical and natural gas system is maintained and upgraded when necessary, providing excellent reliability. Approximately 4,000 feet of electrical distribution line was upgraded this year. New mapping software was installed and staff took part in natural gas and electrical trainings. In 2024 Brady Swanson achieved his journeyman lineman certificate. Brady joins Steven Lyseng and Shane Linehan who also hold this certification for the City of Fosston.

City offices welcomed Nikki Juve as our new Administrative Assistant. Amelia Linehan completed her first year of clerk school and Dyana Dunnigan moved into the role of Billing Specialist. *continued....*



Roy Dufault



Meet the elected officials that serve you!

Term started at city:
June 1, 2013

Favorite part of being a councilmember: Being informed and being a part of the long range planning for the City of Fosston

Hobbies/activities:
swimming and biking

Fun fact about Roy: Roy swam butterfly on a 1979 boys swimming relay team that holds an unbroken Fosston High School record.

Motto: "There are two types of people in the world, those who take things out and those who put things away."

The police department welcomed a new Chief of Police, Phil Juve and a new Patrol Officer, Seth Senn. The department is fully staffed and able to participate in trainings and continue to provide 24/7 coverage to the community.

Our parks and recreation department added Joby Buchholz as Assistant Rec & Aquatics Director. The department completed a number of landscaping projects around town, including the Library and Veterans Memorial park. The Civic Center building has continued to be well kept and a much needed insulation project was completed in 2024 as well as routine maintenance on the pool.

In the city's continued efforts to secure our healthcare future, Callen Weispfennig was added to city staff as Healthcare Administrator. The city created a First Care Task force in 2024 with 17 members from our community and surrounding area. An executive committee of the task force has continued to work closely on the issue as well as a communications committee to ensure the most updated information that we can share is shared. Close to \$300,000 in donations from community members, businesses and organizations have been raised in support of the task force and city's effort to secure a healthcare future Fosston and the surrounding communities deserve.

Two new pickleball courts were completed in 2024 thanks to a grassroots group that raised funds from community members and businesses with the city contributing approximately 30% of the costs.

The Library continues to see improvements to the facility with new stucco that has solved the water issues north side of the building. The roof was replaced in 2023 along with sidewalk replacements. In 2025 a new roof over the theatre is needed. Upon completion of that project the facility should be in good shape.

The city bus continues to provide excellent service to the community. The city receives approximately 85% operational funding from the state of Minnesota for this service in 2024.

The fire department has welcomed several new members this year. The department takes advantage of several training opportunities throughout the year and continues to serve the city of Fosston, Lengby, and surrounding 11 townships.

The city has seen the addition of a new home in the Aspen Addition, along with the start of construction of another, and the completion of the Palubicki Apartment project. Housing continues to be a main topic at our monthly Economic Development Authority meetings. We are thankful for those who serve on this board.

Overall 2024 was a great year with several completed projects, securing funding for future projects and another year with a tax levy that will result in a decrease to properties that haven't increased in value. We are proud to continue to be a city with the amenities and services of a large city while keeping our taxes lower than most communities around us. Your city staff and elected officials are here to serve and strive to keep Fosston a great place to live, work and play!

NEWS FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Merry Christmas and happy new year from the Fosston Police Department

We are enjoying patrolling around Fosston and seeing many homes with lit Christmas trees in front of their windows and fun Christmas decorations in your yards and homes. Here is a safety tip for the month of December. If you don't already know your neighbors, the holidays are a great time to get to know them. Neighbors can be a great resource for you as well as the police. Communicate with your neighbors as to when you will be gone and watch each other's homes for suspicious activity. This will keep your neighborhood safer.

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. Also, put away any distractions while driving, like cell phones and snacks.

Please be aware that Fosston 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 vehicle is 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.

COMING EVENTS:

- *City Council—Monday, January 13—7pm*
- *City Departments Closed—Monday, January 20th—garbage pickup Tuesday*

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed **citizens** can **change** the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

— Margaret Mead