Osceola, Nebraska
January 23, 2024

Pursuant to notice published in the January 18th, 2024 issue of the Polk County News, the Board of County Commissioners convened at 9:30 a.m. with all members present. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Chairman Westring informed those in attendance that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted in the meeting room.

The audit report for fiscal year 2022-2023 has been received from Contryman Associates and is available to the public.

A motion was made by Westring to appoint Nathaniel K. Heinz as Flood Plain Administrator for Polk County. The motion was seconded by Boss and the roll call vote was Westring, aye; Boss, aye; Boruch, aye. Heinz replaces Chris Hays who resigned from the position at the end of October 2023.

In connection with the 30/64 corridor project, Platte County is making an application to the Federal Highway Administration for a RAISE grant to fund a planning study for the next step towards construction of the bridge and roads. Platte County is requesting a letter of support from the Polk County Board to include with the application. A motion was made by Boss directing the County Clerk to draft a letter of support for the project on behalf of the Board and submit the letter to Kim Kwapnioski, the Chairman of the Platte County Board of Supervisors. The motion was seconded by Westring and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Westring, aye; Boruch, aye.

Hospital Administrator Marcus Augustin updated the Board on the activities of the hospital. December was another busy month for the facility with over $1,000,000 in operating revenue reported. As a result, both an operating and overall gain were reported for the month. Holding outpatient clinics with various specialists here at our facility is good for both the patients and the hospital. Employment positions are available in the lab and in the business office. Due to the high costs of the abatement needed for the flooring project, other alternatives are being explored to lower the cost. The current truck with blade used to clear snow around the facility is experiencing some mechanical issues and they are searching for a replacement. A new scope washer is being installed. Augustin and COO Nataly Sanley will be meeting with Emergency Manager Logan Watts to review how the facility and staff handled operations during the recent snow storms and possible areas of improvements for future similar situations. The Annie Jeffrey volunteers held their grand opening at their new location in the former Fields and Frills space last week. The spring health fair will be held at the hospital on Tuesday, March 5th.

Highway Supt. Theis informed the Board that Champlin Tire Recycling would be available the week of May 6th to pick up the scrap tires the county receives during a scrap tire collection event. The dates of May 2nd, 3rd and 4th would be available at the fairgrounds. A motion was made by Boss to set May 2nd thru May 4th as the dates for the scrap tire collection event to be held at the Polk County Fairgrounds. The motion was seconded by Westring and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Westring, aye; Boruch, aye.

Highway Supt. Theis also updated the Board on the work being done in the Road Dept. Several of the county's motor graders are experiencing mechanical issues as well as the plow truck. Multiple local private contractors have been hired to help with snow removal on the county roads, especially on the east/west roads. With their help, the crew is making headway opening and widening the traveling lanes in the rural areas of the county.

Weed Supt. Carlson updated the Board on the activities of the Weed Dept. A motion was made by Boruch authorizing the Chairman to sign the Weed Control Authority Board Roster as presented by Weed Supt. Carlson. The motion was seconded by Westring and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Westring, aye; Boss, aye. Supt. Carlson will be attending training in Norfolk the first full week of February which will provide continuing education hours. It is anticipated that more spraying will be done with drones in the future to help control noxious weeds in hard to reach areas. The recent snow fall has slowed the progress of inspecting for phragmites.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 11:45 a.m. to meet again on February 6th and 20th, 2024. An agenda of the meetings will be available at the office of the County Clerk.

Approved: /S/ Debra S. Girard — County Clerk /S/ Jerry Westring — Chairman