Osceola, Nebraska
January 27, 2026

Pursuant to notice published in the January 22nd, 2026 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.

Marcus Augustin and Nataly Sanley updated the Board on the activities of the hospital. An operating and overall loss were reported for the month of December. The Foundation has received enough funds to move ahead with purchasing a new ultrasound machine. The hospital's ambulance has now been used for 39 transfers since it was put in service and an estimate has been received for insulating the county owned building across the street from the hospital where the ambulance is stored. A second estimate will be sought. The flooring in the operating room needs to be replaced at estimated cost of $56,000. Since the number of in house sleep studies has declined and the cost for keeping up the licensing required exceeds the revenue the studies generate, the hospital will probably let the current sleep study licensing lapse. There will not be an orthopedic clinic this month as they are working on finishing the paperwork with the new provider. Upcoming events include the Wine and Beer Fest on February 8th and the Spring Health Fair on March 3rd.

Judd Allen and Tim McGonigal with NACO Benefit Services met with the Board to discuss the current health plan the County offers to employees and the other insurance products offered through NACO.

Highway Supt. Theis updated the Board on the work being done in the Road Dept. After reviewing the regulations, Brian McDonald with JEO does not feel there is a need to install stop signs at all of the rural railroad crossings. Word was received from Congressman Flood's office that the funding for the Lone Star West project has been approved by the House of Representatives. An on sight demonstration of Caterpillar's Vision Link program will take place during next week's Board meeting.

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 Boss and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Boss, aye; Westring, aye. Nearly 6500 acres were sprayed via helicopter in the Platte Valley Weed Management Area in 2025. Phragmites inspections are under way with 15 completed to date. Supt. Carlson will be attending the annual weed conference in Norfolk next week to receive continuing education hours and the side by side is being repaired.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 11:45 a.m. to meet again on February 3rd and 17th, 2026. 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