

Osceola, Nebraska  
November 25, 2025

Pursuant to notice published in the November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 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 voting procedures for voting at the NACO annual meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Boruch to appoint Debra S. Girard as the designee to cast the ballot for Polk County should Chairman Westring not be able to attend the annual meeting. The motion was seconded by Boss and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Boss, aye; Westring, aye.

A motion was made by Boss to sign the agreement with the Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation for calendar year 2026 which combines the offices of the county and district courts and authorizes the Clerk Magistrate to perform the duties of the Clerk of the District Court. In return the County shall reimburse the Office of the Courts for half of the salary of the Clerk Magistrate. The motion was seconded by Boruch and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Boruch, aye; Westring, aye.

Marus Augustin and Nataly Sanley updated the Board on the activities of the hospital. October was a good revenue month but higher expenses resulted in an operating and overall loss for the month. Payment for the cost report settlement is anticipated to be received by Annie Jeffrey in January or February of 2026. The IT server room has its own cooling system but it has failed with an estimated cost of \$10,000 to replace it. An upright freezer in the dietary department also quit working. A thank you was extended to the Board for the installation of cement in a portion of the storage building north of the hospital where the ambulance is housed. Nearly 30 transfers have been made since the ambulance was put in service this past summer. The Foundation for Annie Jeffrey will hold their annual wine and beer fest on February 9<sup>th</sup> and the AJ volunteers will be holding their Christmas party on December 9<sup>th</sup>, celebrating 30 years of existence.

Crystal Gay and Chris Gabriel met with the Board to discuss the benefits currently offered to county employees. They asked that the Board review the health insurance coverage offered to employees to see if there is a better plan with lower premiums to make the family coverage more affordable. The addition of county paid dental and vision insurance instead of employee paid dental and vision insurance would be welcomed as well.

Shauna Drozd met with the Board to ask for approval for a special designated permit to have alcohol at a function to be held on the Polk County Fairgrounds. A motion was made by Boruch to allow Polk County Recreational Association to sell and serve alcohol on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025 in the Ag Pavilion on the Polk County Fairgrounds. The motion was seconded by Boss and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Boss, aye; Westring, aye.

Highway Supt. Theis updated the Board on the work being done in the Road Dept. Due to the cold and snowy weather set to move in, Constructors is halting work on the overlay projects until spring. The project has taken longer than expected because patching the underlying road was more time consuming than anticipated. Supt. Theis plans to begin bridge inspections next week. The new heater for the Polk shop should be installed on Friday.

Weed Supt. Carlson updated the Board on the activities of the Weed Dept. The courthouse lawn has been sprayed following the frost and the sprayers have now been winterized. The blade will be installed on the ATV in preparation for snow removal around the courthouse. Winter projects include completing state reports, reviewing the chemical inventory, and repairing the cover on the pit in the bulk chemical room.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 11:35 a.m. to meet again on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025. 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