Pursuant to notice published in the December 17th, 2020 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 on the wall of the Commissioner's room.

Hospital Administrator Joe Lohrman updated the Board on the activities of the hospital. November was a slower month than October as far as revenues were concerned but an overall gain was still reported for the month. The fire alarm panel board and floor scrubber need to be replaced. A new GI scope is also needed with at least half of the funds already donated. The recording system for the security cameras also needs to be replaced along with the panic buttons and door security system associated with the cameras. There is currently a downward trend in the number of reported Covid-19 cases in the area and no staff is out for Covid isolation or quarantine. The first doses of the vaccine should be received today with approximately 190 doses to be split between the hospital and the Polk County Health Department for distribution. The reduced Covid activity is allowing the hospital to resume preventative care procedures and surgeries and plans are moving forward with UNMC for a dermatology clinic.

Tanya Crawford with the Polk County Extension Service updated the Board on the status of the Extension Board membership. Several members need to be replaced as they have served the maximum of six years that the bylaws allow. A motion was made by Boss to appoint Joelle Wacker, Ryan Twogood, and Rebekah Maynard as members of the Polk County Extension Board. The motion was seconded by Boruch and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Boruch, aye; Westring, aye.

Highway Supt. Theis updated the Board on the work being done in the Road Dept. With the Highway 81/92 project temporarily on hold during the winter, Supt. Theis would like to remove the temporary traffic signs on the county roads north and south of the highway, replacing them once construction work resumes. A resolution to amend the original resolution will be placed on the agenda for the Board's next meeting. Because the new brush cutter head is not rotating fast enough, representatives from Murphy Tractor will come out to make adjustments. Supt. Theis is also making inquiries regarding obtaining a tractor for the snowblower.

Weed Supt. Carlson updated the Board on the activities of the Weed Dept. The new pickup for the department has arrived at the dealership and the old snowblade has been successfully mounted on the new ATV. Organizing the chemical room, phragmites inspections, replacing motors on sprayers, and preparing the annual reports are on the winter task list.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 11:35 a.m. to meet again on January 5th and 19th, 2021. 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