

Osceola, Nebraska
December 23, 2025

Pursuant to notice published in the December 18th, 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.

Salaries for the elected officials for the four year term which begins in January of 2027 were discussed, along with the Nebraska Association of County Officials' salary guidelines and the information provided during the NACO conference in regards to the restrictions on the salaries for county commissioners. No action was taken but the deadline to set the salaries for the next term is January 15th, 2026.

Marcus Augustin and Nataly Sanley updated the Board on the activities of the hospital. The facility generated over a million dollars in revenue but a small overall loss was reported for the month. Over 33 transfers have been made using the hospital's ambulance since it was put into service last summer but delivery of the power cot ordered last summer has been pushed back yet again. The building that houses the ambulance may need to be insulated to help keep critical equipment in the ambulance at or above minimum temperatures. Six high school students from Osceola High School successfully passed the CNA course offered through the hospital. A blood drive will be held on January 6th at the hospital and Dr. Dugas' last orthopaedic clinic here will be held on January 14th due to his retirement. The Foundation for Annie Jeffrey has been able to raise \$120,000 so far for the new ultrasound machine and the annual Wine and Beer Fest will be held on February 8th.

President Trump declared the day before Christmas and the day after Christmas as additional holidays for federal workers for 2025. In following with the County Board's policy to observe all federal holidays as county holidays, the afternoon of Christmas Eve and the day after Christmas will considered county holidays as well for county employees in 2025.

Road Foreman Ericson updated the Board on the work being done in the Road Dept. Supt. Theis is reviewing the pay app for the Shelby North and Osceola North project and the mailboxes are being reinstalled along the Osceola North blacktop. Congressman Flood's office reported no new updates on the appropriations for the Lone Star West project. The blades on the mower need to be replaced but will be replaced with heavy duty blades. No reply has been received from Butler County regarding sharing the costs of a traffic study with Polk County.

Weed Supt. Carlson updated the Board on the activities of the Weed Dept. The five annual reports for the State have been completed and the chemical inventory is about one half done. The Nebraska Dept. of Ag has informed the department that Polk County has no open files. Winter phragmites inspections will begin soon and Supt. Carlson will need to get re-certified in 4 categories to remain a chemical applicator. When the time is right, the edges of the resurfaced blacktops will be sprayed for weed control where the soil has been disturbed.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 11:35 a.m. to meet again on January 6th and January 20th, 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