Pursuant to notice published in the November 30th, 2023 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.

Claims were audited and a motion was made by Westring that claims, except the claim to Jerry Westring, be allowed and warrants drawn against the various funds in the amounts listed below. The motion was seconded by Boss and the roll call vote was Westring, aye; Boss, aye; Boruch, aye. A motion was made by Boss to approve the claim to Jerry Westring for supplies reimbursement and labor and authorize a warrant to be drawn on the COVID American Rescue Plan Fund. The motion was seconded by Boruch and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Boruch, aye; Westring, abstain.

GENERAL FUND

General	Salaries	\$71,551.69
Blue Cross Blue Shield	Health Insurance	\$24,632.08
BTS Communications	Service	\$253.50
City of Osceola	Utilities	\$528.98
City of Stromsburg	Utilities	\$383.55
Clear Live LLC	Service	\$32.53
Clearfly	Service	\$716.81
CMRS-POC	Postage	\$3,500.00
Jennifer Conkel	Reimbursement	\$68.56
Consolidated Management Company	Service	\$295.75
Cubby's, Inc.	Fuel	\$266.53
Eakes Office Solutions	Supplies/Service	\$137.48
Fort Dearborn Life Insurance	Life Insurance	\$149.50
Economy Hometown Market	Supplies	\$11.69
Frontier Cooperative Company	Fuel	\$83.56
Gary's Plumbing LLC	Supplies	\$43.77
Hometown Leasing	Rent	\$123.83
Menards-Columbus	Supplies	\$24.99
ML Smith Law Office	Service	\$1,362.50
National Pen Co. LLC	Supplies	\$405.00
Nebraska Supreme Court	Agreement	\$8,135.96
Osceola Tire & Service	Service	\$72.49
Pinnacle Bank Visa	Supplies	\$145.69
Pinnacle Bank Visa	Registration	\$150.00
Pinnacle Bank Visa	Supplies	\$182.33
Pinnacle Bank Visa	Supplies	\$391.89
Polk Co. Clerk Retirement Deposit	Retirement	\$4,682.11
Platte County Detention Facility	Service	\$1,298.16
Polk County Extension Tax Account	Registration	\$255.00
Polk County Rural Public Power Dist.	Service	\$0.09
Polk County Sheriff	Fees	\$112.00
Polk County Tax Deposit Account	Social Security	\$5,287.34
Porte Central Incorporated	Service	\$634.00
Quadient Leasing USA, Inc.	Postage	\$825.00
Sparrow Publications, LLC	Service	\$40.00
Thomson Reuters-West	Service	\$1,727.18
Verizon Wireless	Service	\$360.25
Windstream Nebraska Inc.	Service	\$409.69

ROAD FUND

Road Fund	Salaries	\$31,256.12
Blue Cross Blue Shield	Health Insurance	\$7,496.72
Burg Auto Repair Inc.	Service	\$2,886.55
Carl's Skrap	Service	\$40.00
City of Stromsburg	Utilities	\$220.22
Cubby's, Inc.	Supplies	\$308.57
Eakes Office Solutions	Equipment	\$29.40
Fort Dearborn Life Insurance	Life Insurance	\$76.25
Curtis Ericson	Reimbursement	\$22.58
Gary's Plumbing LLC	Supplies	\$42.65

Island Supply Welding Company	Supplies	\$127.55		
Johnson Sand & Gravel Co. Inc.	Gravel and Borrow	\$7,893.05		
Osceola Implement & Supply Inc.	Service	\$13.77		
Polk Co. Clerk Retirement Deposit	Retirement	\$1,884.88		
Polk County Rural Public Power Dist.	Service	\$208.19		
Polk County Tax Deposit Account	Social Security	\$2,369.25		
Powerplan	Service	\$6,983.90		
Rally Auto Parts	Supplies/Service	\$695.20		
Southwest Gravel Products LLC	Gravel and Borrow	\$24,588.89		
Truck Center Companies-York	Service/Parts	\$11,964.08		
Village of Shelby	Utilities	\$181.90		
SENIOR CITIZEN SERVICE CENTER FUND				
Sanford Health	Service	\$45.00		
COVID AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUND				
Truck Center Company	Deposit	\$20,000.00		
Jerry Westring	Reimbursement	\$2,616.07		
INHERITANCE TAX FUND				
Applied Connective Technologies	Service	\$2,574.22		
DAS State Acctg-Central Finance	Service	\$537.60		
Pictometry International, Inc.	Service	\$23,617.67		
911 EMERGENCY FUND				
Windstream Nebraska Inc.	Service	\$296.50		
WEED FUND				

The following fees for the month of November were earned by the various offices and submitted to the County Treasurer. County Treasurer receipts show fees earned were credited to the appropriate county funds.

Gary's Plumbing LLC

Rally Auto Parts

Polk County Rural Public Power Dist.

Supplies

Service

Supplies/Service

\$13.11

\$46.95

195.98

Dwaine W. Ladwig, Sheriff \$1,237.57 Debra S. Girard, County Clerk \$3,518.35

The County Jail Report for the month of November was reviewed by the Board and approved.

A motion was made by Boruch authorizing the Chairman to sign the Certification of County Highway Superintendent for the Nebraska Department of Transportation. The motion was seconded by Boss and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Boss, aye; Westring, aye. The certification informs the Department of Transportation that Polk County did employ a licensed highway superintendent at all times during calendar year 2023.

The 2024 wages for county employees were discussed. A motion was made by Boss to adopt the following pay scale: experienced road employees, a maximum of \$24.69 per hour; county mechanic, a maximum of \$27.02 per hour; road foreman, a maximum of \$31.05 per hour; Weed Supt., a maximum of \$25.33 per hour; Highway Supt., a maximum annual salary of \$60,132.00; Bridge Inspector, a maximum annual salary of \$15,033.00; office clerk in the office of Highway Supt., Survey, Weed Supt., and Zoning Administrator, a maximum of \$24.04 per hour; Deputy Clerk, Deputy Treasurer and Deputy Assessor, \$24.04 per hour; office clerks in the office of Clerk, Treasurer, and Assessor, a maximum of \$22.49 per hour; Deputy County Attorney, a maximum annual salary of \$51,923.00; Chief Deputy Sheriff, a maximum of \$36.15 per hour; Sergeant, a maximum of \$33.02 per hour; Investigator, a maximum of \$34.82 per hour; Deputy Sheriffs, a maximum of \$33.02 per hour; dispatcher, a maximum of \$24.87 per hour; Custodian, a maximum of \$23.04 per hour; and Health Director, a maximum of \$34.83 per hour. Any other non law enforcement hourly employees' wages may be increased by a maximum of 6% per hour. The hourly wages for law enforcement employees may be increased up to 12% per

hour. The motion was seconded by Westring and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Westring, aye; Boruch, aye.

Extension Educator Maria Cantu Hines and Extension Assistant Colleen Pallas met with the Board to discuss closing the county extension office the week of December 26th thru December 29th. The University will be closed at that time, as well as the local schools. The Board gave their approval for the closure and county paid staff will use vacation time.

A motion was made by Boss to appoint Brenda Toline as a member of the Polk County Extension Board to replace Melody Sandell whose term is expiring. The motion was seconded by Westring and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Westring, aye; Boruch, aye.

Carlie Davidson, representing the Osceola Ambulance, met with the Board to request a portion of the American Rescue Plan Act funds the County received. Osceola's ambulance squad is funded separately from the Osceola Fire Department and they have had to recently upgrade their defibrillator and purchase a power load stair chair to help with lifting patients. No action was taken.

Laura McDougall updated the Board on the activities of the Four Corners District Health Department and explained a new program which will be headed up by staff member Catherine Seufferlein. The program, Healthy Families Nebraska – Four Corners which is associated with Health Families America, is a free in-home service for pregnant women and parents of newborns. The health department also has a preventative dental health program in the schools and nursing homes and nearly 500 students in the four county area have received oral health screenings. This program is partially funded through a \$20,000 grant for dental health. Four Corners is working with the NRDs to test house wells for water quality. Lead testing for kids and air quality, especially during the times of controlled burns, are concerns of the health department. Radon test kits will be available soon through Four Corners.

Highway Supt. Theis updated the Board on the work being done in the Road Dept. The field inspections on the bridges in the county were completed last week and the bridge over the Blue River on K Road may need to be redecked. The culverts for the L Road project have arrived on site and installation will start tomorrow. Complaints have been received regarding the trimming of brush and trees in the right-of-way in the Stromsburg area. The county does have the right to remove the brush and overhanging trees limbs in the right-of-way to help eliminate the amount of snow that drifts onto county roads and impedes the travel of motor graders and other larger pieces of equipment, including combines and planters. Better communication between the road department and the affected landowner was recommended. County Clerk Girard reported that the scrap tire cleanup grant has been received in the amount applied for. The cleanup event will be held in late spring next year.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 12:20 p.m. to meet again on December 19th and 26th, 2023. An agenda of the meetings will be available at the office of the County Clerk.

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