Osceola, Nebraska March 23, 2021

Pursuant to notice published in the March 18th, 2021 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.

The following fees for the month of February 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.

Jodie L. Roberts, Clerk of Dist. Court

\$685.00

Hospital Joe Lohrman updated the Board on the activities of the hospital. February was a slow inpatient month for the hospital but out patient revenues were above the January levels. Both the February revenues and expenditures were below the 12 month average and an operating and overall loss were reported for the month. The new GI scopes have been received and approximately \$30,000 was the trade-in value of the old scopes. The bladder scanner, used primarily with nursing home patients, needs to be replaced. COVID funds will be used for the OB update project and to upgrade the air flow in the ER, both qualifying improvements. Copiers/printers need to be replaced to minimize maintenance costs. A schedule to re-open the facility is being developed as the number of COVID tests and positive cases continue to decrease in our area. Several staff members have been assisting the Polk County Health Department with their vaccination clinics.

A motion was made by Boruch authorizing the Chairman to sign the annual report certificate for BOK Financial as required for the hospital's bond. The motion was seconded by Westring and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Westring, aye; Boss, aye.

Extension Educators Colleen Pallas and Tanya Crawford met with the Board to discuss the need to replace the 2001 Chevrolet van used by the Extension office. The van has over 130,000 miles on it and has become unreliable. The Board recommended that the Extension staff check into state bid prices for an appropriate replacement vehicle to meet their transportation needs.

Highway Supt. Theis updated the Board on the work being done in the Road Dept. The Polk shop has been leaking during the recent rains and it may need to be re-tinned. The road crews have been noticing an increase in sign vandalism in the rural areas of the county. Before the actual replacement of the bridges in the state bridge program can take place, an archeological study will need to be conducted by the state. Crews were able to maintain roads the end of last week.

Weed Supt. Carlson brought the Board up to date on the activities of the Weed Dept. A new chemical has been released for use behind the brush cutter to control regrowth. Bids will be opened on April 1st for spraying the Platte River by helicopter and airboat. Thistle and leafy spurge inspections will begin soon and the snow blades have been removed from the side by side and ATV. The spray system is being installed in the new truck and running boards have been mounted on the truck.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 12:10 p.m. to meet again on April 6th and April 20th, 2021. 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 |