

Osceola, Nebraska
March 24, 2026

Pursuant to notice published in the March 19th, 2026 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.

A motion was made by Boss authorizing the Chairman to the three year agreements with Protex Central, Inc. for the fire extinguisher and fire alarm system inspections for both the Courthouse and the Sheriff's Office. The motion was seconded by Westring and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Westring, aye; Boruch, aye.

The Board received a request from Greg Ptacek asking 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 Johnnie Byrd Brewing Company to sell and serve alcohol on May 23rd, 2026 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.

Marcus Augustin and Nataly Sanley updated the Board on the activities of the hospital. February was a very good month for the facility financially as both an operating and overall gain were reported. The first orthopaedic clinic with the new provider was held on March 17th and they will continue to be held twice a month. The ambulance has now been used for 52 transfers since it was put in operation. The building has been insulated and a heat source, as well as fans, will be added to keep the temperature in the building above 40° and keep the building somewhat cool in the summer. The March 3rd health fair was well attended but attendance was slighter lower than past years. Applications for scholarships for local high school seniors planning to pursue post high school education in a medical field are available through the Foundation for Annie Jeffrey.

Dustin Will and Corey Carpenter with Benefit Management met with the Board to discuss reviewing the benefits offered to county employees. The Board authorized Clerk Girard to provide the necessary information requested for Benefit Management to review and provide a recommendation.

In response to Highway Supt. Theis's report on W Road between 140th and 141st Roads, a motion was made by Boruch to adopt a resolution setting April 21st, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. in the County Board Room in the Courthouse at Osceola, Nebraska as the date, time and location for a hearing for the purpose of determining whether it is in the public interest to abandon or vacate W Road from 140th Road thence running northerly to a point 425 feet south of 141st Road. The motion was seconded by Boss and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Boss, aye; Westring, aye. The said road is located between Sections 25 and 26, Township 16 North, Range 1 West.

Highway Supt. Theis also updated the Board on the activity in the Road Dept. The deck has been removed from Polk Southeast bridge and work has begun on removing the girders. 130th Road running from Osceola to the city's tree dump site was graded last week and the road is back open to traffic. After hearing both presentations, the Road Department will move forward with utilizing the JDLINK and VisionLINK programs for the applicable heavy machinery used by the crew. Supt. Theis learned at the NACO meeting last week that, due to the budget shortfalls at the state level, the bridge buyback program through NDOT may not receive funding.

Weed Supt. Carlson brought the Board up to date on the activities of the Weed Dept. Inspections of phragmites infestations continue and work has begun on getting the sprayers ready for the upcoming spray season. The inspection map is also being updated and well as noting where the organic sites are in the County. To date, 5 sites have been reported to the Weed Dept. The small spray tank has been mounted on the front of the ATV and the blades for snow removal have been taken off of the equipment used around the courthouse and Sheriff's office. Supt. Carlson will be attending training on April 1st and 2nd.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 11:35 a.m. to meet again on April 7th and April 21st, 2026. An agenda of the meetings will be available at the office of the County Clerk.

