Osceola, Nebraska
March 26, 2024

Pursuant to notice published in the March 21st, 2024 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.

The agreement with Marvin Planning Consultants for updating Polk County's Comprehensive Plan was discussed. A motion was made by Boss to authorize Chairman Westring to sign the contract with Marvin Planning Consultants to update Polk County's Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Regulations. The motion was seconded by Westring and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Westring, aye; Boruch, aye. Terry Evans, a member of the Polk County Planning Commission, will serve as the liaison between the County Board and Marvin Planning Consultants during the project.

A motion was made by Boruch to approve the agreement with Lancaster County, through the Lancaster County Youth Services Center, for juvenile detention services. 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 of the activities of the hospital. February was another really good revenue month, especially since there were fewer days than a normal month, and both an operating and overall gain were reported for the month. The physical therapy department has been very busy and the health fair held at the beginning of March was well attended. The inspection of the mammography equipment went well and the sleep study accreditation review is scheduled for this week. To avoid further damage to the walls and corners in some of the rooms and hallways, protectors have been purchased and installed. A mature driving class will be held April 3rd and 4th for those 55 and older. The appreciation luncheon for the volunteers will be held on April 9th.

Logan Watts met with the Board to discuss changing his cellphone to the FirstNet system for emergency communications. These devices are like a combination cellphone and two way radio and are geared towards first responders and those working with county infrastructure, such as law enforcement and highway departments. Emergency Manager Watts would like to purchase as many as six of these devices to be used in case of emergencies such as snowstorms, tornados, floods, etc. and would be shared by the Sheriff's department, the highway department, and those fire departments involved in the emergency. The Polk County RPPD and the hospital are also looking at purchasing some which could then be combined into the same emergency management "channel". These phones operate off of different towers than normal cellphones and this system provides stronger and more dependable signals. Watts will gather more information and report back to the Board.

Highway Supt. Theis and Foreman Ericson updated the Board on the work being done in the Road Dept. The stop signs obtained through NDOT's High Risk Rural Roads program could be delivered as early as mid April. The I Road project was completed by the crew last week and Ericson would like to apply clay to the first mile of Road 135 west of Highway 39.

Weed Supt. Carlson updated the Board on the activities of the Weed Dept. The sprayer is ready to be placed in the truck for the season and he has been mapping the right-of-way for areas that need to be sprayed. Spring inspections of noxious weeds will begin at the end of next month.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 11:40 a.m. to meet again on April 2nd and 16th, 2024. 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