

Osceola, Nebraska
April 23, 2024

Pursuant to notice published in the April 18th, 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 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 25th, 2024 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. March was another huge month for the facility with nearly \$1,000,000 in gross patient service revenue with the majority of the income derived from outpatient procedures. As a result, an operating gain and overall gain were reported for March as well as a fiscal year to date gain. The annual volunteers appreciation luncheon was held on April 9th and the Foundation for Annie Jeffrey will be awarding three scholarships to local high school seniors who plan to pursue further education in a medical field. The hospital with partner with Pinnacle Bank and Blue Cross Blue Shield for the annual walk at lunch event on Wednesday, April 24th. Representatives from the Helmsley grant from Washington, DC will be touring the facility in the near future and the sleep study accreditation testing was passed for both in-house and at home sleep studies. Two lab techs have been hired from the Philippines and the process of completing their VISA paperwork has begun. The hospital will need to secure housing for them and is actively looking for living quarters to rent. The laundry dryers are wearing out and new patient recliners also need to be purchased.

At 10:05 a.m., a motion was made by Boss to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues. The motion was seconded by Boruch and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Boruch, aye; Westring, aye. Also present were the County Attorney and the County Clerk. At 10:45 a.m., a motion was made by Boruch to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Boss and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Boss, aye; Westring, aye; Chairman Westring stated for the record that no formal action was taken and that only personnel issues were discussed.

Highway Supt. Theis updated the Board on the work being done in the Road Dept. The wooden posts in the approach to the bridge on N Road are being replaced as there was significant insect damage to the posts at ground level. Upgrading the used wheel loader to be able to attach and use grapple forks is too cost prohibitive at this time but the grad-all can perform the tasks the grapple forks would be used for. The crew continues to work on ditches and installing driveways. JEO provided estimates of the probable costs for the Shelby and Osceola North blacktop overlay projects which Supt. Theis will forward to Congressman Flood's office.

Weed Supt. Carlson updated the Board on the activities of the Weed Dept. Multiple miles of thistles and general weeds, such as curly dock and hemlock, have been sprayed in the county road right-of-way with leafy spurge control to begin soon. Several pastures are on the list for custom spraying this spring to control thistles and leafy spurge.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 11:45 a.m. to meet again on May 7th and 21st, 2024. 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