

Osceola, Nebraska
May 26, 2026

Pursuant to notice published in the May 21st, 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 Westring to transfer \$750,000 from the County General Fund to the Road Fund as budgeted. The motion was seconded by Boruch and the roll call vote was Westring, aye; Boruch, aye; Boss, aye.

Marcus Augustin and Nataly Sanley updated the Board on the activities of the hospital. The operating revenues topped 1 million dollars for the facility in April, the highest revenue month to date. As a result, an operating and overall gain were reported but the hospital is still showing a year-to-date overall loss. The foundation awarded 12 scholarships to local seniors planning to pursue a degree in a medical field and hospital week was recently celebrated. Over 61 transfers have now been made with the ambulance and the autoloader system has been installed and is operational. A virtual table top exercise was completed for an active shooter situation and representatives from Senator Ricketts' office will tour the facility on June 3rd. The twenty year old chiller continues to have issues and repairs are ongoing. The new ortho clinic continues to add patients.

Benefits for county employees, especially health insurance, were discussed. Representatives from Benefit Management and NACO Benefit Services were present to answer any questions posed by the Board. After some discussion, a motion was made by Boss to renew the current \$2600 deductible PPO health insurance plan with the NACO Blue Cross Blue Shield group and to reimburse to the employee that portion of the deductible between \$500 and \$2600 that they themselves meet and to move to the similar Medica plan offered through Benefit Management Services, effective January 1, which is the start of a new deductible year. A Health Savings Plan option will also be available to employees January 1. At that time, more benefits, such as dental or vision insurance may be added. The motion was seconded by Boruch and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Boruch, aye; Westring, aye. The Medica plan offers savings in premiums and delaying the start of the plan will allow representatives from Benefit Management Services to meet with employees individually to determine the health insurance plan best suited for the employee.

Richard Boruch with the Polk County Ag Society met with the Board regarding the liquor license required for the beer garden at the Polk County Fair. The Fair Board is requesting a license for July 8, July 9, July 10, July 11, and July 12 for events to be held in the grandstand/arena area. A motion was made by Boruch to approve Polk County Ag Society's request for a liquor license for a beer garden during the Polk County Fair on July 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th, 2026. The motion was seconded by Westring and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Westring, aye; Boss, aye.

Road Foreman Ericson updated the Board on the activity in the Road Dept. for Highway Supt. Theis. The dirt work is being done on the Polk SE bridge today and the county road crew will grade the rest of the mile before reopening the road. Beebe Street on the south edge of Osceola is now open to traffic. Supt. Theis is working with John Deere representatives to generate the reports from the JDLink program. Millings will be placed at the end of the Shelby North black top next week as well as at the fairgrounds.

Weed Supt. Carlson updated the Board on the activities of the Weed Department. The reminding farmers to mow the road ditches was in last week's paper. The Nebraska Dept. of Agriculture spot checked several sections in Polk County and only light infestations were noted in some of the sections. A pasture has been custom sprayed for leafy spurge, along with the road shop yards and several blind intersections. Thistle inspections continue and a helicopter will survey the river areas in early June. Requests continue to be received for cost share chemicals from landowners.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 11:40 a.m. to meet again on

June 2nd and June 16th, 2026. 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