

Osceola, Nebraska  
May 28, 2024

Pursuant to notice published in the May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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 courtroom technology items purchased by the Nebraska Administrative Office of Courts and Probation have been installed and the State is ready to transfer the ownership of the items to Polk County. A motion was made by Westring authorizing the Chairman to sign the Statement of Acceptance of Possession and Future Responsibility for the recently installed courtroom technology items. The motion was seconded by Boss and the roll call vote was Westring, aye; Boss, aye; Boruch, aye.

Marcus Augustin and Nataly Sanley updated the Board on the activities of the hospital. April was another successful month for the facility with both an operating and overall gain reported. The Foundation for Annie Jeffrey awarded scholarships to 3 area high school seniors and the annual golf tournament fundraiser will be held on June 21<sup>st</sup>. The recent Community Blood Bank blood drive held on the hospital campus was well attended as the goal of units donated was exceeded. The audiology clinic is scheduled to start on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and a urologist is scheduled to visit in June with the possibility of starting a urology clinic at the hospital. The staff will provide assistance during the fun runs planned for Stromsburg and Osceola this summer. Two new dryers have been purchased and a new glidescope is needed to assist with intubations. A new exterior store front sign has been ordered for the thrift store to replace the one damaged in a recent wind storm.

Dave Burritt 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 18, July 19, and July 20 for events to be held in the grandstand/arena area. A motion was made by Boss to approve Polk County Ag Society's request for a liquor license for a beer garden during the Polk County Fair on July 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The motion was seconded by Boruch and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Boruch, aye; Westring, aye.

Shari Weber and Heather Lytle met with the Board to review the services and programs offered to residents by Blue Valley Community Action. According to the US Census, the poverty rate in Polk County is just under 10% and Blue Valley has assisted 134 individuals in the county during the last fiscal year and the local food pantry is well used but they are anticipating cuts in funding for their food program. A slight increase in funding was requested for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

At 10:40 a.m., a motion was made by Boruch to go into executive session to discuss potential litigation. The motion was seconded by Boss and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Boss, aye; Westring, aye. Also present was the County Sheriff and the County Clerk. At 10:45 a.m., a motion was made by Boss to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Boruch and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Boruch, aye; Westring, aye. Chairman Westring stated for the record that no formal action was taken and that only potential litigation issues were discussed.

Foreman Ericson updated the Board on the work being done in the Road Dept. Drainage issues have reappeared after the recent rains. Some are easily remedied by cleaning out plugged culverts but some drainage problems will require grading of the roads involved. The guard rail that was taken out in an accident just south of the Platte River bridge by Duncan Lakes will be replaced on Thursday.

Weed Supt. Carlson brought the Board up to date on the activities of the Weed Dept. The Nebraska Dept. of Ag has spot checked several sections for noxious weeds, but none were found. He has been spraying the right-of-way, guardrails and shop yards as the weather conditions permit. There are some pastures to be custom sprayed and thistle inspections yet to be done.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 11:50 a.m. to meet again on June 4<sup>th</sup> and June 18<sup>th</sup>, 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