

Osceola, Nebraska
July 22, 2025

Pursuant to notice published in the July 17th, 2025 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.

Marcus Augustin and Nataly Sanley updated the Board on the activities of the hospital. While June was a slower month, resulting in an operating and overall loss, a net gain was reported for the fiscal year which ended June 30th. The final bond payment for the renovations to the facility was made in June so the facility is debt free, with the exception of some lease payments. The fiscal year audit is scheduled to begin September 2nd. The hospital's ambulance will be inspected today at 11:30 as the ambulance is closer to being ready to be put into service. Congressman Mike Flood will tour the facility on August 7th and the impact of the passage of President Trump's "Big Beautiful Bill" on rural hospitals is yet to be seen.

Patrick Kreifels presented the annual report and funding request for Region V Systems. The funding request for both mental health services and substance use disorder treatments is lower than last fiscal year. Region V Systems has been able to expand the number of EPS beds available to Polk County by contracting with Mary Lanning Healthcare in Hastings.

Matt Kasik with Apace presented their annual report and again requested no funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. Polk County is combined with Columbus and Butler County for services within the larger area served by Apace with seventy clients and eighty employees in our area alone.

Crystal Gay met with the Board to ask 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 American Legion Post #91 to sell and serve alcohol on August 23, 2025 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.

Protex did not keep their scheduled appointment with the Board but did report via phone to Custodian Carey that data has been sent to the manufacturer of the fire alarm system but no response has been received.

Shauna Drozd met with the Board to ask 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 Polk County Recreational Association to sell and serve alcohol on August 2nd, 2025 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.

Highway Supt. Theis updated the Board on the work being done in the Road Dept. He has received word from Congressman Flood's office that the 141st Road paving project has received approval to be fully funded but there are several more steps to navigate before the actual funds are received. One of the newer motor graders is experiencing wiring issues but the repairs should be covered under warranty. No information has been received regarding the start date for the overlay project. The recent rains, especially in the valley area of the county, have shut down the culvert and dirt work projects.

Weed Supt. Carlson brought the Board up to date on the activities of the Weed Dept. Recent spot inspections by the State Dept. of Ag have located a small infestation of phragmites in the right of way and a trace infestation of musk thistle. Both infestations have been taken care of. Blind and "T" intersections are being sprayed and phragmites inspections and control measures are underway. A notice regarding roadside mowing will be printed in the August 7th issue of the Polk County News. The backflow preventer at the weed shop needs to be either repaired or replaced.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 11:40 a.m. to meet again on August 5th and 19th, 2025. 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