

August 26, 2025

Pursuant to notice published in the August 21<sup>st</sup>, 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. July was a slower month and as a result, both an operating and overall loss were reported. The ambulance purchased by the hospital is now in service and has already been used for 5 transports to other facilities. An opportunity was given to potential drivers to look over the ambulance to better prepare them for driving and operating the ambulance. Congressman Mike Flood toured the hospital earlier this month and discussed the effects of Medicare cuts on rural hospitals. The importance of funding for rural critical access facilities was also a topic of conversation during the tour. The Nebraska Department of Insurance will hold a roadshow at the hospital on Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. The roadshow, which is open to the public, will provide a focus on Medicare, the Market Place and other important insurance topics. CNA classes are being offered at Annie Jeffrey with 6 local students attending the classes three days a week. An upgrade is needed to the current Pxyis system that is used to dispense medications in the hospital's pharmacy.

Highway Supt. Theis informed the Board that JEO, the engineer for the Polk SE bridge project, is requesting that the County obtain both temporary (construction) and permanent easements on both the east and west sides of the bridge over the Blue River on G Road. A motion was made by Boss to appoint Highway Supt. Dan Theis as Polk County's authorized representative to contact the affected land owners regarding the acquisition of the required easements for the bridge project. The motion was seconded by Westring and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Westring, aye; Boruch, aye.

A motion was made by Boss to declare the 2000 Caterpillar 140H motor grader as surplus property and authorize the sale of the motor grader through an online auction service. The motion was seconded by Westring and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Westring, aye; Boruch, aye.

A motion was made by Boruch to adopt a resolution reclassifying the east 1,550 feet of 139<sup>th</sup> Road between R Road and S Road from minimum maintenance to local. The motion was seconded by Boss and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Boss, aye; Westring, aye. The change in classification was necessary to allow the stretch of road to be graveled and maintained to give access to a permanent residence to be located in the SW ¼ of the SE ¼ of 31-16-1.

Highway Supt. Theis also updated the Board on the work being done in the Road Dept. A culvert was replaced on 142<sup>nd</sup> Road last week and survey work was done north of Lone Star in preparation for removing and installing culverts. The preconstruction meeting for the Shelby North and Osceola North overlay projects is still tentatively scheduled for September 4<sup>th</sup>.

Weed Supt. Carlson updated the Board on the activities of the Weed Dept. Curly dock and wild cucumber have been sprayed in the right-of-way and he will be switching to brush control in the right-of-way soon. Cost share chemicals have been distributed to 8 eligible landowners and it is uncertain as to whether or not there will be any spraying by drone in the off channel areas of the county. Fall noxious weed inspections will begin in the near future with 2 pastures already scheduled for custom spraying.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 11:45 a.m. to meet again on September 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 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