

Osceola, Nebraska  
August 27, 2024

Pursuant to notice published in the August 22<sup>nd</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 county budget was reviewed by the Board. A motion was made by Boss to increase the total 2024-2025 funds subject to limitation by an additional 1%, from 2 ½ % to 3 ½ %. The motion was seconded by Westring and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Westring, aye; Boruch, aye.

The Board discussed the request of the Veterans Service Committee to add a part-time clerical position to assist the Veterans Service Officer but no formal action was taken.

Marcus Augustin and Nataly Sanley updated the Board on the activities of the hospital. July was a good financial month for the facility with both an operating and overall gain reported. The first audiology clinic went well and hopefully the urology clinic will be started by November. Additional chairs have been purchased for the patient rooms and the blood bank refrigerator/freezer needs to be updated. The fall health fair will be held October 1<sup>st</sup> at the hospital. Ground ambulance services are getting hard to find for timely transfers of patients and a new ground service has started which is based in Seward. Committees have been formed amongst the hospital staff to review and improve patient care. A good report was received following an IT penetration test and the trustees will be signing the required paperwork to open a redundant bank account at Cornerstone Bank.

At 10:00 a.m., a motion was made by Boss to open the hearing on the Red Bud Lake Subdivision Final Plat. The motion was seconded by Westring and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Westring, aye; Boruch, aye. Also present for the hearing was Erik Dake, developer of the subdivision which is located in the W ½ SW ¼ of Section 22, Township 16, Range 1 West. No opposition was heard and Chairman Westring stated that the Planning Commission recommended approval of the final plat following their public hearing. At 10:15 a.m., a motion was made by Westring to close the hearing. The motion was seconded by Boruch and all members voted in the affirmative. After a review of the final plat, a motion was made by Boruch to approve the final plat for the Red Bud Lake Subdivision. The motion was seconded by Westring and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Westring, aye; Boss, aye.

At 10:30 a.m., a motion was made by Boruch to go into executive session to discuss an application for burial assistance. The motion was seconded by Boss and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Boss, aye; Westring, aye. Also present were the applicants next of kin and the County Clerk. At 10:35 a.m., a motion was made by Boruch to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Boss and all members voted in the affirmative. Chairman Westring stated for the record that no formal action was taken and that only burial assistance matters were discussed. A motion was made by Boruch to approve the request for assistance. The motion was seconded by Boss and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Boss, aye; Westring, aye.

The 10:45 a.m. appointment for general assistance was rescheduled after the agenda was posted.

Highway Dept. Foreman Curt Ericson updated the Board on the work being done in the Road Dept. Western Star has been contacted for a quote to add the necessary hydraulics to operate the pup trailer recently purchased. The new stop and stop ahead signs have been received as part of the high risk rural road project through NDOT.

The one year lease of the John Deere tractor from AKRS is up for renewal. The tractor currently leased can be leased for another three years, four years or five years. After reviewing the proposals presented, a motion was made by Boss to lease the tractor from AKRS for another 3 years. The motion was seconded by Westring and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Westring, aye; Boruch, aye.

Weed Supt. Carlson brought the Board up to date on the activities of the Weed Dept. Spraying will soon switch from general weeds to brush and the fall custom spraying of noxious weeds. The shop yards and bridge approaches will also be sprayed, as well as the courthouse lawn. Fall inspections for thistles will take place soon, too.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 11:50 a.m. to meet again on September 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<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