Osceola, Nebraska September 28, 2021

Pursuant to notice published in the September 23rd, 2021 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.

Hospital Administrator Joe Lohrman and Marcus Augustin updated the Board on the activities of the hospital. The facility saw an increase in inpatient revenue during the month of August due to more swing bed patients. As a result, both an operating and an overall gain were reported for the month. Since the first part of September, the facility has been locked back down due to there being at least 1 Covid patient on the floor of the hospital every day since the end of August. The bids for the OB project were opened but all of them came in higher than the architect estimated. The hospital board will review the bids and the project at their meeting tonight.

Ruth Sorensen, Property Tax Administrator, officially presented the Assessment Practices Report for Polk County to the Board. The report, which was dated September 9th, 2021, was emailed to Assessor Cermak and to County Clerk Girard for forwarding to the County Board on September 10th, 2021. Assessor Cermak and her attorney, Galen Stehlik, were also present. The Property Tax Administrator reviewed the findings which identified six areas where the assessment practices of the Assessor were inadequate. The eleven corrective measures for the Assessor, including up to a year of probation, listed in the report as well as the three correction actions/measures recommended for Polk County were also reviewed. Attorney Stehlik responded for Assessor Cermak and stated she feels like she is under a microscope and questioned whether or not the Property Tax Administrator has the power to put the Assessor on probation and to require her to take and pass the courses outlined in the corrective measures since these courses are not required of other assessors. Commissioner Boss expressed his concerns with the management of the Assessor's office, including the lack of accountability by the Assessor and the Board's lack of confidence in the Assessor and felt the Board should ask for her resignation. Boruch agreed with Boss's comments. After reading and hearing the Property Tax Administrator's report and the comments of the other Board members, Chairman Westring asked for Shelia Cermak's resignation as Polk County Assessor. Attorney Stehlik responded that the Board's request was too premature and the Board should allow her to address the problems and meet the benchmarks outlined in the report. No resignation was given by Ms. Cermak.

Lisa Gocke of West Side Bar and Grill 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 the West Side Bar and Grill to sell and serve alcohol on October 16th, 2021 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 did not update the Board as scheduled.

Weed Supt. Carlson brought the Board up to date on the activities of the Weed Dept. Over the past 14 years that Polk County has been involved with the Platte Valley Weed Management Area, nearly \$700,000 has been spent for noxious weed control along the Platte River in Polk County. Supt. Carlson has been doing brush and fall spraying in the county right of way. As required, the general weed notice was printed in the Polk County News and a meeting was attended in Fillmore County which included a demonstration of spraying weeds using a drone. This technic would be beneficial in Polk County for spraying phragmites in ponds and small lakes.

	There being no furtl	ner business, the	Board adjourned	l at 11:50 a.m.	to meet again on
Octob	er 5 th and 19 th , 2021.	An agenda of th	e meetings will b	be available at	the office of the
Count	y Clerk.	-	_		

Approved:	/S/ Debra S. Girard	/S/ Jerry Westring		
• •	County Clerk	Chairman		