

Osceola, Nebraska
November 24, 2020

Pursuant to notice published in the November 19th, 2020 issue of the Polk County News, the Board of County Commissioners convened at 9:30 a.m. with Westring and Boss present. Boruch was absent. 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 on the wall of the Commissioner's room.

Hospital Administrator Joe Lohrman updated the Board on the activities of the hospital. October was a busier month for the hospital, especially with an increase in inpatient revenue. The wireless capabilities need to be updated in the building, especially with the amount of equipment that now depends on wireless communications, and a new cardiac treadmill is needed. The facility is seeing a 50% positivity rate on the COVID testing results with an average of 1 to 2 admissions per day, with a typical 1 to 2 day stay in the hospital. There have also been several COVID patients seen in the ER. The Polk County Health Dept. and Annie Jeffrey Health Center will be distribution sites for the COVID vaccine, once it's available, with health care workers and first responders among the first to get the vaccine.

A motion was made by Westring authorizing the Chairman to sign the Hospital Licensure Renewal Application. The motion was seconded by Boss and the roll call vote was Westring, aye; Boss, aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Boruch arrived at 9:55 a.m.

Sheriff Ladwig, County Attorney Colling, and consultant Stacen Gross reviewed with the Board the proposed interlocal agreement for emergency communication and 911 dispatch services with the Columbus/Platte County Joint Communications Center. Consultant Gross was pleased with the revisions made to the contract following the review by himself and the County Board. A motion was made by Boruch to approve the interlocal agreement with Platte County and the City of Columbus for joint emergency communications and dispatch services as revised. The motion was seconded by Westring and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Westring, aye; Boss, aye. The original agreement, which must be approved by the Joint Communications Board, Platte County and the City of Columbus, will be for two years at an annual cost of \$150,000. Since Polk County will no longer be taking 911 calls directly, the Nebraska Public Service Commission requires the transfer of the 911 Wireless funds held by Polk County to the Joint Communications Center, Polk County's new Public Service Answering Point (PSAP).

At 10:30 a.m., a motion was made by Boruch to go into executive session to discuss an application for general assistance. The motion was seconded by Boss and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Boss, aye; Westring, aye. Also present were the applicant and the County Clerk. At 10:40 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 general assistance matters were discussed. A motion was made Boruch to approve the payment of the one month's back rent owed by the applicant. The motion was seconded by Westring and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Westring, aye; Boss, aye.

Highway Supt. Theis updated the Board on the work being done in the Road Dept. Polk County currently has 13 structurally deficient bridges, most of them being narrower than the current guidelines. Supt. Theis is applying to the State for partial funding for the replacement of two of the structurally deficient bridges with box culverts. Patching materials have arrived and the equipment needed to heat the materials before application to the cracks should be available for use next week. Trees have been removed along R Road and work will continue next week on the grade project between 134th and 135th Roads.

Weed Supt. Carlson brought the Board up to date on the activities of the Weed Dept. The sprayers have all been winterized and the new ATV is on site. The old blade used for snow removal should fit on the new ATV. Inspection and spraying maps for next season are being compiled as well as end of the year reports.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 11:40 a.m. to meet again on December 1st and 15th, 2020. An agenda of the meetings will be available at the office of the County Clerk.

