

Pursuant to notice published in the December 23, 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.

The salaries of the various elected officials for the four year term of office beginning in January of 2023 were discussed by the Board. Also participating in the discussion were County Treasurer Swanson, County Assessor Krance, County Attorney Colling, and County Clerk Girard. After considerable discussion and review of the NACO Salary Recommendation Report, a motion was made by Boss that a resolution be adopted setting the following salaries for elected County Officials for the term of office beginning in January 2023. The annual salary of the County Clerk, County Assessor, and County Treasurer shall be established at \$63,000 for 2023, \$66,780 for 2024, \$70,790 for 2025, and 75,040 for 2026. The annual salary for the County Attorney shall be established at \$67,425 for 2023, \$71,470 for 2024, \$75,760 for 2025, and \$80,305 for 2026. If the County Attorney also serves as legal counsel for zoning issues, the additional annual salary for those duties shall be \$1,890 for 2023, \$2,005 for 2024, \$2,125 for 2025 and \$2,255 for 2026. The annual salary of the County Sheriff shall be established at \$75,610 for 2023, \$80,150 for 2024, \$84,960 for 2025, and \$90,060 for 2026. The annual salary of the County Surveyor shall be established at \$16,070 for 2023, \$17,035 for 2024, \$18,060 for 2025, and \$19,145 for 2026. The annual salary of the County Commissioners shall be established at \$31,510 for 2023, \$33,400 for 2024, \$35,405 for 2025, and \$37,530 for 2026. The person appointed annually by the Board to prepare the County budget shall receive \$1,650 for 2023, \$1,750 for 2024, \$1,855 for 2025, and \$1,970 for 2026, following completion of the budget. The motion was seconded by Boruch and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Boruch, aye; Westring, aye. The elected officials will receive an initial increase of 9.5% and annual increases of 6%. Their salaries will fall within the range recommended by NACO for counties of our size based on valuation and population.

An application for appointment as a county depository bank was received from Union Bank & Trust/NFIT but at this time, the Treasurer does not have any funds on deposit with Union Bank. A motion was made by Boruch that should the Treasurer wish to place funds on deposit with Union Bank & Trust/NFIT, accepting their application to be a depository bank will be revisited by the Board. The motion was seconded by Boss and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Boss, aye; Westring, aye.

Hospital Administrator Joe Lohrman brought the Board up to date on the activities of the hospital. Inpatient revenues were down from the previous month but outpatient revenues were up. Although totals were down slightly from October, November's revenues were still well over the last 12 month average. Repairs are needed for the chiller with an estimate of approximately \$11,000 and the roof is in need of repairs as well with costs projected to be near \$100,000. The completion of the audit is anticipated to be finalized soon and the asbestos abatement portion of the OB project is underway. At last report, the vaccine mandate for healthcare facilities is still on hold.

Highway Supt. Theis updated the Board on the work being done in the Road Dept. There are a lot of trees to move, as well as fences, as part of the project to return the clay hill to "before leasing" conditions for the state. A culvert needs to be replaced on I Road south of 127<sup>th</sup> Road and there are a couple of other tubes that need to be replaced before the equipment and crew can go back to trimming trees and brush.

Weed Supt. Carlson brought the Board up to date on the activities of the Weed Dept. The annual evaluation was received from the Nebraska Dept. of Ag with the Polk County Weed Dept. receiving a perfect score. There is a possibility of the cost share program expanding to be used for spraying phragmites using a drone. Polk County does have some spots that aren't accessible by any other means that would benefit from this type of control measure. Work continues on the 5 annual reports due in January, including an updated control plan format. Phragmites inspections are going on now as winter is a good time to see the infestations without interference from growing crops. Infestations continue to be located further from the river area. The rates for forced control may need to be reviewed.

