Osceola, Nebraska
July 23, 2019

Pursuant to notice given in the minutes of the meeting of July 16th, 2019 and published in the July 18th, 2019 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 on the wall of the Commissioner's room.

The quarterly inspection of the County Jail was postponed until the next meeting of the Board.

Hospital Administrator Joe Lohrman updated the Board on the activities of the hospital. June was a typical month for the facility, resulting in an operating and overall gain for the month. Over the course of the fiscal year, $200,000 in bad debts and charity care were written off and a loss of approximately $94,000 was reported for the fiscal year. The new fiscal year budget was presented and the audit is scheduled for next month. The facility has suffered to recent lightning strikes and Prairie Creek Family Medicine's Shelby clinic is doing well.

At 10:05 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 Westring and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Westring, aye; Boss, aye. Also present was the applicant and the County Clerk. At 10:10 a.m., a motion was made by Westring to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Boruch and all members voted in the affirmative. Chairman Westring stated for the record that no format action was taken and that only general assistance issues were discussed. A motion was make by Boss to pay a portion of the rent and make a one time payment towards utility bills for the applicant. The motion was seconded by Boruch and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Boruch, aye; Westring, aye.

Extension Educator Amy Peterson met with the Board to present the budget for the Extension Service in Polk County and to also formally announce her retirement from the University of Nebraska's Extension Service effect August 30th. Her position covers a 5 county area and the University will be responsible for hiring the replacement.

Randy Jones of Aging Partners reviewed the Request for Proposal submitted by Midwest Covenant Home at last week's meeting. Midwest Covenant Home has the capability to do what they propose to make the Senior Services program in Polk County more than just a "meal program". A small group of representatives from Aging Partners, the County, and Midwest Covenant Home met to go over the proposal and answer questions about implementing the proposal. The Senior Advisory Board will also have an opportunity to review the proposal and Midwest Covenant Home will also reevaluate the proposal in search of areas to reduce costs. Action on the proposal was tabled until the next meeting of the Board.

Highway Supt. Theis updated the Board on the work being done in the Road Dept. It will be another 2 to 3 weeks before Van Kirk's can start on the Polk North project but hopefully the job can be completed before school starts. More cold patch is needed but the supplier is currently out of mix for a couple of weeks. The red dump truck needs the springs replaced and Supt. Theis is looking into purchasing an additional pressure washer. Gravel orders are slowly being filled and the FEMA site inspections were completed the second week of July with approximately 95 sites in the county visited.

Weed Supt. Carlson brought the Board up to date on the activities of the Weed Dept. Cost share chemicals are ready for distribution and August is the best time for spraying the noxious weeds in the river system. Phragmites inspections and spraying will begin soon along with fall musk thistle inspections. Brush control spraying will also start in August. Portions of 131 miles of county road right-of-way have been sprayed for weed control.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 12:25 p.m. to meet again on August 6th and 20th, 2019. An agenda of the meetings will be available at the office of the County Clerk.

Approved: _____/S/ Debra S. Girard_____ _____/S/ Jerry Westring_____
County Clerk Chairman