

Osceola, Nebraska
August 25, 2020

Pursuant to notice given in the minutes of the meeting of August 18th, 2020 and published in the August 20th, 2020 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 county budget was reviewed by the Board.

Hospital Administrator Joe Lohrman updated the Board on the activities of the hospital. Patient revenues for July were up over the last 12 month average for the facility but an operating and overall loss were still reported for the month. An upgrade is needed for the computer servers and will cost approximately \$49,000 plus installation. A UV-C disinfection robot for providing an additional measure of cleaning at the hospital is anticipated to cost around \$90,000. Due to COVID concerns, the October Health Fair will be scaled back, with only blood draws and flu shots offered. If there are no COVID spikes in the area, the hospital will look at reopening the Wellness center and the front desk area of the facility.

At 10:00 a.m., the Board moved to the Osceola Civic Center to join the meeting of the Polk County Senior Advisory Board. Mark Hartley was introduced to the group as the new Program Manager and Sheila Bjerrum reviewed the budget for the program that was submitted to Aging Partners and to the County Board. The Board was available for questions and President Avis Blase expressed her concerns regarding the individual centers being able to hold fund raising activities for the county wide program due to COVID-19. Clerk Girard informed the group that conversations had been had with Aging Partners about the possibility of receiving CARES funds based on the cost of home-delivered meals provided following the COVID-19 shut down of the congregate meals. These funds could potentially offset the loss of fundraising opportunities.

At 10:30 a.m., the Board returned to the Commissioners' Room to continue the meeting. A motion was made by Boruch to go into executive session to discuss personnel. The motion was seconded by Boss and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Boss, aye; Westring. Also present were Sheriff Ladwig and the County Clerk. At 10:55 a.m., a motion was made by Boruch to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Westring and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Westring, aye; Boss, aye. Chairman Westring stated for the record that no formal action was taken and that only personnel matters were discussed.

Sheriff Ladwig presented a professional services agreement with Columbus/Platte County Joint Communications Center, Polk County and SCG Consulting Services, LLC. Under the terms of the agreement, SCG Consulting would review the feasibility of Polk County transitioning the answering of 9-1-1 emergency calls and dispatching of emergency services to the Columbus/Platte County Joint Communications Center. A motion was made by Boruch authorizing the Chairman to sign the agreement as presented. The motion was seconded by Westring and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Westring, aye; Boss, aye.

Due to a scheduling conflict, Supt. Theis was not present for his update to the Board on the work being done in the Road Dept. but did provide a written report to the Clerk. The grading project on 129th Road between Roads O and P was completed last week with crushed concrete applied yesterday. The new pickup ordered for Foreman Ericson has arrived but a communications radio and tool box still need to be installed. The radiator for the gradeall has finally been received and is being installed. The cost of the culvert for the county line project with Butler County will be just under \$11,000 delivered to the site. Supt. Theis asked that action on the Certificate of Completion for Project No HRRR-STWD(90) be tabled until next week's meeting.

Weed Supt. Carlson updated the Board on the activities of the Weed Dept. According to information received at a Platte Valley Weed Management Area meeting, the Platte River should be sprayed by helicopter in September. The edges of the river have been sprayed by airboat in some locations and has proved to be a successful method of control. Approximately 400 miles of general weeds have been sprayed in the county this summer and fall inspections are starting to be scheduled. Brush spraying will begin soon. Supt. Carlson asked that the budget include a new ATV to replace the current one which is 21 years old and a new spray pickup which will be ordered to meet the needs of the department.

