

Osceola, Nebraska  
October 24, 2023

Pursuant to notice published in the October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 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.

A motion was made by Westring to approve the appointment of Dwaine Ladwig as Deputy County Coroner to handle coroner investigatory duties related to non-custodial fatalities when the Polk County Attorney is unavailable or when directed to do so by the Polk County Attorney. The motion was seconded by Boruch and the roll call vote was Westring, aye; Boruch, aye; Boss, aye. The appointment was made at the request of County Attorney Johnson.

Tristan Perry, the York County Diversion Coordinator, and County Attorney Johnson continued the discussion regarding York and Polk Counties collaborating together to provide truancy and juvenile diversion services. A motion was made by Boruch to approve contracting with York County for truancy and juvenile diversion services for fiscal year 2023-2024. The motion was seconded by Boss and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Boss, aye; Westring, aye.

Marcus Augustin and Nataly Sanley updated the Board on the activities of the hospital. The Foundation's annual fundraising campaign mailing has gone out and over 100 attended the health fair earlier this month. Trav's U-Save Pharmacy had a soft opening in Osceola last week and two new outpatient clinics, audiology and dermatology, will be starting soon. The new stainless steel handrails have now been installed outside the clinic and the hospital has been given a top 20 critical access award. The health center has been doing more public awareness and outreach campaigns, including participating in the Halloween festivities in all four towns in the county. Although revenues were down slightly last month, the facility still reported an operating and overall gain for the month.

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

Midwest Covenant Home Administrator Sheila Bjerrum met with the Board to discuss the crises being faced by the private, independent, non-profit elder care facility. Struggles with occupancy, changes in the source of payers, and staffing issues (especially nurses) while working through COVID and a remodeling project has created cash flow problems for the facility. Because the county contracts with Midwest Covenant Home for the administration of the Senior Services Program, Administrator Bjerrum wanted to make the Board aware of the situation.

Hunter Shain, of Rasmussen Mechanical, met with the Board to discuss the issues found during the annual preventative maintenance inspection of the two boilers in the courthouse. It was determined that the head is cracked on the burner of one of the boilers which is causing issues with the combustion in the burner in the boiler. The outdated flame safeguard controller in the boiler is also in need being replaced. A motion was made by Boss to accept both quotes for repairs and authorize the Chairman to sign the documents. The motion was seconded by Westring and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Westring, aye; Boruch, aye. The total cost of both repairs will be just under \$10,000.

Assessor Krance presented the contract with Central Plains Valuation, LLC for the reappraisal of the residential parcels in the four towns as discussed at the last meeting of the Board. A motion was made by Boruch authorizing the Chairman to sign the contract for property reappraisal with Central Plains Valuation, LLC as presented. The motion was seconded by Boss and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Boss, aye; Westring, aye.

Road Foreman Ericson updated the Board on the work being done in the Road Dept. The tractor leased from John Deere which is being used to pull the road drag does not have a radio like the other county owned equipment does and it making communications between the various operators more difficult. Communications options are being explored for the tractor. The semi tractor is getting a new clutch installed and one of the pickups used by the road crew is getting a new transmission.

Weed Supt. Carlson updated the Board on the activities of the Weed Dept. The State conducted their evaluation of the weed program earlier in October and the Polk County Office

