Osceola, Nebraska
November 23, 2021

Pursuant to notice published in the November 18th, 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.

A motion was made by Boss to approve the reappointments of Shirley Baker, Robin Carlson, Jeannie Hengelfelt, Rita Houdersheldt, Angie King, Karen Stevens, and Michael Ulffers to the Polk County Health Board. The motion was seconded by Westring and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Westring, aye; Boruch, aye.

A motion was made by Boss to approve the reappointment of Ron Boruch as the Commissioner on the Polk County Health Board. The motion was seconded by Westring and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Westring, aye; Boruch, abstain. Motion carried.

Hospital Administrator Joe Lohrman updated the Board on the activities of the hospital. October was a very busy month with an increase in inpatient revenue, especially for patients with health insurance. In spite of the increase in activity, a loss was reported for the month. The vaccination mandate has resulted in the hospital writing a policy for the staff with January 4th the fully vaccinated deadline. With the facility receiving approximately 85% of its revenues from either Medicare or Medicaid, losing that funding by not complying with the federal mandate is not a viable option. All hospital employees who are eligible for their COVID booster have received it.

Highway Supt. Theis reported that the work on Highway 81/92 between Osceola and Shelby has been completed and there is no longer a need for the temporary traffic control signs along the county roads one mile north and one mile south of the highway. A motion was made by Boruch to remove the temporary traffic control signs north and south of Highway 81/92. The motion was seconded by Boss and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Boss, aye; Westring, aye.

Highway Supt. Theis also updated the Board on the work being done in the Road Dept. The survey work has been completed for the box culvert projects and has been submitted to JEO. Cracks have been sealed on C Road in the area by the box culvert. Tree lines have been trimmed in the valley area and these areas will be mapped for follow-up spraying next spring to control regrowth.

Weed Supt. Carlson brought the Board up to date on the activities of the Weed Dept. The sprayers have been winterized and the snow removal blades have been mounted on the ATV and side-by-side. The Nebraska Dept. of Agriculture will conduct the onsite office evaluation on December 2nd. Four pastures have been custom sprayed this fall and the sprayer has been removed from red pickup for the winter. Supt. Carlson has completed the continuing education hours required for this year.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 12:05 p.m. to meet again on December 7th and December 21st, 2021. An agenda of the meetings will be available at the office of the County Clerk.

Approved: /S/ Debra S. Girard — County Clerk

/S/ Jerry Westring — Chairman