

Osceola, Nebraska
February 27, 2024

Pursuant to notice published in the February 22nd, 2024 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.

Marcus Augustin and Nataly Sanley updated the Board on the activities of the hospital. The spring health fair will be held on March 5th, the sleep study re-accreditation is scheduled for March 28th and mature driving classes will be offered on April 3rd and 4th. These classes will be free of charge to those that sign up in advance and can possibly lower car insurance premiums for those successfully completed the classes. The facility recently held an infant abduction drill and it went very well. The new instrument washer has been installed and training completed. The annual Foundation's Wine Fest was well attended and was a very successful fundraiser. The readmissions rate for the hospital is slightly above the average rate for rural hospitals and a committee has been formed to understand why patients are being readmitted with the same diagnosis. The committee will also offer suggestions to lower the readmissions rate. The current hematology machine is approximately 8 years old and needs to be replaced in the near future. January was another good revenue month for the facility but not as high as the record revenue month in December. An operating loss but overall gain was reported for the month which saw average revenues and expenditures.

At 10:00 a.m., 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, aye. Also present for the discussion were Chris Gabriel, Tim Althouse, Travis Boden, Tucker Boden, Tyler Boden, Jeff Gay, Nathan Grossnicklaus, B.J. Leeling, Neil Samek, Lee Boden, Cal Marak, and the County Clerk. At 10:25 a.m., a motion was made by Boruch to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Boss and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Boss, aye; Westring, aye. Chairman Westring stated for the record that no formal action was taken and only personnel issues were discussed.

At 10:25 a.m., a motion was made by Boss to go into executive session to discuss potential litigation. The motion was seconded by Westring and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Westring, aye; Boruch, aye. Also presented for the discussion were Sheriff Ladwig and the County Clerk. At 10:30 a.m., a motion was made by Boruch to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Boss and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Boss, aye; Westring, aye. Chairman Westring stated for the record that no formal action was taken and only possible litigation was discussed.

At 10:30 a.m., a motion was made by Boss to open the 1 and 6 Year Road Plan hearing as advertised. The motion was seconded by Westring and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Westring, aye; Boruch, aye. Also present was Highway Supt. Theis and Deputy County Attorney Heinz. The one and six year projects, which include bridge work and asphalt/concrete overlays, were reviewed. The proposed overlay projects for both Shelby North and Osceola North are potentially scheduled to move to the 1 year plan in 2025. At 11:30 a.m., a motion was made by Boss to close the hearing. The motion was seconded by Westring and all members voted in the affirmative. A motion was made by Boss to adopt the One and Six Year Road Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Westring and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Westring, aye; Boruch, aye.

Highway Supt. Theis and Foreman Ericson also updated the Board on the work being done in the Road Dept. Additional funds have been received from the 2019 floods and have put into the Disaster Fund. Several years ago, members of the Road Department attended trainings held by the Nebraska Department of Transportation and Polk County was to receive safety materials for attending. The promised materials should finally be delivered soon. Supt. Theis continues to work on the article regarding tree and brush removal.

Weed Supt. Carlson updated the Board on the activities of the Weed Department. The office evaluation by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture was recently completed and a near perfect score was reported. A motion was made by Boruch authorizing the Chairman to sign the Reports and Requirements Summary from the Nebraska Dept. of Ag to document that the office evaluation was reviewed by the County Board. The motion was seconded by Boss and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Boss, aye; Westring, aye. Supt. Carlson noted that there are still

