

Osceola, Nebraska  
February 28, 2023

Pursuant to notice published in the February 23<sup>rd</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.

The salary of the Emergency Manager was discussed. Clerk Girard presented the results of a survey of the other counties in Nebraska regarding the emergency manager position in their respective counties. Those counties responding indicated whether their emergency manager was full time or part time or shared with other counties, the salary for the position and whether or not benefits were offered. After reviewing the results, a motion was made by Boss to set the 2023 wage for the part time emergency manager at \$30.00 per hour plus the health insurance or cash-in-lieu benefit offered to employees working at least half time. The motion was seconded by Boruch and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Boruch, aye; Westring, aye.

The Board reviewed the appraisal of the property legally described as Lot 8, Block 5, Original Town of Stromsburg, Nebraska and located at 309 Commercial Street in Stromsburg. The appraisal, required by Nebraska State Statute before a subdivision can purchase real property, reported an estimated market value of \$170,500 for the property. A motion was made by Boruch authorizing the Chairman to sign a real estate purchase agreement with Yungdahl's Apothecary, Inc. for the purchase of Lot 8, Block 5, Original Town of Stromsburg, Nebraska for \$165,000.00. The motion was seconded by Westring and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Westring, aye; Boss, aye. The funds for the purchase of the real estate will be taken from the American Rescue Plan Act allocation to Polk County.

Hospital Administrator Joe Lohrman and CFO Marcus Augustin updated the Board on activities of the hospital. January was a slower month but the days of receivables outstanding is gradually coming down as the staff is becoming more accustomed to using the new software. An operating and overall loss were reported for the month. The X-ray room equipment is being updated using funding from grants and the Foundation for Annie Jeffrey. The health fair will be held on March 7<sup>th</sup> at the hospital and the executive search continues. A behavioral health clinic will soon be held both remotely and in person a couple days a month through the facility.

Treasurer Swanson met with the Board to discuss Cornerstone Bank's proposal to move to a Single Bank Pooled Collateral Program (SBPC) in lieu of the current pledged collateral process for securing county funds on deposit over the FDIC insurance limit of \$250,000.00. A motion was made by Boss to move the county funds on deposit with Cornerstone Bank to the Single Bank Pooled Collateral Program and to release the securities currently pledged by Cornerstone Bank to the county. The motion was seconded by Westring and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Westring, aye; Boruch, aye.

At 10:30 a.m., a motion was made by Boruch to open the 1 and 6 Year Road Plan hearing as advertised. The motion was seconded by Westring and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Westring, aye; Boss, aye. Highway Supt. Theis was present. The one and six year projects, which include bridge work and asphalt/concrete overlays, were reviewed. At 11:30 a.m., a motion was made by Boruch to close the hearing. The motion was seconded by Boss and all members voted in the affirmative. A motion was made by Boruch to adopt the One and Six Year Road Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Boss and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Boss, aye; Westring, aye.

Highway Supt. Theis and Foreman Ericson also updated the Board on the work being done in the Road Dept. The new maintainer has been delivered and shop audits were conducted last week. Supt. Theis will ask for guidance from Emergency Manager Watts to put together emergency preparedness plans for the shops. Fire extinguishers are being inspected today. No estimates for the transverse crack sealing of the county blacktops have been received yet.

Weed Supt. Carlson updated the Board on the activities of the Weed Dept. Credit hours for continuing education were received from the training recently attended. Maps are being prepared to notate the right of way areas to be spraying as well as lists for custom spraying and inspections. Ten more phragmites inspections still need to be completed and the Platte Valley Weed Management Area is taking bids for drone spraying of phragmites infestations along the river system.

At 11:55 a.m., a motion was made by Boss to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Boruch and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Boruch, aye; Westring, aye. Also present were Mark Gabel, Foreman Ericson and the County Clerk. At 12:15 p.m., a motion was made by Boss to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Boruch and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Boruch, aye; Westring, aye. Chairman Westring stated for the record that no formal action was taken and that only personnel matters were discussed.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 12:35 p.m. to meet again on March 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023. 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