Osceola, Nebraska
May 24, 2022

Pursuant to notice published in the May 19th, 2022 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 appoint Bob Carey as the Deputy Emergency Manager. The motion was seconded by Boruch and the roll call vote was Westring, aye; Boruch, aye; Boss, aye.

The Board discussed the Cash-In-Lieu program for those employees who have health insurance coverage through other group health plans or Medicare. More information was needed regarding the current cost of Medicare supplement premiums before making a decision on the amount of the cash-in-lieu payment.

Hospital Administrator Joe Lohrman and CFO Marcus Augustin updated the Board on the activities of the hospital. April's revenues were just slightly below the 12 month average and a small loss was reported for the month. Three accounts receivable clients filed bankruptcy which were written off as charity care. They have noticed that the time required to process claims by insurance companies is increasing and a grant has been received for treating and handling sexual assault cases. Phase One of the OB project is complete but before beginning on Phase Two, the State needs to inspect the completed work and issue their certification. There has not been much activity seen in the hospital with the newer COVID strains.

Max Reiber with Protex, presented a proposal for updating the outdated fire alarm system in the courthouse which was probably installed in the 1970's. The proposal is for a wireless system which would install smoke and heat detectors in each room of the building. The estimated cost was approximately $100,000 and the cost of a wired system would be similar. The equipment costs would be lower, but installation would be more labor intensive, offsetting any equipment costs savings. The batteries in the wireless system would need to be replaced approximately every two years. The Board gave their verbal approval to seek bids for a wireless system. Protex will draft the specs which will then be used as part of the competitive bidding process.

Work will soon begin on Highway 39 and temporary traffic control signs will need to be placed on the county roads one mile east and one mile west of Highway 39 for the safety of local traffic. A motion was made by Boruch to adopt a resolution controlling east and westbound traffic along Roads I and K north of 130th Road (Highway 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. Trucks hauling clay in the rural portions of the county are causing issues with some of the county roads. The excavator is currently down with hydraulic hose issues.

Weed Supt. Carlson brought the Board up to date on the activities of the Weed Dept. Bridge approaches and bare ground areas have been sprayed and leafy spurge and thistle areas in the right of way have been sprayed as well. There are some pastures to be custom sprayed for spurge and thistle as well. Chemicals have been ordered and general roadside spraying will begin soon.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 12:05 p.m. to meet again on June 7th and 21st, 2022. 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