

Osceola, Nebraska
June 27, 2023

Pursuant to notice published in the June 22nd, 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 Boss to transfer \$400,000 from the County General Fund to the Road Fund as budgeted. The motion was seconded by Boruch and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Boruch, aye; Westring, aye.

A motion was made by Boss to transfer \$30,000 from the County General Fund to the Noxious Weed Fund as budgeted. The motion was seconded by Boruch and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Boruch, aye; Westring, aye.

A motion was made by Boss to adopt a resolution increasing the Coroner's budget by \$11,000.00 and to transfer the needed funds from the Miscellaneous Budget within the General Fund. The transfer was needed to cover an increased need for autopsy related costs. The motion was seconded by Boruch and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Boruch, aye; Westring, aye.

A motion was made by Boss to adopt a resolution increasing the Buildings and Grounds budget by \$39,500.00 and to transfer the needed funds from the Miscellaneous Budget within the General Fund. The transfer was needed to cover an increased need for heating fuels, boiler maintenance, repairs and supplies. The motion was seconded by Boruch and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Boruch, aye; Westring, aye.

A motion was made by Boss to adopt a resolution increasing the Civil Defense/Emergency Management budget by \$1,300.00 and to transfer the needed funds from the Miscellaneous Budget within the General Fund. The transfer was needed to cover an increased need for salaries. The motion was seconded by Boruch and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Boruch, aye; Westring, aye.

The contract with Midwest Covenant Home for administering the Senior Services Program was reviewed. A motion was made by Boruch to approve the contract for the 2023-2024 fiscal year which begins on July 1st. The motion was seconded by Boss and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Boss, aye; Westring, aye.

A motion was made by Westring to officially designate the State of Nebraska's print shop as the vendor to print and mail the postcards required by §77-1633 (3g). The motion was seconded by Boruch and the roll call vote was Westring, aye; Boruch, aye; Boss, aye. The cost of the cards and postage will be shared by the entities who are required to participate in the special joint hearing.

Hospital Administrator Marcus Augustin updated the Board on the activities of the hospital. Nataly Sanley is the new Chief Operations Officer for the facility and the State Surveyors have arrived to inspect the running of the facility this week which happens periodically, unannounced to the facility being reviewed. Annie Jeffrey Memorial County Health Center was named one of the top 20 Critical Access hospitals in the nation based on patient satisfaction. The floor and ER have been busy but an operating and slight overall loss were reported for May. The new panic buttons have been tested with the Polk County Sheriff's Office. Repairs to the concrete outside the clinic and on the north side of the hospital will begin soon and there is a need to replace some of the recliners used during infusion treatments. Hospital rates will be reviewed and will probably increase to keep in line with area facilities and the hospital's website platform needs to be updated to make it more user friendly. The foundation's annual golf tournament fundraiser was well attended.

Carrie Gottschalk and Maria Cantu-Hines met with the Board to discuss updating the interlocal agreement between the County and the University of Nebraska for the Extension services provided in the county. The agreement would make no changes to the current financial responsibility structure between the county and the university but would update the terms used to describe the staff and their duties. Action on the updated agreement will be taken at a later meeting of the Board.

Treasurer Swanson presented a letter from Debbie Tomes requesting a refund of the 2022 real estate taxes overpaid on parcel #720044585. An overpayment was made due to the over listing of the number of fixtures on the parcel and the number of fixtures has now been corrected by the Assessor and approved by the Board of Equalization. A motion was made by Boss to approve the refund of the overpayment to Debbie Tomes as requested. The motion was seconded by Westring and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Westring, aye; Boruch, aye.

Kay Wenzel and Jill Engel with Aging Partners presented their annual report to the Board. Senior Services Program Manager Erin Dickey was also present and Aging Partners expressed their satisfaction with how the aging services program is functioning in Polk County. A transportation grant has been approved for a minibus to serve both Midwest Covenant Home and Polk County Senior Services. Grant applications have been submitted to help renovate space in Park Villa for congregate meals in Stromsburg.

At 11:00 a.m., gravel bids were opened as advertised. Bids were received from four different vendors. A motion was made by Boss to accept all bids, thereby allowing Supt. Theis to purchase gravel from the supplier that could fill the orders in the most timely fashion. The motion was seconded by Boruch and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Boruch, aye; Westring, aye.

Highway Supt. Theis also updated the Board on the work being done in the Road Dept. The culverts for the V Road project were installed yesterday and rip rap will be hauled to the bridge on 142nd Road. The application for the final payment on the box culvert project will be on next week's agenda. The crew is not reporting too many issues with pivots spraying on the county roads in spite of their above normal use this summer due to the drought conditions.

Weed Supt. Carlson updated the Board on the activities of the Weed Dept. The Nebraska Dept. of Agriculture conducted their random survey of several sections in Polk County with few new infestations noted. The right-of-way has been sprayed for thistles as well as the shop yards and intersections where the visibility of the traffic control signs is affected. The Platte River was sprayed with a helicopter in June and there should be some hard to reach areas sprayed with a drone in July.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 11:50 a.m. to meet again on July 5th and 18th, 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