

Osceola, Nebraska
June 28, 2022

Pursuant to notice published in the June 23rd, 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 Boss to adopt a resolution increasing the County Clerk budget by \$11,250.00 and to transfer the needed funds from the Miscellaneous Budget within the General Fund. The transfer was needed to accommodate an increased need for salaries and office 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 Communications budget by \$7,000.00 and to transfer the needed funds from the Miscellaneous Budget within the General Fund. The transfer was needed to cover an increased need for 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 Westring to approve the contract for the 2022-2023 fiscal year which begins on July 1st. The motion was seconded by Boruch and the roll call vote was Westring, aye; Boruch, aye; Boss, aye.

A motion was made by Boruch to officially designation the State of Nebraska's print shop as the vendor to print and mail the postcards required by LB 644. 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 Joe Lohrman and CFO Marcus Augustin updated the Board on the activities of the hospital. May's revenues were down slightly from the past two months and the twelve month average. An operating loss but overall gain were reported for the month. The bond payment was made in June as scheduled. The new OB room is now certified and has been used. Work will now begin on updating the original OB room and the flooring in the physical therapy room needs to be replaced, as well as the fetal monitoring system for the ER. To be prepared in the case of a power outage, the generator needs to undergo full load testing. To remain comparable to surrounding facilities, room rates and wages are under review.

The applicant for general assistance did not keep their scheduled appointment with the Board.

Sherry Miller, Kelsey Petersen, and Heather Lytle with Blue Valley Community Action presented their annual report and funding request. One of their primary missions is to stabilize a client's situation (address immediate food needs, etc.) and then provide case management to help the client over the long term. They are seeing an increase in requests for assistance due to the higher food and gas prices but there are not a lot of funds available to provide the assistance. Blue Valley has various programs to provide assistance but each has its own unique set of guidelines.

At 11:00 a.m., gravel bids were opened as advertised. Bids were received from four different vendors. A motion was made by Boruch 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 Boss and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Boss, aye; Westring, aye.

Highway Supt. Theis updated the Board on the work being done in the Road Dept. Work is nearing completion on the clay hill with basically replacing the fence and seeding with brome grass left. The new handicapped signs have been installed on the north side of the courthouse. The box culvert project will soon be approved by the State to be let for bids with both box culverts to be included in the bid.

Weed Supt. Carlson updated the Board on the activities of the Weed Dept. A survey of the Polk County side of the Platte River via helicopter was taken this morning to see how the control measures are working. An inspection of four sections in the county by the Nebraska Dept. of Ag found 1 infestation of noxious weeds which was the already known patch of phragmites at the Baker pit. Pastures have been custom sprayed for thistles and leafy spurge.

