

Osceola, Nebraska
July 25, 2023

Pursuant to notice published in the July 20th, 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.

Applying for a Scrap Tire Collection grant with the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy was discussed. The deadline to apply for a 2024 grant which would cover advertising and hauler costs for the collection of used tires is August 9th. A motion was made by Boss to proceed with applying for a Scrap Tire Collection grant and to authorize Chairman Westring to sign any paperwork that may be necessary for the application process. The motion was seconded by Westring and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Westring, aye; Boruch, aye. Highway Supt. Theis and Clerk Girard will work together to gather the necessary data and complete the online application.

The Board discussed the presentation made at last week's meeting regarding the Highway 30/64 corridor project and their request for Polk County's continued support of the project. A motion was made by Boruch to continue Polk County's support of the Highway 30/64 corridor project with Platte County, Butler County, Colfax County, the City of Columbus and any other entities later identified as partners in the project. The motion was seconded by Westring and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Westring, aye; Boss, aye.

Marcus Augustin updated the Board on the activities of the hospital. The facility ended the fiscal year on a good note with a small operating loss but overall gain for the month. The year ended with an operating and overall loss but the loss was less than the amount of depreciation for the fiscal year. The State survey completed last month found no deficiencies but they have some recommendations for the health center. The Director of Nursing position has been filled and concrete repairs around the facility are underway. The Foundation for Annie Jeffrey is looking to raise funds for upgrading the lab equipment and pricing will be adjusted to keep in line with area facilities.

Carrie Gottschalk and Marie Cantu-Hines met with the Board to present the updated copy of the interlocal agreement and addendum with the University of Nebraska for the Cooperative Extension Services in the county which updates the current twenty year old document. A motion was made by Boss authorizing the Chairman to sign both the interlocal agreement and the addendum for the provision of cooperative extension services in Polk County. The motion was seconded by Boruch and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Boruch, aye; Westring, aye.

Erika Schmidtberger met with the Board to ask for approval for a special designated permit to have alcohol at a function to be held on the Polk County Fairgrounds. A motion was made by Boruch to allow the Polk County Recreational Association to sell and serve alcohol on August 9th, 2023 in the Ag Pavilion on the Polk County Fairgrounds. The motion was seconded by Boss and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Boss, aye; Westring, aye.

At 10:40 a.m., a motion was made by Boss to go into executive session to prevent needless harm to an individual. The motion was seconded by Boruch and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Boruch, aye; Westring, aye. Also present were the County Attorney and the County Clerk. At 10:45 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 while in closed session.

Highway Supt. Theis and Foreman Ericson updated the Board on the work being done in the Road Dept. The Center Road project has been completed and clay will be hauled to the new building across from the hospital. The NDOT will be closing the railroad crossing on Highway 81 in Stromsburg and Supt. Theis is anticipating the local traffic to use the county roads as an unofficial detour. At next week's crew meeting, NIRMA will be giving a safety presentation.

Weed Supt. Carlson updated the Board on the activities of the Weed Dept. He has been spraying general weeds and brush in the right-of-way and some fall spray jobs have been lined up. Cost share chemicals have been provided to local landowners along the river and Supt. Carlson is ready for spraying by drone whenever the drone and operator is available.

