Osceola, Nebraska
July 27, 2021

Pursuant to notice published in the July 22nd, 2021 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.

President Biden's Executive Order to conserve 30 percent of the United States' lands by 2030 was discussed. A motion was made by Boruch to adopt a resolution opposing President Biden's Executive Order 14008 and supporting Governor Pete Ricketts' Executive Order 21-08. The motion was seconded by Boss and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Boss, aye; Westring, aye. The Board will continue to monitor any actions or regulations adopted pursuant to President Biden's Executive Order as to the potential for impact in Polk County, Nebraska. County Attorney Colling advised the Board that they currently have the statutory authority to permit or deny conservation easements.

Hospital Administrator Joe Lohrman updated the Board on the activities of the hospital. A bladder scanner, blanket warmer, Smaart PAC server and telemetry equipment were all purchased in June and June's revenues were up from May and above the last 12 month average with operating expenses down. An overall gain was reported for the month of June and for the fiscal year which ended June 30th. The OB project will be reviewed at the Hospital Trustees' meeting as well as possible participation in CyncHealth, a program that allows the digital sharing of information for patients being transferred to or from another facility. The hospital is looking at changing to a tiered salary system to help keep their salaries competitive.

At 10:10 a.m., a motion was made by Boruch to go into executive session to discuss an application for burial assistance. The motion was seconded by Boss and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Boss, aye; Westring, aye. Also present were the deceased's daughter and the County Clerk. At 10:15 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 and that only burial assistance matters were discussed. A motion was made by Boss to approve the request for burial assistance. 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 temporary traffic control signs were installed last week and will remain up until the Highway 81/92 construction project is complete. The Polk County crew is grading and backfilling the Butler County line project and will most likely finish tomorrow. The culverts under the Duncan blacktop are failing and settling which is creating problems for the surface of the road. Work also needs to be done to the approaches to the south bridge on that stretch of blacktop.

Weed Supt. Carlson updated the Board on the activities of the Weed Dept. Over 100 miles of county right-of-way have been sprayed for weeds and brush and several blind intersections have also been sprayed. Cost share chemicals will be available after August 1st. Phragmites inspections will begin soon with brush control continuing until frost.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 11:55 a.m. to meet again on August 3rd and 17th, 2021. An agenda of the meetings will be available at the office of the County Clerk.

Approved: /S/ Debra S. Girard /S/ Jerry Westring
County Clerk Chairman