

Pursuant to notice published in the September 21<sup>st</sup>, 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.

Marcus Augustin and Nataly Sanley updated the Board on the activities of the hospital. August and September have been busier months for the facility with revenues up in August. An operating and small overall loss were reported for the month. The Health Fair is scheduled for next Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> and the foundation's fundraising campaign has kicked off with the funds raised to be used to upgrade lab equipment. The facility is working to add additional outpatient clinics, such as audiology and dermatology.

At 10:00 a.m., a motion was made by Westring to open the county budget hearing as advertised. The motion was seconded by Boss and the roll call vote was Westring, aye; Boss, aye; Boruch, aye. Treasurer Swanson and Assessor Krance were present but no members of the general public attended. At 10:30 a.m., a motion was made by Westring to close the hearing. 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 adopt the 2023-2024 County Budget as proposed. The motion was seconded by Westring and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Westring, aye; Boss, aye. The adopted budget contains the following tax request:

General Fund	\$3,298,693.00
Equipment Sinking Fund	\$45,000.00
Veterans' Aid Fund	\$1,000.00
Highway Bond Fund	\$676,219.00
Hospital Fund	\$275,998.00
Total	\$4,296,910.00

The tax request hearing will be held at 10:00 a.m. during the October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 meeting of the Board.

Health Director Darla Winslow informed the Board that internet services will be installed at the end of this week at the Stromsburg location with the phone system to follow. The anticipated moving date is October 25<sup>th</sup> with the both the Osceola and Stromsburg offices closed to the public during the week of October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The staff will continue to visit the schools and conduct tai chi classes offsite during this time but no "in house" clinics will be held.

A motion was made by Boruch to approve the appointment of Carolyn Frazier to the Polk County Health Board to fill the unexpired term of Shirley Baker who has resigned from the Board. The motion was seconded by Boss and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Boss, aye; Westring, aye.

Highway Supt. Theis and Foreman Ericson updated the Board on the work being done in the Road Dept. JEO will look at several bridges in the county that need deck work and a rough estimate of \$350,000 to \$400,000 per mile was given to overlay black top roads. Supt. Theis and Foreman Ericson looked at some used loaders in the area last week but didn't find one they wished to purchase for the Road Dept. The NIRMA ASSIST program application has been received and if successful, the grant will be awarded in November.

Weed Supt. Carlson updated the Board on the activities of the Weed Department. Approximately 68 miles of right-of-way have been sprayed for brush control. The area by Havens has been sprayed using a drone, courtesy of the Platte Valley Weed Management Area and areas of the Platte River have been resprayed with a helicopter. Thirty gallons of cost share chemicals have been distributed to qualifying landowners. Bridges and bridge approaches in the county have been resprayed and the custom fall spraying of thistles will begin soon. Following a freeze, the courthouse lawn and other areas will be sprayed as well.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 12:00 p.m. to meet again on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023. An agenda of the meetings will be available at the office of the County Clerk.

