

Pursuant to notice published in the September 22nd, 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.

Hospital Administrator Joe Lohrman and CFO Marcus Augustin updated the Board on the activities of the hospital. August revenues were up from July but still below the 12 month average, resulting in a monthly and overall loss. The reports presented contained only partial information due to the conversion to the Thrive software program. The annual audit was conducted last month and went well. The report is scheduled to be presented at the October hospital board meeting. Three exterior doors need to be replaced at an estimated cost of \$10,000 and repairs are needed, in the amount of \$22,250, for the chiller following power surges last month. The OB project is nearing completion with the final walk-through scheduled for September 30th. The fall health fair is scheduled for next Tuesday, October 4th, at the hospital and the facility is looking into adding a pulmonology clinic to their schedule of routine outpatient clinics.

At 10:00 a.m., a motion was made by Boss to open the county budget hearing as advertised. The motion was seconded by Boruch and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Boruch, aye; Westring, aye. No members of the general public attended. At 10:20 a.m., a motion was made by Boss to close the hearing. The motion was seconded by Westring and the roll call vote was Boss, aye; Westring, aye; Boruch, aye. A motion was made by Boruch to adopt the 2022-2023 County Budget as proposed. The motion was seconded by Boss and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Boss, aye; Westring, aye. The adopted budget contains the following tax request:

General Fund	\$3,207,455.93
Equipment Sinking Fund	\$45,000.00
Veterans' Aid Fund	\$1,000.00
Highway Bond Fund	\$656,840.00
Hospital Fund	\$273,648.00
Total	\$4,183,943.93

The tax request hearing will be held at 10:00 a.m. during the October 4th, 2022 meeting of the Board.

Representatives of the Cornhusker United Way expressed their appreciation for the letter of support the County Board submitted last year on behalf of the United Way chapter. As a result, several grants were received that helped provide financial support for young parents and emergency food funds. Another letter of support would be appreciated.

A motion was made by Boruch authorizing the Chairman to sign the necessary documents for the Osceola Northwest and Osceola Northwest #2 box culvert projects as submitted by JEO Consulting Group, Inc. The motion was seconded by Westring and the roll call vote was Boruch, aye; Westring, aye; Boss, aye.

Highway Supt. Theis also updated the Board on the work being done in the Road Dept. The blacktop road between the Platte River bridge and Duncan will be closed to replace the small structure north of the river. Work will begin on the Polk County side of the Platte River bridge as part of this project will begin in a week to ten days. Supt. Theis has been in contact with officials from Butler County regarding the proposal that would bypass a county line bridge instead of replacing the bridge.

Weed Supt. Carlson brought the Board up to date on the activities of the Weed Dept. Several sites have been sprayed for phragmites by the Platte Valley Weed Management Area using either a helicopter or drone. Eighty-five miles of brush have been sprayed in the right-of-way but it is too dry to custom spray pastures this fall for the chemicals to be effective for noxious weed control. The transmission has gone out on the white spray truck and is being repaired.

