

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES**  
**June 9, 2015**

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Ainsworth declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session. Commissioner Wheeler and Commissioner Pope were present.

2. **MINUTES**           **COMMISSIONER POPE MOVED, COMMISSIONER WHEELER SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 26, 2015.**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. **OUT OF STATE TRAVEL REQUEST** – Lt. Isham presented a memo requesting approval to send Sgt. Kevin Haynes to the Weapons Energetic Materials Research and Testing Center in Socorro, New Mexico June 22 – June 26. Costs for this training is covered by the Department of Homeland Security, the only cost to the County is staff time.

**BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD APPROVED THE OUT OF STATE TRAVEL REQUEST.**

4. **RREDZ RESOLUTION** – Austin McGuigan, Community Development Director and Ann Siqveland, OneEnergy Renewables Project Development Manger, informed the Board that Steel Bridge Solar, LLC submitted an application for a 3-year RREDZ local tax abatement on a 12-acre parcel that will be the site of a new \$6 million, 3 megawatt solar panel project on Steel Bridge Rd. in Sheridan. The project is scheduled to start construction this summer and be operational by October. In order to meet the 3-year tax exemption requirements, OneEnergy Renewables requires a waiver of employment requirements for this project. Even with the first 3 years of tax exemption, Doug Schmidt, County Assessor, estimates this property will generate approximately \$175,500 in new tax revenue in 10 years, along with generating energy to power nearly 500 homes. The resolution for this waiver is scheduled on the consent calendar for June 10, 2015.

5. **WEBSITE UPDATE** – Dean Anderson, IS Director, presented a comparison of what Board meeting recordings/supporting documents surrounding counties offer on their website. This last year, the Board asked to have the Budget Hearing's recording uploaded to the website, which is fine since budget hearings only occur once per year. However, the issue now is whether the Board would like to start uploading every Board meeting's recordings to the website. The Polk County website currently does not have the capability of uploading recordings of every meeting, but there is an option to add that capability for \$600. Copies of recordings are available by request at a cost of \$5 per disk. Over the last 4 years, there have been approximately 2 requests to get copies of meeting recordings. Because of the low demand, the Board decided not to upgrade the website at this time, but continue to post budget records in the future.

6. **HEALTH INSURANCE UPDATE** – Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer updated the Board on Health Insurance costs for the upcoming fiscal year. Kaiser Permanente rates are expected to increase 5.3% for AFSCME, FOPPO, Deputy District Attorney and Non-reps, and 5.5% for the Deputy Sheriff's Association. Blue Cross/Blue Shield rates are expected to increase 13.34% for AFSCME, FOPPO, Deputy District Attorney and Non-reps, and 12.82% for the Deputy Sheriff's Association.

7. **NON-LISTED ITEMS** (Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners considered the below identified non-listed items.)

a. **LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR EXTENSION** – Jim Clawson and Barbara Nichols with Polk Extension Citizen Advisory Network (PECAN) presented a letter to the Board regarding support for continued funding for the Polk Extension Service District position responsible for the Foods programs, Healthy Lifestyle programs and Financial Literacy programs to Polk County residents. The person currently in this position is preparing to retire, and

Oregon State University has not decided if this position will continue to be funded. Extension Staff recently completed a needs assessment, which provides evidence of the need for this position. Jim and Barbara requested the Chairman Ainsworth sign the drafted letter, along with Barbara Nichols as Chair of PECAN, to be sent to Oregon State University in support of continued funding for this position.

- b. **BUDGET UPDATE** – Greg Hansen informed the Board that there will be a Resolution for budget cleanup for the current fiscal year on the agenda for June 17, and the public hearing for the 2015-2016 budget adoption will be on June 24. Staff are also meeting with the DSA tomorrow for contract negotiations.

Commissioner Ainsworth adjourned the meeting at 9:32 am.

Minutes: Heather Merrill  
Approved: June 16, 2015