

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
August 25, 2015

1. At 9:04 a.m., Commissioner Ainsworth declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session. Commissioner Pope and Commissioner Wheeler were present.

2. **MINUTES** **COMMISSIONER POPE MOVED, COMMISSIONER WHEELER SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 18, 2015.**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

3. **DEPARTMENT UPDATE** – Aaron Felton was unable to attend the meeting.

4. **MERIT MOU** – Forrest Peck and Mona Edwards with MERIT updated the Board on the program successes. Last year, the County signed an MOU with Marion County, Yamhill County, and the Cities of Salem and Independence to create a microenterprise program to residents of these areas. The grant was awarded, and the program started in January. The target end date for the grant is October 31, which allows time for one more series of classes to be held. The target number of participants is 40, which the program has already reached. Fifteen of these 40 are Latino, and 90% of these participants are low-moderate income. Four of these participants are from Polk County. This program has shown about a 40% success rate for businesses, but Forrest explained that success is measured differently by each business owner. Forrest is putting together another application for next year to continue the program, and requested Polk County sign the MOU to allow the program to serve rural residents. In 2014, the grant was awarded for \$100,000 and included Yamhill County. The new application is for \$75,000 and does not include Yamhill County, which has not shown much interest and participation in the program.

Forrest also presented a copy of the new financial resource guide tool that Americorps volunteers have put together. When finished, these resource guides will be distributed to libraries, Cities, Economic Development Organizations, etc. as a as a resource for residents of the Yamhill, Marion and Polk Counties. The cost for printing of these resources is \$750, and proposed to split the cost between the counties. Forrest requested the Board consider contributing \$250 toward this cost.

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

a. **MERIT INCREASE** – Matt Hawkins, Administrative Services Director requested a merit increase for a custodial employee. This employee was a regular employee eight years ago, but was laid off due to budget cuts. For the last eight years, this person continued working for the County as a temporary/on-call custodial employee. The County then rehired him last year, but started him at a Step 1 salary by mistake. Matt would like to correct that mistake and give this employee a merit increase to Step 4.

BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD APPROVED THE STEP 4 MERIT INCREASE.

b. **AFSCME** – Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer updated the Board on AFSCME negotiations. The final offer in mediation was 1.5% with selective salary increases. Once the mediation time frame is complete, each side will present their last best offer before declaring impasse.

Commissioner Ainsworth adjourned the meeting at 9:37 am.

Minutes: Heather Merrill
Approved: September 1, 2015