

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES**  
**JANUARY 26, 2016**

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

2. **MINUTES**           **COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 19, 2016.**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. **AMNESTY FOR OUTSTANDING FEES** – Marty Silbernagel, Community Corrections and Juvenile Director, presented a request for authorization to declare the month of March 2016 as Amnesty month for offenders owing an outstanding fee balance to Polk County of \$300 or more to be able to pay the fees off at 50% of the cost. In the past, this has resulted in approximately \$8,000 - \$10,000 in additional fee collection. If the County were to send these uncollected fees to a collection agency through the Department of Revenue, the County would only receive 30%. Marty explained that this is a fiscal issue, and the fees charged are not a behavioral modification tool.

**BY MAJORITY AGREEMENT (COMMISSIONER WHEELER AND COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH IN FAVOR, COMMISSIONER POPE OPPOSED), THE BOARD APPROVED THE DECLARATION OF MARCH 2016 AS AMNESTY MONTH.**

4. **TRANSITIONAL HOUSING CONTRACT** – Marty Silbernagel presented a request to authorize the Community Corrections department to enter into a contractual agreement with the River of Life for male transitional housing. For two years, the River of Life House has provided housing for up to 6 males offenders at a time. These offenders have been responsible for paying their own rent (\$350 per month). In the past, the residents operated a firewood program to help cover the rental cost, but that program has ceased. HB3194 provides monies for transitional housing, and part of these funds are already being given to Titus III for female transitional housing, and Marty proposes providing a monthly rate of \$1400 (rent for 4 occupants per month) to be provided to River of Life House for male transitional housing.

**BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD APPROVED THE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING CONTRACT WITH RIVER OF LIFE HOUSE.**

5. **BLM OVERVIEW** – Kim Titus, Salem District Manager with BLM, introduced Paul Tigan, Mary's Peak Field Manager, and provided a BLM briefing to the Board.

Ms. Titus informed the Board that the Resource Management Plan decision is scheduled to be released in June, which will dictate how BLM does land management and land allocations in Western Oregon. In the draft plan, the Salem District (covering 14 counties) land allocations were increased by 19 million board feet, for a total of 74 million board feet. 42,000 acres of BLM land are located in Polk County. Ms. Titus also informed the Board that effective October 1, 2016, the Salem and Eugene Districts will be consolidating. The headquarters of the new district will be located at the current Salem office, and the five field offices throughout the two districts will remain. Ms. Titus explained that this

consolidation will reduce some of the department's overhead costs to transfer to more "boots on the ground" staff.

Mr. Tigan explained that there are five RAC project applications for funding. Each application meets the minimum conditions for Secure Rural Schools, and would provide a benefit for Polk County and BLM. The review of the applications is scheduled for March 9 & 10. Mr. Tigan also reviewed the upcoming road maintenance and culvert replacements. BLM typically funds the materials and supplies, and the County performs the labor. The Dutch Creek culvert is scheduled to be replaced this summer, and the Gooseneck Creek culvert within 2-3 years. A majority of the timber sales in the next three years are concentrated in the South Yamhill Watershed and are focused on thinning. The Rowell Creek project (13.9 million board feet) is the largest sale.

The Board discussed different land management challenges with mitigating illegal dumping, resource damage, and irresponsible shooting. These impacts are especially felt in Polk County on Gooseneck and Ronco Road. There has been previous discussions with Public Works about vacating these roads, but the Board feels that enforcement is needed, not vacation. Mr. Tigan agreed and explained that BLM has recently filled three law enforcement positions that will be patrolling BLM lands. In addition, the BLM will be hiring 15-20 recreational seasonal employees who will increase presence and visibility. The BLM is also using trail cams to assist with enforcing prosecution of illegal activity.

The BLM has been sending quarterly reports to the elected officials. Ms. Titus requested feedback at any time from the Commissioners on the topics and effectiveness of the communications.

6. **REDUCTION OF TREASURER'S POSITION** – Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer reminded the Board of his recommendation for the Treasurer's Position to the Compensation Committee at their meeting on January 13. Greg is recommending outlining the constitutional duties of the treasurer (approximately 0.2 FTE) with a \$1,000 monthly salary, and creating a Finance Manager position to oversee all the other aspects of County finances. The Board feels that the financial world has gotten very complicated, and agreed that hiring a Finance Manager who understands accounting rules and regulations makes good business sense.

**BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD DIRECTED STAFF TO PREPARE A RESOLUTION TO SOLIDIFY THE SEPARATE DUTIES OF THE TREASURER AND CREATE THE POSITION OF FINANCE MANAGER FOR ADOPTION ON THE FEBRUARY 3 AGENDA.**

7. **DOAKS FERRY ROAD UPDATE** – Todd Whitaker, Public Works Director, was unable to attend the meeting and this item was tabled for a later date.
8. **CHIP SPREADER PROPOSAL** – Todd Whitaker, Public Works Director, was unable to attend the meeting and this item was tabled for a later date.
9. **EAGLE CREST ROAD CLOSURE REQUEST** – Todd Whitaker, Public Works Director, was unable to attend the meeting and this item was tabled for a later date.

10. **NON-LISTED ITEMS** (Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners considered the below identified non-listed items.)
- a. **POSSIBLE 2016 LEGISLATION** – Doug Schmidt, Assessor, informed the Board of two bills that could be introduced in the 2016 legislative session that could have significant impact on the Assessor’s office: LC 100, an exemption of industrial improvements, and LC 177, removal of some measure 50 requirements.
  - b. **POLK COUNTY FLAG DESIGN CONTEST** – Heather Chase, Executive Assistant, informed the Board that the Polk County Flag Design Contest is scheduled to open February 1. There will be a press release in the paper, information on the website, and all Polk County High Schools and local arts associations have been contacted about participating.

Commissioner Wheeler adjourned the meeting at 10:18 am.

Minutes: Heather Chase  
Approved: February 2, 2016