

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
January 23, 2018

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

2. **MINUTES** **COMMISSIONER POPE MOVED, COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH
SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 16, 2018.**

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE QUORUM.

3. **BROADBAND PROPOSAL** – Shawn Irvine, Economic Development Director for the City of Independence, informed the Board that the City of Independence's response to the Rural Broadband Capacity Pilot Projects RFI was accepted, and the RFA was released last week. The City would like to partner with the County for the application to fund a broadband feasibility study since most of the rural/underserved populations reside outside of city limits. The City of Independence has already engaged a consulting firm and obtained a bid for \$50,000 to complete a broadband feasibility study. This study is an opportunity to evaluate the existing fiber resources in the County.

**MOTION COMMISSIONER POPE MOVED, COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH SECONDED TO
APPROVE PARTNERING WITH THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE ON A BROADBAND
FEASIBILITY STUDY.**

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE QUORUM.

4. **FACILITIES BOND ARCHITECT'S DESIGN** – Richard Rothweiler with A.C. & Co. Architecture presented the preliminary designs for the courthouse complex facility bond improvements.
5. **LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT** – Mark Bernard, Senior Planner, recommended the Board initiate a legislative process to conform the Polk County Subdivision Ordinance (PCSO) with new state law that allows partitioning of parcels zoned for resource uses along an Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) line when the resultant parcel zoned for resource use would be smaller than the minimum parcel size. Updating the PCSO to be consistent with changes to ORS would be in the public interest and general public benefit.

**MOTION COMMISSIONER POPE MOVED, COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH SECONDED TO
ACCEPT THE FINDINGS THAT ADOPTING UPDATES TO THE POLK COUNTY
SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE CHAPTER 91 TO BE CONSISTENT WITH STATE LAW
RELATED TO LAND PARTITIONS ALONG A UGB LINE IN RESOURCE ZONES IS IN
THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND OF GENERAL PUBLIC BENEFIT, AND DIRECTED
STAFF TO CRAFT AN APPROPRIATE ORDINANCE FOR ADOPTION BY THE BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS.**

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE QUORUM.

6. **NON-LISTED ITEMS** – (Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners considered the below identified non-listed items.)
 - a. **VETERAN HOUSING UPDATE** – Brent DeMoe, Family & Community Outreach Director, updated the Board on recent Veteran Housing efforts. The overall plan is to procure a modular building to move onto the United Methodist Church property on LaCreole Dr. This building will temporarily house 6-8 screened veterans. At a community meeting on this topic last week, the administration at the neighboring LaCreole Middle School expressed support for this facility, some neighboring property owners expressed concern. Brent also did a presentation at the United Methodist Church on Sunday morning and the congregation is

supportive of the project, and plans to use the church as a day center for these veterans with computer lab, meals, etc.

Through the Polk County VSO office, we are now able to get a better understanding of the real numbers of veterans in our area. Since opening the office early last year, approximately 300 veterans have been served, of those, 13% are homeless. Most of these veterans are located in Polk County, outside of West Salem. There is also estimated to be a large number of Veterans that don't connect to the VSO office. Concern was also expressed for the veteran suicide rates: though they make up 8% of the population, they make up 24% of suicides and 18% of the homeless population.

The Polk Community Development Corporation has recently received a grant to construct a four-unit complex for Veteran's housing in Monmouth that should be completed by the end of the year. They have also purchased a property adjacent to the VSO office that they plan to turn into veteran's housing.

Brent also reminded the Board that the Homeless Connect and point-in-time homeless count is scheduled for next Wednesday.

Commissioner Ainsworth adjourned the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Minutes: Heather Chase
Approved: January 30, 2018