

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES NOVEMBER 28, 2018

1. CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE

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

Staff present: Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer
 Morgan Smith, County Counsel
 Matt Hawkins, Administrative Services Director

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Regular meetings of the Board of Commissioners are held on Tuesday and Wednesday each week. The meetings are held in the Courthouse Conference Room, 850 Main Street, Dallas, Oregon at 9:00 a.m. and is conducted according to a prepared agenda that lists the principal subjects anticipated to be considered. Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board may consider and take action on subjects that are not listed on the agenda.

Department Head/staff meetings with the Board of Commissioners are held on Monday, Thursday, and Friday. The meetings are held in the Board of Commissioners' Office Conference Room and are conducted between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The principal subjects anticipated to be considered are on-going, upcoming, and new matters bearing on County operations. Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners may consider and take action on subjects not listed within this announcement.

3. COMMENTS (FOR ITEMS NOT ON THIS AGENDA) - None

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: COMMISSIONER WHEELER MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION: COMMISSIONER POPE MOVED, COMMISSIONER WHEELER SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING OF NOVEMBER 21, 2018

MOTION: COMMISSIONER POPE MOVED, COMMISSIONER WHEELER SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 21, 2018.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. PUBLIC HEARING

Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer, stated that the meeting was the public hearing part of the process to put the re-authorization of the Public Safety Levy on the ballot in May 2019. After this hearing The Board can decide if they want to put it on the ballot for May 2019, how much they want to levy, and for how long. The staff recommendation was for \$.425 per thousand for another 5 years. The current levy was for five years and we are in the fourth year. They are considering re-authorizing one year early in order to ensure continuity of services and to ensure employment for the individuals who were hired with the money from the levy. If the levy is

passed it would eliminate the last year in the levy that was passed in 2015. Some Federal O&C offsets that lowered the amount that we taxed in the original levy, which has been eliminated from this proposal. Instead the County will utilize those funds for the facility repairs that are needed.

Commissioner Pope asked Mr. Hansen to read the alternatives and fiscal impact of those alternatives. Mr. Hansen stated that one alternative is for them to do nothing with this upcoming election in May 2019 and then they would have to determine if they wanted to put it on the ballot in November 2019. If the Board chose to put it on in November 2019 it wouldn't kick in until the following year, or you could wait until the very end of the current levy which would be May 2020, at which time if it were to fail they would have to begin the layoff process and lose the prior investment in FTE. Another alternative would be to go forward in May 2019 and change the amount of the levy but his recommendation is to not exceed \$.45 per thousand. The final option would be to not seek re-authorization and as the budget officer Mr. Hansen is telling The Board they do not have the means to support the funds that the levy is bringing in so the county would suffer severe layoffs, in the DA's office and the Sheriff's office, and would probably not have 24 hour patrol. Greg explained that with this levy they Board will have the option not to levy the full \$.425 cents if there is any income that was unexpected that would offset the amount.

Burney Krauger of 233 S Atwater, Monmouth, testified in favor of the levy. Mr. Krauger is a retired detective. Mr. Krauger stated that he has lived in Polk County for 70 years and has over the years has noticed that the crime has be increasing. He stated that as the Sheriff Department resources increased the crime began to go down again. He pointed out that as the P.O.I.N.T team became more active he also noticed crime decreasing. Mr. Krauger stated that the levy has provided the citizens with the protection and adequate patrol needed to keep them safe, and asks the Board to please be in favor of the levy.

Jean Sherbeck of 744 SE Saint Andrews Ln, Dallas, testified in favor of the levy. Mrs. Sherbeck stated that she whole heartedly supports the levy and believes it is also important for the citizens to know that it has also been good for the cities who the County has been able to help when they need additional assistance.

Bob Brannigan of 4340 Kings Valley Hwy, testified in favor of the levy. He believes this levy is very important to be approved. He applauds the Commissioners for considering moving the date up to the May 2019 election because he agrees that it would have a serious impact on the Sheriff department and the DA department if we have employees that are unsure of their future employment. He stated that we have seen a 71% increase in calls to the Sheriff's department, we have seen a return to 24/7 patrols, and his family feels a lot safer. We have seen the implementation of the Mobile crisis response team, and he would like to see more about how that has impacted our county. The POINT team was restored, and 9 pounds of meth was taken off the street. The DA office has seen 66% increase in prosecution. Mr. Brannigan is asking the Board to move forward with putting the levy on the ballot in May 2019.

Micky Garus – 11050 Whitaker Rd, Dallas, Mr. Garus testified in favor of the levy. Mr. Garus stated that he has recently moved out of city limits and feels very grateful to know the Sheriff's Office has deputies patrolling 24/7. He also pointed out that along with the large increase in prosecutions he believes just having those deputies on patrol is probably deterring a lot of criminal activity that would be happening if they didn't know there were deputies on Patrol.

Anna Scharf, 9950 Bethel Rd, Perrydale, testified in favor of the levy. Ms. Scharf stated that she sat on the original committee who tried to get this levy passed and failed. She stated that after that time there was a tragedy and the tragic story probably did help get this levy passed in 2015

because the police were unavailable to respond due to lack of funding. She is very happy that this time around they do not have a tragic story but rather a success story to share. Ms. Scharf pointed out that Perrydale School has also benefited greatly by having a School Resource Officer on site which was not possible before the Public Safety Levy.

At 09:30 a.m., Commissioner Ainsworth asked if there was a need for executive session. Staff answered that there was not and the Board called for a Recess and they will reconvene at 10:00 a.m. for Commissioner Interviews and again at 7:00 p.m. to continue the public hearing on the Public Safety Levy.

At 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Ainsworth declared that the public hearing to be back in session.

8. PUBLIC HEARING - CONTINUED

Greg Hansen goes over the discussion that was had in the public hearing in the morning, and the options he explained to the Commissioners. Commissioner Ainsworth asks if there will be any public testimony.

Mac Corthell, Falls City Manager, 907 Kingwood DR NW, Salem, testified in favor of the levy. He is testifying as a citizen of West Salem and says he completely agrees with providing the continuity of services. He agrees that it is a huge risk of losing good officers if we don't move forward with putting the levy on the ballot early. Also stated that the Sheriff's Department and DA office have been very responsible and have only taken what they needed.

Judge Norm Hill, Polk County Circuit Court Presiding Judge, testified in favor of the levy. He is particularly concerned with the current court security staffing not being adequate. There are multiple entryways into the courthouse and they have already had too many incidents. Somebody in courtroom 3 had a violent altercation in the hallway and later that day shot and killed his wife and feels they were just hours away from having an open shooter situation in the courtroom. He has had defendants carrying knives into the court room. He also had a defendant that been ordered to go into custody and the defendant refused and there was no Deputy in the courtroom to enforce his order. He has had conversations with our Sheriff and previous Sheriff's about this concern and would like to see another Deputy available for the court security. Currently there are 3 Deputies assigned to court security, and they are responsible for Court security as well as transport. Depending on the number of defendants needing transport they could have as little as one Deputy on staff for all the Court rooms. Ideally Judge Hill would like there to only be one point of access but he realizes there are issues that arise with that and instead he would like to increase the Court security team by at least one Deputy.

Jennifer Drill, Council women, 136 Kerry Ct, Falls City, testified in favor of the levy. Ms. Drill stated that she has appreciated the increase in police presence in Falls City. Having an Officer in the school system has changed the kid's perception of what a Police Officer is and what they do for the community. She feels the kids relate better to them now and are respecting the Officers more. Falls City crime rate has dropped 50% and it is because the citizens know there are Officers available and will respond. Commissioner Pope asked Ms. Drill if she feels that other City Council members in falls city are in support of this levy also. She responded that yes, the Falls City Council is completely in support of the levy. They are very happy that the communication between the Sheriff Department and Falls City has been better than it has been in years.

Commissioner Wheeler asked Greg if they are looking at the possibility of adding a Deputy to court security how would the levy amount change. The new proposed levy would add personnel in year one and in year three, and to his knowledge those positions were going to be on patrol.

If the levy went up to \$.45 they would generate approximately \$175,000 which would fund two additional jail deputies. Commissioner Wheeler asked if because the County has a reputation of keeping their word would it be wise to leave it at \$.45 and not levy it all if we don't need to in order to give the Sheriff some flexibility. Mr. Hansen stated that because the O & C Funds are not going to be available to offset the tax like it was in the previous levy so he would be very hesitant to increase the amount of the levy. Commissioner Pope stated that he is concerned changing the amount now in this deliberation goes against all of the statements they have made to the public up until now, and would like to leave the levy at \$.425. Commissioner Ainsworth stated that he agrees with Commissioner Pope and feels that we should keep it at \$.425. He feels that moving forward we can find some money to help meet the Courts needs without increasing the levy to \$.45.

Sheriff Mark Garton, stated that they have new shifts starting in January 2019 that will help address the Court room staffing issues.

Hearing no other testimony Commissioner Ainsworth closed the public hearing.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER POPE MOVED, COMMISSIONER WHEELER SECONDED TO AUTHORIZE THE ADMINISTRATOR, GREG HANSEN, TO MOVE THIS LOCAL OPTION TAX LEVY MEASURE FOR BALLOT TITLE AND PLACEMENT ON THE BALLOT IN MAY 2019 TO REAUTHORIZE THE 2015 PUBLIC SAFETY LEVY AT \$.425 PER THOUSAND WITH DURATION OF 5 YEARS.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Commissioner Ainsworth asked if there were any more questions or comments. Hearing nothing more the meeting was adjourned.

The following items were approved by Motion under **5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR:**

(a) HEALTH SERVICES – CONTRACT NO. 18-155

Approve Contract No. 18-155 with Monica Byers, NP to provide Nurse Practitioner services to Polk County Public Health.

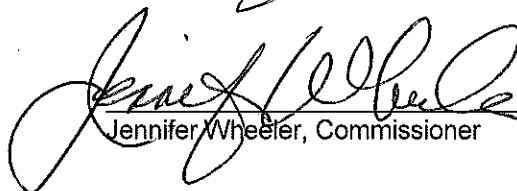
POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Mike Ainsworth, Chair



Craig Pope, Commissioner



Jennifer Wheeler, Commissioner