

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 19, 2019**

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

2. **MINUTES**                   **COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE  
SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 5, 2019.**

**MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE QUORUM.**

3. **CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE** – Rick George, Planning Department Director, stated that they are working on a community development project they are only 3-4 months into this project and they expect it to take anywhere from 12-16 months to complete. The main areas of emphasis will be the community and the reservation land. He stated that 50% of the student body is tribal, and the tribes are very interested in bettering the schools. They invited Polk County to be as involved as they would like to be in this project and welcome them to any and all meetings regarding this project. Commissioner Pope stated that they are very interested and would like an invitation sent to the Board with a schedule of things being done. Commissioner Pope appreciates the opportunity to work together. Tribal Council member Michael Langley stated and the feels it very important to work together because everything is connected. They were recently approved a Grant that will allow them to extend the transportation program that is being offered. He also mentioned the Board might be interested in participating in another project called West Valley Visioning.
4. **PARTNERSHIP SPECIALIST FOR CENSUS** – John Cummings and Sara Bushore, Partnership Specialist's for the 2020 Census, stated they are at the meeting to give the Board more information about the Census and let the Board know what they could do to ensure an accurate count for Polk County. Ms. Bushore informed the Board that the state of Oregon generally gets approximately \$10 billion dollars from the government as a result of the Census. They hope to be getting the majority of people to respond to an invitation to complete the Census online. There will be 13 languages available and it will also offer a toll free number which will also offer 13 different languages. They do not mail out to P.O. Boxes however so they are still counting on enumerators to verify addresses. They try to recruit enumerators locally because they feel local residents will know better how to reach the hard to reach community. They recommend counties put together a "Complete Count Committee" to help reach the hard to reach community such as the homeless, the elderly, and children under five. They will send out two reminder notifications about the online Census option and the toll free number and then the fourth one they include the actual short form that people can fill out and mail back. They are hoping to catch the majority of the population before that by offering it online. Commissioner Pope asked then about the job they are offering as an enumerator. He would like to know how many jobs, the duration, and what the pay would be. Mr. Cummings stated that the job would most likely last several weeks, and can have anywhere from 10-40 hours a week and he will have to get back to the Board with how much it will pay. He said it is different for each county. They also stated that the tribes are not required to participate in the Census and that is up to the County and the tribes.
5. **TRACTOR PURCHASE FOR FAIRGROUNDS** – Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer, informed the Board that the winning bid for a new tractor for the Fairgrounds is \$33,000. He stated that the Fairgrounds Manager, Tina Andersen, has requested this new tractor as well as continued use of the existing tractor. The Board has expressed concern about maintaining two tractors. Tina explained that during the spring and summer the existing tractor is running all day every day and the time that it is very time consuming to switch out the attachments. She says it would be really nice to have a backup for when things come up and the tractor is already in use or for when one is being having maintenance done. Commissioner Pope stated that he would like to know how much the existing

tractor is worth before deciding whether to keep it or sell it. Commissioner Mordhorst agrees and feels that information is needed before making a decision. The Board agrees to buy a new tractor but will wait to decide if they will sell or keep the existing tractor. Tina will find somebody to appraise the tractor and let them know.

6. **NON-LISTED ITEMS**

- a. **UPDATES TO PERSONNEL RULES** – Matt Hawkins informed the Board that he has contacted department heads, the unions and is asking the Board if they are ok with letting Department Heads hire new employees up to a step 4. Currently anything above a step 2 must come in front of the Board. Commissioner Pope stated that unless there is some evidence to show that bringing these new hire requests in front of the Board is delaying the process of hiring then he would prefer to continue having these brought to the Board. Commissioner Mordhorst agrees. The consensus is that the personnel rules regarding Department Heads hiring up to a step 2 without having to ask the Board remains the same.

Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

Minutes: Ciera Atha

Approved: February 26, 2019