

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
July 30, 2019

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Ainsworth declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session. Commissioner Mordhorst was present. Commissioner Pope was excused.
2. **MINUTES** : **COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 23, 2019.**

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE QUOROM. .

3. **VETERANS SERVICES OFFICE UPDATE** – Eric Enderle, Veterans Service Officer, informed the Board that the Polk County Veterans Office had over \$800,000 in retroactive awards and new monthly awards over \$300,000. In 2017 they have 485 visits and in 2018 it went up to 667. Commissioner Ainsworth thanked Eric for the work he does and told him that he hears so many good things about the Polk County Veterans Services Office from people all over the county. They have collaborative resource working with local VFW and the local American Legion Posts to help with financial aid requests and events. They also works closely with the Veterans of Western Oregon University office to help facilitate work studies, benefit events, and student veteran outreach. The VSO will continue to work with the Resource Center in order to submit grants to receive funding for current projects and future projects, including grants for veteran transportation and Gale's lodge.

Brent DeMoe, Family Community Outreach Director, stated that it is possible in the future the Polk County VSO will co-locate with the FCO Department which would ensure a more collaborative environment and greater resource sharing. The Polk County VSO also works closely with the crisis team for their veteran cases. The office has added a position to help with the increased volume of veteran's benefit claims.

The appeals system was completely changed to be the Appeals Modernization Act, which went into effect in February 2019. This change has required extensive training for the VSO. The VA revamped the entire medical system to eliminate Veterans Choice and create Community Care Program. The VSO works very closely with FCO to have a Case Worker for the Gale's Lodge Program participants. They also worked with Family Building Blocks to put on a veteran parenting class for male veterans.

Brent DeMoe, FCO Director, explained they are currently paying some younger veterans to host at Gale's Lodge but one of them enjoys it and is possibly going to become the full time host. It costs approximately \$2,200 to support Gale's Lodge monthly and they are getting SHAP funding of up to \$3,000 a month. He also informed the Board that there were a couple neighbors that were adamantly against Gale's Lodge and he said that they are now some of its biggest supporters.

4. **OAKDALE SPEED STUDIES** – Todd Whitaker, Director of Public Works, informed the Board that there was a speed study in response to a petition they received from a property owner. The petition had approximately 75 signatures. It has taken a long time because the original speed investigation came back with a recommendation that Public Works did not agree with. ODOT looks at 85th percentile of speed and you can have a reduction in speed if you have a crash history that exceeds what the state average is for the road. Coming out of city limits going up Oakdale Rd. it is 25MPH inside the city and will transition to a 40 mph. That will go for about a tenth of a mile and then goes up to 50 mph. Public Works is recommending that the Board accept ODOTs recommendation and if they do he will send that to ODOT and they will issue a speed order.

BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD CONCURS WITH ODOTS FINDINGS AND DIRECT STAFF TO MOVE FORWARD WITH SPEED ORDER.

5. **ODOT NO BUILD ALTERNATIVE** – This agenda item is being set aside because Commissioner Pope would like to be present for the discussion and he had an unexpected conflict arise.

6. **SALEM REVENUE FUN CITY COUNCIL** - This agenda item is being set aside because Commissioner Pope would like to be present for the discussion and he had an unexpected conflict arise.
7. **ASSESSORS OFFICE HOURS** – Valerie Patoine, County Assessor, was on the agenda to discuss the office hours in the Assessor’s Office. She was planning to come down when this item was up but is not present. Matt Hawkins, Administrative Services Director, was present and said Valerie was coming to let the Board know that she will be opening the Assessor’s Office at 8:30 a.m. on the first Monday of each month to allow time for an all staff meeting.
8. **NON-LISTED ITEMS** - (Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners considered the below identified non-listed items.)

Commissioner Ainsworth adjourned the meeting at 9:24 a.m.

Minutes: Ciera Atha
Approved: August 6, 2019