

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES**  
**December 10, 2019**

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Pope declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session. Commissioner Mordhorst and Commissioner were present.
2. **MINUTES** : **COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 3, 2019.**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. **SHERIFF OFFICE UPDATE** – Sheriff Mark Garton informed the Board that the average daily population is down in the jail. They have had an uptake in people ingesting drugs from the time of arrest to the time they get booked, they currently have somebody in the hospital from that. He also informed the Board there is a community meeting next week in Perrydale about Traffic issues that he was invited to and will be attending. They normally get a grant around the holidays to specifically watch for DUI's. He said they do get that but the state controls when the funds are used. They are currently doing Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) in Independence. It is their fourth class and it is a weeklong class and is a requirement and they get a grant to put the class on. Commissioner Pope asked where we are at with the woods deputy. They have hired and selected a person for the position and are hoping to start them in January. The contract will start January 1 but enforcement won't start until July because of the training for the person who is backfill the position that was left open, because they will be pulling somebody from patrol to fill the woods deputy position. The contract isn't signed yet but it has already been agreed on by all parties and just have not had a chance to get it signed.

At the Oregon State Sheriff Association conference last week our deputies, three corrections deputies and one patrol deputy received lifesaving awards for suicide attempt in the jail that happened in July. Sgt. Holsapple retires on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December. He got a meritory service award from the state and our search and rescue president was given a volunteer of the year award.

4. **UNITED WAY** – Elizabeth Schrader informed the Board that in Polk County we have 223 homeless, 89 of them are women, 51 of them are families with at least 1 child, 34 are under the age of 18. We have 70% of students that live at or below poverty level. United Way has invested \$52,500 through the Service Integration Team and other networks like CASA, Back to School, Homeless Connect, and Gales Lodge. Additionally for school districts they gave \$52,800 that was specifically for an initiative called United for Classrooms that allowed schools to bring in more resources for their students. She stated that she was at the meeting to ask for the Commissioners help to get better engagement. She stated that in order for them to continue their work they need some workplace campaigns, or other venues that they can bring resources into United Way so they can put them back into Polk County. Commissioner Pope asked about what other counties are doing for United Way. She stated that Marion County has a designated two week program in which they have a coordinator staffed for the entire population of Marion County employees. They have several things throughout the week where they will provide breakfast and employees can come in and have a pancake feed or other competitions and they will come in a talk about the current work they are doing. They have a shower trailer that has 3 shower units and they bring it to homeless camps so they can use it. They are currently talking to Brent DeMoe, Polk County Family & Community Outreach Director, about a possible youth shelter in Polk County because there is a big need for it. Matt Hawkins, Administrative Services Director, asked for more information on how the donations would be expected to come in because that would make a big impact on payroll. She stated that most of them are as a payroll deduction because that makes it the easiest for the employee, but it does require a lot of coordination by payroll which is why they also have an online form that the employees can access. The Board did not take action on the request but instead said they would consider this more and look into some option that might work for Polk County and be in touch with her.

5. **NEW FM RADIO STATION** – Levi Herrera-Lopez, Executive Director of Mano a Mano Family Center, and are one of the owners of the new radio station; Arturo Sarmiento, Special Manager for Radio Poder 98.3 FM; Alan Bushong, Director of Capitol Community Television (CCTV), and they time share the channel with Mano a Mano. They bought the east end of the first floor of the building they are in and they are in the process of remodeling. CCTV and Mano a Mano have been around for more than 30 years. Mano a Mano provides basic needs assistance as well as parenting support programs. Levi stated that they serve about 100 families in Polk County and they are all Latina immigrants, mostly farm workers and mostly Spanish speakers. Alan stated they got interested in 2006 when somebody asked him if he had ever heard of low power FM radio and he had but knew the rules were very strict so there were very few places that could get it. Radio is a really important means of communication in any emergency situation. Their goal is to provide public affairs programming and also some music also. This station will reach over 800,000 people, it reaches from the coastal range to the summit. They would like to involve the Board and others in Polk County in the programming. Levi explained that CCTV and Mano a Mano had already collaborated prior to them knowing they both applied for the radio station and they saw an opportunity to bring radio in multiple languages to meet the needs of the whole valley. They discovered that there was a large gap with farm workers in this area. They were not getting community health information timely because of the language barrier. Now they are able to bring that information as well as other news. They will be operating more like other non-profits which is member, donor, and sponsor. They plan to start slowly and build on the base they have now and also apply for some grants that they may qualify for because of the content they will be providing. They hope to have a hard launch in March or April and have 24 hours of content, this is dependent on the remodel being completed.
  
6. **NON-LISTED ITEMS** - (Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners considered the below identified non-listed items.)
  - a) **WILLAMETTE VALLEY WORKFORCE** - Commissioner Lyle Mordhorst informed the Board that Willamette Valley Workforce Partners is requesting a letter of support for them to reclaim the 4.1 million dollars they did not get in the recent legislative session. The Board all agrees that they would like to support this.
  
  - b) **ORGANIZED CAMP UPDATE** – Commissioner Pope wanted to address on the record that Commissioner Mordhorst presented an email he received regarding what the city of Salem is planning to do in regards to homelessness, and how it could impact Polk County. The sit and lay ordinance did not pass because they felt it was making being homeless a crime which is not. Which is why the city of Salem started designated camp areas. Community Action Agency representative feels that it couldn't be done safely and professionally in the timeline they were insisting and that the cost would be very high. Commissioner Pope states that he believes in time this will impact Polk County and we need to be anticipating it and trying to find a better pathway for answers.

Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 10:04 a.m.