

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
December 17, 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 AINSWORTH MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 10, 2019.**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **PERRYDALE WATER GRANT APPLICATION** – Commissioner Pope stated that the application packet that was submitted by Steve Caldwell, General Manager at Perrydale Domestic Water Association, has been reviewed by each Board member and they invited Steve to attend the Board meeting so it can be discussed on the record. Steve explained that the project is for their Zena booster which sits along the side of the road on Zena Road and its purpose is to help water move up the hill into their main reservoir. That Zena booster is a critical piece of their infrastructure, and the existing pump there now is approximately 40 years old and is due to fail at any time. The plumbing is such where they can install another pump beside it and that is what they are proposing to do with this grant money. That would give them the ability to have the new pump as a backup when the current one fails and in order to extend the life of that pump they will be alternating cycles. The purpose of the pump is to help them move the water up the hill into the main storage tank which then pressurizes the entire system. This is the water that companies like Meduri Farms and the other family company's use every day in their operations as well as all of the homes that they serve. They cover approximately 140 square miles with 200 miles of pipe. The entire project to fix the building would be much more but this would give them the opportunity to maintain and not have a catastrophic failure with the boosting system.

Commissioners Ainsworth asked how many homes they service. Steve answered that the total number of connections is just shy of 900. Commissioner Ainsworth stated that every time his water company needs to do something they ask him and the other customer to pay for it and he wants to know why Perrydale Water can't do that. He said that if they serve 900 connections and charged them a surcharge of five dollars a month until it got paid off it would be worth it. Steve informed the Board that the customers have experienced a 37.5% increase in the past 3 years just to maintain the system as is. The system is old and it is a system that takes continual maintenance and if they don't have the grant money they applied for then yes they will have to figure out another way of doing it but then it is a question of what else will fail that they will also have to figure out a way to deal with. Steve stated that it seems like a reasonable economic development opportunity to him when you consider the number of jobs that Perrydale Water supports and if you add in the fire protection they offer. Perrydale water supports 4 or 5 fire department. Commissioner Mordhorst stated that he feels concerned that if they were to approve this it would set a precedent for all the other water districts who have general maintenance needs and the county does not have the budget to do this kind of thing for all of them. He believes this is general maintenance that should be planned and budgeted for. Commissioner Ainsworth asked if Perrydale Water has had a Board meeting to discuss this. Steve answered yes that they have and that they have also spent 1.5 million dollars in the last two years on improving the overall system. He can't speak to specifically what the rates will be going up to but they will be going up just to continue the repair projects they already have going to get them on the path that they need to be on in the next year. The Perrydale Water Board has been paying attention to what needs to be done and they have also explored opportunities for other funds but have been disappointed because the federal and state funds are not available to them because the term sheets are very specific and there are dozens of CFR's to comply with. They do not have the staff to figure those out and it would be irresponsible to sign a contract that agrees to things they don't know about and they don't have the funds to pay somebody to do it. They will be spending about \$166,000 on repairing the Brown Road booster and when the Zena booster fails they will be in a very bad place. Fire will no longer be able to be supported at all which is a very scary situation for

Perrydale and he does not know what that would mean for Meduri. Commissioner Pope asked what Meduri Farms is going to contribute since this project threatens their operations. He said Meduri did gift them with a \$100,000 approximately 5 years ago. They are hoping they will be able to provide them with some additional funds and that it will let them complete the rest of the projects that need to be done. Commissioner Pope said that what he would expect from any utility is for them to walk into the meeting with a budget that shows the county is the last option for completing the project but he notices there are no Perrydale Water dollars in the budget so this would all be grant money. The application would have a lot more robust capacity if he had a commercial business interest helping and Perrydale members helping. If they fund this at the full amount they would have many others expect the same thing so are trying not to lay out a precedent that we will fund projects 100% especially infrastructure projects. Helping or assisting to make certain projects get completed would make sense to the Commissioners. Commissioner Pope stated the generally there are match requirements for grants but they would like to see that if it is possible. Steve stated that while completing their repair decade project they will be contribute a significant amount of money to those projects. The Zena booster will simply not be done if they don't get the grant because Perrydale Water Association just does not have the money to do it. The booster will fail according to the experts and it is likely to be sooner rather than later.

Greg Hansen, Polk County Administrative Officer, asked if Perrydale Water belong to special districts. Steve answered they are not because it would not be a reasonable thing for them to be involved in. He asked because special districts insures 98% of the special districts throughout the state and they have gone through the pile of paper you have to look at for all grant applications through the federal government and local levels. Steve stated that when he has had conversations with people from special districts they have indicated they have no real knowledge of all that information. Commissioner Ainsworth said his concern is that it sounds like Perrydale Water has known this booster was going to fail and he would have reached out to all the members and let them know that there will be a \$5 surcharge and in 6 months we will have this paid off. Steve states that he understands that doesn't seem like a lot but to a lot of their customers it would be difficult. Aside from the fact that they have already increased rates 37% in the last 3 years. Commissioner Pope states that the challenge they have with a grant application like this that is a fully funded project, and they would rather be a partial funding partner. Commissioner Ainsworth stated that he is not willing to give him the full amount requested because it does not provide any new jobs for economic growth. Commissioner Mordhorst agrees with that.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH MOVES, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST SECONDS TO DENY THE PERRYDALE WATER ASSOCIATION GRANT APPLICATION.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. **CODE 43 CONTINUOUS PERMIT** – Todd Whitaker, Public Works Director, informed the Board that Portland General Electric (PGE) is trying to streamline the trip permitting process. In April 2019, the Board approved the steerable axle 110 feet loads for continuous trip permitting. PGE is requesting the “Code 43” load be approved as an annual continuous trip permit in Polk County. A diagram of this load has been provided to the Board prior to the meeting. The load consists of a “Digger Derrick” with a maximum of 50 foot pole. The maximum height would be 14 feet and a maximum front overhang is 15 feet. Todd recommends the Board approve the Code 43 load for continuous trip permitting in Polk County.

BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD APPROVED THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES BY STAFF.

5. **NON-LISTED ITEMS** - (Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners considered the below identified non-listed items.)
 - a) **PUBLIC WORKS** – Todd Whitaker informed the Board that on their equipment replacement list this year they have a water truck they are going to purchase and the assembly to go on that

truck takes longer to build than the time that is left in this fiscal year. He is proposing moving that into the next fiscal year and moving a vehicle from the next fiscal year into this fiscal year, which would be a bridge truck. It is a decrease in this year's budget and a small increase in next year's budget. He is asking for a consensus from the Board to move forward with that.

BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD APPROVED THE CHANGES IN THE EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT LIST FOR THIS YEAR AND NEXT AS DISCUSSED.

- b) **PERRYDALE COMMUNITY MEETING** – Commissioner Mordhorst and Todd Whitaker attended a community meeting in Perrydale on Monday and they were very happy with the fact that 84 people were on the sign-up sheet. The meeting was organized by Perrydale community members who felt it was necessary to discuss the dangerous intersection on Hwy 22 and Perrydale Road. ODOT was not able to send a representative and Commissioner Mordhorst said that Todd was very helpful answering the community members' questions that otherwise would have gone unanswered with ODOT not being present. They discussed the different options that could possibly make that intersection a safer place to cross. That intersection has seen a significant increase in traffic accidents in the last 2 years and the community had some good ideas of their own that will also be taken to ODOT as possible suggestions. Senator Boquist was there and urged the community and Polk County to continue putting pressure on ODOT about the dangerous intersection because they have a lot of intersections that are dangerous and needing attention from them and if we do not keep reminding them that this intersection is quickly rising in the list of most dangerous intersections in Oregon and will continue to be a problem until a significant change is made to the flow of traffic. The community will be starting an email campaign so continue reaching out to ODO.
- c) **REAPPOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBER** – Norbert Hartman serves on the budget committee and compensation committee for Polk County and his term expires on December 31, 2019. Morgan Smith, County Counsel asked the Board if they would like to reappoint Norbert to serve another term. The Board agreed that they would like him to serve another term and it will be an agenda item for next Tuesday after the Reappointment letter is drafted. They will sign it at that time and notify Mr. Hartmann.
- d) **REAPPOINT BUDGET OFFICER** – Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer, reminds the Board that they will need to adopt the budget calendar soon so that will be circulated and put on an agenda in the near future, and also need to appoint the Budget Officer. Mr. Hansen has been the Budget officer in previous years.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH MOVES, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST SECONDS TO REAPPOINT GREG HANSEN AS BUDGET OFFICER FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 9:48 a.m.