

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 7, 2020**

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 24, 2019.**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. **TREASURY UPDATE** – Linda Fox, County Treasurer, informed the Board they had some staffing changes last year right before the tax season started so they didn't have time to get anybody trained before tax season. Somebody that was retired was willing to work more hours and some others had overtime, and overall they were able to complete the work within their time frame. They started accepting credit card payments for taxes on an add on fee bases. They switched to a different system so the county doesn't have to cover the fee associated with accepting the payments. It was also installed in Community Corrections, Public Works, and the fairgrounds. The fee for using a credit card to make payment is 2.49%; the fee for using a debit card is a flat fee of \$2.50. They are trying to cut back on the amount of cash money they are taking at the counter. The new system also integrates with the software which is much easier.

They received their final report from the audit yesterday. They will want to present their findings at a Board meeting some Wednesday and Linda will work with them to get a date. There was nothing major just a few things they found which they always do. Right now most of the county money is in the state intermediate fund pool and it's paying 2.25% and has been coming down a little bit. It was 2.75% a year ago but it is still the best option to minimize risk. Right now we have about 31.5 million in the pool, last year at this time we had about 21 million in the pool.

4. **CLERK'S UPDATE**– Val Unger, County Clerk, provided the Board with a hand out and informed them that the office is running smoothly. They are preparing for a big election year. She is thankful for the support she gets from various departments and their promptness at resolving any issues that may hold up the elections and counting of ballots.

March of 2019 was the first month that the nonaffiliated voters outnumbered the republican voters. Republican voters have always been the largest number and the democrats and now the unaffiliated have the most. She attributes a lot of that to the motor voter, because they are automatically being registered as unaffiliated when they go into the DMV. They are planning to replace their 24 hour drop site because it isn't big enough to accommodate the heavy election ballots they get in it. Especially the weekend before the election she was coming to empty it a few times to empty and on election day they are going down every hour to empty it. They want to replace it with a bigger one to avoid having any overflow problems. They should have that in place before the May 2020 election.

There are 58,000 registered voters, and the number of actual voters has remained pretty even with previous years. BOPTA has received 8 appeals which is usually what they get. The documents recorded at the end of 2019 compared to 2018 were up about 400 documents. Val reiterates that they have not done passports since 1995 and they do not plan to take them back on. There has been a lot of talk about the real ID act that is going

into effect this year and you have to have a certain driver's license in order to fly and the way around that is to get a passport. People have been coming to her office asking if they do them which is why she is mentioning it. Commissioner Pope mentioned we should try to provide the community with some information on agents that do provide passport services.

5. **PUBLIC WORKS TRUCK PURCHASE** – Todd Whitaker, Public Works Director, is requesting authorization to purchase a 2020 Freightliner M2106 Bridge Truck for the Public Works Department. A few months ago they had an annual inspection on their cranes and other machines and they red tagged the knuckle boom on the bridge truck. He was planning to replace their bridge truck next year and the water truck replaced this year. The water truck has an 8 month wait time on it so they wouldn't get it until next fiscal year so he is proposing they switch those two around and purchase the bridge truck this year and the water truck next year. This is a specialty truck that he can't find a good used one because they are very unique.

**BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD APPROVED THE PURCHASE OF THE 2020 FREIGHTLINER M2106 BRIDGE TRUCK FOR PUBLIC WORKS.**

7. **NON-LISTED ITEMS** - (Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners considered the below identified non-listed items.)

- a) **NWREGIONAL**– Steve Jorgensen, President/CEO of Northwest Regional, Inc., has requested a letter of support from the Polk County Board of Commissioners in order to maintain certification with the State of Oregon. Part of that process is that they request, from the counties they may operate in, for support letters. They have received it from Multnomah County that addresses all of the issues the state would like addressed by the counties. They have the ability to restrain passengers only if that is absolutely necessary. Their vehicles are all retired police vehicles so they have a partition and secured back window. They specialize in high risk transports, and not many providers do what they can do. They have been in business 18 years and have a 100% incident free record for 65,000 transports. Commissioner Pope has some questions that he will not expect answered now but will send them in an email so he has time to track down the data requested. They just went through the recertification process and getting the letters of support is the final step. The Board agreed they would like to think about it more before making a decision.

- b) **SHERIFF** – Sheriff Mark Garton presented the Board with an agreement between the Sheriff Department and Polk County Timberland owners (PCTO) for the timber deputy. It is effective January 1, 2020, and the first 6 months will be training. PCTO will pay 50% of the annual operational cost which is \$66,900, it is very similar to previous agreements we had with them with some additional administrative costs. They should have somebody in the field July 1<sup>st</sup>. They have hired somebody new to patrol so somebody experienced will be taking the timber deputy position.

**BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD APPROVED THE AGREEMENT PRESENTED.**

Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 9:46 a.m.