

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES**  
**June 2, 2020**

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Ainsworth declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session. Commissioner Mordhorst and Commissioner Pope were present.
2. **MINUTES** : **COMMISSIONER POPE MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 26, 2020**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE**

Kristty Polanco, Public Health Administrator, gave the Board a review on the case situation for the state and also for Polk County. There are currently 99 cases in Polk County and there have been 12 deaths, and 45 recoveries. Oregon Health Authority (OHA) informed Public Health that they are going to be publishing information on outbreaks in workplace settings, farms, which could be anywhere really. An outbreak is defined as five cases or more from one setting. OHA has said the purpose of this is to increase transparency around the cases in different facilities.

Polk County currently has an outbreak at Meduri Farms with a total of 7 cases. Three of those cases are Polk County residents and the other four are Marion County residents. Kristty pointed out that the word “outbreak” can sometimes because more panic than it warrants, for instance, the first case found in Polk County’s outbreak was diagnosed back in March and this person has already recovered. The other two tested positive on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and one of them has also recovered and the third is quarantined at home. Polk County’s Local Public Health Authority’s (LPHA) goal is to be very clear and transparent about any outbreaks that may occur to avoid panic. LPHA is in constant communication with Meduri Farms with regards to their protocols and their personal protection equipment (PPE) and the OHA has determined that no other action needs to be done at this time. An outbreak is considered over once the last person has recovered, which is defined as 72 hours with no symptoms.

Polk County went from a 1.8% to a 4% increase in positive tests between May 18<sup>th</sup> and May 24<sup>th</sup>. This is a metric OHA will be watching to make sure the number is not trending up for 7 days. OHA said that this metric is looking at the testing being done so when there is less testing happening the percentage is going to be higher. One of Kristty’s concerns about this metric is the as the LPHA they have no control over how much testing is being done that is decided by the clinician. Polk County’s LPHA has developed a partnership with a mobile health. They are out of Salem and primarily testing high risk populations like the homeless population and farmworker population and they will go out to the sites. We are providing them with test kits when needed. LPHA has also strengthen their referral system with Northwest Human Services who also has a Abbott rapid test machine and have offered to transport some people to their facility in West Salem if it is determined they have nowhere else to get tested. Kristty will meet with West Valley Hospital to discuss their testing strategy and what they will be doing with their Abbott test machine and how we can help to streamline testing on this side of the county, to ensure that transportation is not a barrier. Last week Kristty talked to the Board about another metric, new cases not linked to a known source, which must be below 30% for the last 7 days. This metric is trending down for us, last week Polk County was at 75% and now we are down to 67%.

John Golly, Dallas resident, asked Kristty if an outbreak at a business could lead to them getting shut down. Kristty stated that OHA has been taking it as an opportunity to educate the employer and help with infection control. She has not heard OHA say that there would be any shutdowns but she has seen that in other counties. The approach that the LPHA is taking is to help the businesses and facilities as much as possible to make sure that infection control is in place and that they are doing everything they can to protect people.

Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer, received a report from Dean Bender, Polk County Emergency Manager, because he was unavailable to attend today. The Board was provided a copy of this and Greg stated that we have not seen much change and Polk County has adequate personal protection equipment except for gowns because they are on back order. The backpack sanitizer should be arriving this week.

#### **4. HEALTH INSURANCE RATES**

Greg tells the Board that in their packet is the new insurance rate beginning August 1, 2020 for Polk County. We have two health plans available, Kaiser Permanente will have a decrease in rates by a little over 3%. Pacific Source will an increase of approximately 4%. The memo also outlines the new contribution rates for the unions, which has significantly improved in the last ten years.

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

##### **a) CITIZEN QUESTION**

Mr. Golly asked if we know what the contact tracers will be required to do or how they will be tracing contacts. Kristty told him we have 25 contact tracers trained, in addition to our current staff that is doing the investigation and tracing. Mr. Golly wants to know if businesses will be required to keep a log of all of the people who visit their establishment and what protocols will be used to track people. Kristty informed him that if they get a positive case they will ask the person to try and recall any places they have been in the last two weeks and for names and contact information for anybody they came in direct contact with for more than 15 minutes. There may be some business that are keeping a log of people who visit their establishment and that is a recommendation from the Governors office and not from a county level. Mr. Golly says that he heard that they have discussed ways of electronically tracking individuals and he finds that unconstitutional. Commissioner Mordhorst stated that he has not heard of anything like that being proposed in the state of Oregon at this time.

##### **b) ANNEX FACADE UPDATE**

Matt Hawkins, Administrative Services Director, showed the Board the plans for the annex façade as well as the sample of metal that will be used to cover the building. He expects them to start on some of this work in the next couple weeks. The builders have a plan for how to proceed with the project so that as they reach certain spots including replacing the windows. There will also be adding an overhang that will run most the length of the building and there will be rock along the bottom.

Commissioner Ainsworth adjourned the meeting at 9:47 am.