

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
June 30, 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 MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 23, 2020**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. COMMUNITY PARTNER RECOGNITION

Brent DeMoe, Family & Community Outreach (FCO) Director, introduced Reverend Quinton Kimbrow and his wife Sandy, who are both retiring. Over the last six years Polk County's FCO has partnered with Reverend Kimbrow many times on various projects around Polk County. Mr. DeMoe and the Board of Commissioners presented him with the Community Partnership Recognition Award for all of the time and effort he has put into helping these projects become a success. Abby Warren, Prevention Coordinator at Polk County FCO, thanked Reverend Kimbrow for all of the partnerships he has been involved in and also highlighted a few of the most memorable to her. Reverend Kimbrow's church has been a critical partner in the Mid-Valley Suicide Prevention Coalition and for the past year has served as the fiscal agent for grant funds. Those funds allowed the coalition to put on many trainings, such as Applied Suicide Prevention Training and also Question, Persuade & Refer Training. Over 3,000 people, youth and adults, have been trained in one of those suicide prevention curriculums. For many years the church has allowed county partners to use their facilities to host a variety of different events including Dallas Family Night Out, where 4,000 community members were a part of and benefitted from. Reverend Kimbrow's church was also instrumental in opening Polk County's first and only shelter for Veterans experiencing homelessness. The shelter is Gale's Lodge and has been open since June 2019.

Reverend Kimbrow responded that he is very grateful for having had the opportunity to be Pastor at his church and to work with Polk County FCO. The Board thanked him for all of his service to the community and wished him a wonderful retirement.

4. COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Kristy Polanco, Public Health Administrator, gave the Board a case situation review. In the state of Oregon there are 8,485 positive cases of COVID-19, and 204 deaths. Marion County had 14 new cases yesterday for a total case count of 1,490. There have been 43 deaths in Marion County due to COVID-19.

Polk County has 141 cases including 2 presumptive, 12 deaths, 1 current hospitalization, and 76 people who have recovered. Almost 70% of all Polk County cases are residents of the zip code 97304, following that is 97351 that has 11.59% of all cases in Polk County and 97338 has 9.5% of all Polk County cases.

Ms. Polanco provided the Board with a printed dashboard showing the metrics measured by Oregon Health Authority for the week of June 15th through the 24th. For Marion & Polk County combined the only measure it is showing as deficient is the metric around percent increase in new cases in the last 7 days. Polk County had 18 new cases last week and this week had 8, but because we are tied to Marion County our percentage is much higher.

Polk County currently has 35 people that are being monitored, which requires a phone call every day or a text message or email to check on symptoms. Right now it is taking 2-3 hours to complete those calls and text messages. Public Health has been able to keep up with this so far but Ms.

Polanco did state that if the number grows much more she would be concerned. Noelle Carroll, Health Services Administrator, stated that she is already concerned about the toll it is currently taking on the staff. Public Health is keeping up with the follow ups but feels it is also too much for the number of tracers they have. The case investigation piece is very specialized and intensive which only a few staff are able to complete. These are the same staff that are carrying a lot of the burden of contact tracing. Public Health are putting protocols in place to help alleviate that, but they are still working seven days a week. Commissioner Pope expressed his frustration that the contracts with Western Oregon and Willamette Workforce are still not finalized. Morgan Smith, County Counsel, advised the Board that the County has had a finalized contract sent out to Western for over a week now and has not received a response.

Polk County jail will be testing today for 3 inmates that are in isolation with symptoms that are consistent with COVID-19. There are two active outbreaks, West Salem Clinic with 5 cases, and Truitt Brothers with 3 confirmed cases. All of the cases at Truitt Brothers are Marion County residents but the investigation is still underway so could potentially have more positive cases. Polk County Public Health has requested assistance from the Oregon Health Authority for contact tracers while we are waiting to finalize the contract with Western Oregon and Willamette Workforce Partnership.

Dean Bender, Emergency Manager, gave the Board a brief review of the County's personal protection equipment (PPE) inventory. Last week the County filled 9 orders for various PPE items that went to several county departments as well as Independence Police Department and expects to receive an order of infrared thermometers this week. The sanitation backpacks are being used by the custodial staff and there will be a schedule put in place by the General Services Manager to ensure they are being used in all the County facilities as often as possible.

5. RECLASSIFICATION

Matt Hawkins, Administrative Services Director, requested a reclassification of a PC Support Technician, Cody Green, to a Senior PC Support Technician. If approved the reclassification would be effective July 1, 2020. Mr. Green has been a great asset to the county, especially since COVID-19. He has been working on getting staff the equipment they need to be able to work from home, among many other things. There would be no fiscal impact because this will be in the next fiscal year and the budget anticipated this.

BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD APPROVED THE RECLASSIFICATION.

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

a. CITIZEN QUESTION

Marilyn Morton, Minet & Willamette Valley Fiber, asked if as purveyors of an essential service they can request testing for their employees. Ms. Polanco responded that testing has to be requested by a clinician unless there was a positive case reported. That would instigate an investigation which would determine if additional testing is required. If somebody feels the need to be tested they would need to go through their Primary Care Physician.

Commissioner Ainsworth adjourned the meeting at 9:47 am.