

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
September 15, 2020

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Ainsworth declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session. Commissioner Pope and Commissioner Mordhorst were present.
2. **MINUTES** : **COMMISSIONER POPE MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2020**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Jacqui Umstead, Public Health Administrator, gave the Board a review of the current data regarding Covid in Oregon, Polk, and Marion County. Oregon Currently has a total of 29,484 Covid cases, 511 deaths, and a test positivity rate of 5.6%.

Polk County has a total of 483 COVID-19 cases, 15 deaths, and a test positivity rate of 8.4% which is an increase from the previous week. There are 2 hospitalizations in Polk County and 367 have recovered. There were 581 positive cases per 100,000 people tested.

Marion County has a total of 4,257, 87 deaths, and a test positivity rate of 11.1%. There are 2 hospitalizations in Marion County and 549 have recovered. There were 1,224.4 positive cases per 100,000 people tested.

There are no long term care facilities that are currently in outbreak status. Salem Health has a total of 42 staff who are who tested positive as of the September 9th OHA weekly report. Polk County Public Health (PCPH) has 12 contact tracers from WOU, 2 coordinators, 2 professors providing oversight, and are currently monitoring 64 people. Willamette Workforce has sent more applications to be reviewed for possible case investigators.

PCPH staffing is stable. They will be interviewing 3 applicants will be interviewed tomorrow for a temporary public health position and they plan to hire 2 more. Ms. Umstead stated that they did receive some support from Douglas County over the weekend which will continue on an as needed basis.

Ms. Umstead also updated the Board on the communications with the local community based organizations (CBO). She did receive the applications that the CBO's submitted to the state and the scope of work was not detailed. PCPH is working to establish MOU's with each of these CBO's.

In the most recent review period for public health indicators, August 30th through September 5th, Polk and Marion County combined were: .3% of emergency department visits for COVID-like illness, the trend in percent of tests that are positive in the last 7 days saw an uptrend at 7.8%, -10% increase in new cases in the last 7 days, 23% of cases were not traced to a known source, had an uptrend in hospitalizations, and 99% of cases in the last 7 days were followed up on within 24 hours.

Polk County had .3% of emergency department visits for COVID-like illness and saw an uptrend at 5.4% in the percent of tests that were positive in the last 7 days. During this review period 418 tests were performed and 23 were positive which is a 5.5% positivity rate is. We had an

11% increase in new cases in the last 7 days and we met the metric for percent of cases not traced to a known source which need to be lower than 30% and Polk County had 27%. There is no trend in our hospitalizations over the last 14 days.

Marion County is also under the 1.5% target at .3% of emergency department visits for COVID-like illness and had a downtrend of tests that are positive in the last 7 days at 8%. Marion County had a 12% decrease in new cases in the last 7 days and 23% of the cases were not traced to a known source. There was an uptrend in hospitalizations in Marion County and 99% of cases in the last 7 days were followed up on within 24 hours.

Ms. Umstead also provided a copy of the COVID-19 weekly testing summary which shows that as of September 12th, Oregon's cumulative positivity rate is 4.6% of people tested. This number is considerably lower than the nation's average of 8%. It also stated that the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory was closed on Sunday, September 13th and Monday, September 14th due to wildfire smoke in the area and hazardous indoor air quality. They expect to see lower test numbers due to the fact that there are many outdoor testing sites that have closed due to hazardous air conditions.

Dean Bender, Emergency Operations Manager, informed the Board that requests for PPE have slowed down in the last couple weeks. This week Mr. Bender has only filled one order for masks to Public Works and also provided masks to the individuals at the fairgrounds who are currently housing animals for those who have been displaced by wildfires. He believes the need for PPE will continue to be low.

Mr. Bender stated that at this time there were no fires in Polk County that were not under control and that so far Polk County has just been supporting Marion County. Family & Community Outreach has been very active and using their resources to connect families who have been displaced with other resources they may need. The Fairgrounds has had a lot of community support in the way of donations and volunteers helping to move and take care of the animals they are housing.

4. ASSESSOR'S UPDATE

Valerie Patoine, County Assessor, gave the Board a department update and informed them that they are in the process of finalizing the tax roll and it should be complete next week. The tentative results show an increase in assessed value as well as market value. The department has been learning to use the new software that was installed and it has been a struggle but she does feel that it is much more efficient and is happy to have the upgrade.

The department has not had any personnel changes and Ms. Patoine feels they have a good team. COVID-19 did present some problems and she expressed her gratitude to the counties quick response and installing plexiglass barriers at the counters as well as IS for being able to get people computers so they can work from home when necessary. They all were back at work in July and are now struggling again due to the wildfires and poor air conditions, which has caused some employees with allergies to work from home again.

There were two enterprise zones that were disqualified in Polk County because they no longer met requirements. One was due to COVID-19 restrictions and the other was not. There will be a new manufacturing business in Dallas that will be located at the old mill site and will bring approximately 34 jobs to the county.

Ms. Patoine stated that she is very grateful that she won her recent election even though it was difficult to campaign with COVID-19. The Assessor's office recently started processing manufactured homes again and has seen on average \$400 to \$1000 increased revenue each month from that service.

Commissioner Pope asked Ms. Patoine if she has any information on the legislation that wants to change the name of the Board of Property Tax Appeals (BOPTA). She responded that some people wanted to change it to reflect that what they can appeal is the property assessed value rather than the property taxes. Commissioner Pope expressed that he is not in favor of this change because of the cost it will take to reprint all of the documents.

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

- (a) John Golly, Reuben Boise Rd in Dallas, asked the Board if there were laws pertaining to arson in Polk County and if people who commit arson would be held or released. Sheriff Garton was present at the meeting as well and responded that depending on the severity of the fire it could be a misdemeanor or a felony. They would be arrested or it would be up to the courts if they were released or not.
- (b) Matt Hawkins, Administrative Services Director, informed the Board that Marion County is requesting assistance from our Medical Examiners. Mr. Hawkins stated that we would be reimbursed for the hours.

Commissioner Ainsworth adjourned the meeting at 9:37 am.

Minutes: Ciera Atha
Approved: September 22, 2020