

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
November 24, 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 MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 17, 2020**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Jacqui Umstead, Public Health Administrator, informed the Board that this morning she requested assistance from Oregon Health Authority (OHA) with COVID-19 case investigation because Public Health is having a hard time keeping up with the number of cases there are to investigate. The database that is being used for case investigation is running very slow so it is taking much longer to enter information.

Oregon currently has a total of 66,333 COVID-19 cases and 826 deaths. OHA has changed the way they are calculating the trends in test positivity in testing. Instead of using a people based system they are using a number based system. Oregon overall has a test positivity rate is 7%, Marion County is 8.9%, and Polk County is at 7.1% for the 8th of November through the 21st.

Polk County currently has 1,097 COVID-19 cases, 4 people in the hospital and a total of 16 deaths. Positive cases who are currently isolating is 157. Marion County currently has 8,435 cases, 6 hospitalizations and 130 deaths.

Public Health will soon have a public facing dashboard to display current case rate, zip code data, age range, and hospitalizations. It will be updated Monday through Friday.

Long term care facility, Windsong at Eola Hills still has a total of 7 cases which is the same as last week. Heron Pointe has a total of 14 cases, Jefferson Lodge has 11 positive cases, Marquis Spa Corp. has 11 positive cases, Truitt Bros has 8 positive cases and Salem Health has 86 positive staff as of the 11/18 OHA report. This number represents the total number of positive cases since they started reporting.

Staffing for contact tracing is still going well and Western Oregon University is still handling all of Polk County contact tracing. WOU is currently contact tracing 254 individuals. One of the communicable disease nurses will be out for the next 12 weeks and they are looking at doing some additional hiring to help through that time. They would like to hire 3 more case investigators to help cover during the week and the weekend. Another reason Public Health has asked for assistance from OHA with case investigation is because the database that is running slow is also not auto processing the case reports that come in so they are having to enter those manually, which takes a much more significant amount of time to do.

Commissioner Pope wants to know if the dashboard will include indicators of where each of our sectors of businesses lie with regard to data for cause or outbreaks. Ms. Umstead stated that it was not planned on being part of the dashboard and one challenge is that there are no questions in the contact tracer's questions about if people ate at a restaurant 2 weeks prior to getting symptoms. The state didn't want to add more of a burden to the contact tracers by adding

questions that would increase the amount of time each call takes. Commissioner Pope stated that the state is relying on this data for making decisions to close businesses and the public needs to know if that data doesn't exist and if it's based on some other algorithm.

Ms. Umstead reviewed Marion and Polk County health indicators combined. Percentage of emergency department visits for COVID-like illness is at .09%, trend in percent of tests that are positive in the last 7 days had an uptrend of 15.9%, percent increase of new cases in the last 7 days was 27%, and percent of cases not traced to a known source in the last 7 days is at 37%. Overall there has been an uptrend in hospitalizations in the 14 days and the percent of cases in the last 7 days that were followed up with 24 hours was 88%.

For the week of November 8th through the 14th and for hospitalizations it is looking at the 8th through the 14th. In Polk County the percent of emergency department visits for COVID-like illness was 0.9%, trend is percent of tests that are positive in the last 7 days had an uptrend of 9.8%, there was 22% increase in cases. There were 108 new cases report during this review week compared to 88 cases reported in the previous review week. The percent of cases not traced to a known source in the last 7 days was 31%, there was no trend in hospitalizations over the last 14 days.

Marion County is at 0.9% of emergency department visits for COVID-like illness, they had a downward trend of 17.2% in percent of tests that were positive in the last 7 days, overall a 28% increase in cases. They had 700 new cases reported during this review period compared to 545 in the previous reporting week. 38% of cases were not traced to a known source in the last 7 days and they had an uptrend in hospitalizations over the last 14 days.

Ms. Umstead included Polk County's school metrics as well. From the 8th of November through the 21st our case rate per 100,000 is at 321.91 and our test positivity rate is 7.1.

There are 4 CBO's that signed up to do contact tracing. Northwest Family Services had a start date of November 12th so they will be having a conversation with them about how they will be able to coordinate with WOU. Oregon Marshallese Community Association have a start date of November 25th and they will be reaching out to them as well. Mano a Mano and Catholic Community Services start dates are yet to be determined.

There are several CBO's that are signed up to provide wrap around services and have already started. When the contact tracers identify a need for an individual they are referred to Polk County Family and Community Outreach and that team will usually fill the need and if they cannot they will then refer the individual on to one of our CBO's. If there is a need identified on the weekend that can't wait until Monday for FCO opens the CBO will be contacted. There were several CBO's that helped with the testing event back in October. They provided volunteers to help with planning and implementation of the plan. There are two testing events scheduled for December at the Polk County Fairgrounds. It will be a drive through event and OHA will be there to provide the self-swab tests and the medical personnel that will help if people can't swab themselves. Interface Network will also work closely to help organize and manage the event. Ms. Umstead stated that she has to be mindful of what kind of help the CBO's can provide. Polk County Public Health has not had a need for the CBO's to step in to help with contact tracing and the help that has been requested from OHA is specifically for case investigators, and the CBO's are not qualified to work as case investigators.

Ms. Umstead stated that she has been working with the Administrator at West Valley Hospital to discuss ways that they can help get patients that don't have insurance tested for free. They

have considered how they could get a weekly testing site in place but need to get the right partners in place in order to do that. The Board stated that they are fully committed to helping Public Health work towards getting those regular testing sites in place.

4. RIGHT OF WAY VACATION

Rescheduled for December 1, 2020.

5. ROAD LIST

Rescheduled for December 1, 2020.

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

- a) Austin McGuigan, Director of Community Development, received a request from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde to designate a little over 60 acres off of Crowley Rd as Open Space under ORS 308A, which is a special assessment statute. This is an issue that deals with taxation similar to farm deferral for open space without having to do agriculture or forestry. This type of assessment is unique because it requires that the Planning Commission make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners as to whether or not they should receive the special assessment. The statute says the Assessor has 10 days to notify the Planning Commission, then the Planning Commission has to conduct a public hearing and follow the county's comprehensive plan procedures. Mr. McGuigan informed the Board that this was just to give them notice that they will be engaging the Planning Commission to conduct the hearing. Mr. McGuigan would like to ask the Board for their directive to send this matter before the Planning Commission.

BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD DIRECTED POLK COUNTY PLANNING TO SEND THE MATTER BEFORE THE PLANNING COMMISSION.

Commissioner Ainsworth adjourned the meeting at 9:52 a.m.

Minutes: Ciera Atha
Approved: December 1, 2020