

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
December 1, 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 24, 2020**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Jacqui Umstead, Public Health Administrator, review the COVID-19 case data from the most recent review period for Oregon overall as well as Polk and Marion County. The most recent review period is November 15th through November 21st, and November 8th through November 21st for hospitalizations.

Oregon currently has a total of 75,431 COVID-19 cases and 912 deaths. Oregon overall has a test positivity rate is 7.9%, Marion County is 10.3%, and Polk County is at 10% for the 15th of November through the 21st.

Polk County currently has 1,280 COVID-19 cases, 7 people in the hospital and a total of 18 deaths. Positive cases who are currently isolating is 127. Marion County currently has 9,369 cases, 12 hospitalizations and 142 deaths.

Public Health is working on the 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. Capital Manor had 2 initial positive cases and one more on 10/2, and 2 additional positive cases on 11/16. Heron Pointe has a 14 cases and no additional cases this week. Jefferson Lodge has 11 positive cases, Marquis Spa Corp. has 11 positive cases, Truitt Bros. has 6 positive cases and Salem Health has a total of 91 positive staff as of the 11/25 OHA weekly 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 282 individuals. 3 more contact tracers will be hired because one of them is leaving and the other two will be to ease the burden of the other contact tracers.

One of the communicable disease nurses in Public Health will be out for the next 12 weeks so they are looking at doing some additional hiring to help through that time. Ms. Umstead stated that she would like to hire 3 more case investigators to help cover during the week and the weekend. Polk County is receiving surge case investigation support from OHA for up to two weeks.

Commissioner Pope wants to know if the new public facing dashboard will include indicators of where each of our sectors of businesses lie with regard to data for cases or outbreaks. Ms. Umstead stated that the chart she provided today does not include the consumers who may have contracted COVID-19 at each facility because there is no data being tracked to provide that information. The chart is only reflective of the number of employees who were positive. Commissioner Pope would like that information to be made clear on the chart he was provided and would like that to be made public.

Ms. Umstead reviewed Marion and Polk County health indicators combined. The percentage of emergency department visits for COVID-like illness is at .7%, the trend in percent of tests that are positive in the last 7 days had an uptrend of 18.1%, the percent increase of new cases in the last 7 days was 22%, and percent of cases not traced to a known source in the last 7 days is at 43%. Overall there has been a downtrend in hospitalizations in the last 14 days and the percent of cases in the last 7 days that were followed up within 24 hours was 34%.

For the week of November 15th through the 21st, and for hospitalizations the 8th through the 21st, in Polk County the percent of emergency department visits for COVID-like illness was 0.7%, the trend in percent of tests that are positive in the last 7 days had an uptrend of 16.7%, there was 47% increase in new cases in the last 7 days. There were 155 new cases report during this review week compared to 107 cases reported in the previous review week. The percent of cases not traced to a known source in the last 7 days was 43%, there was an uptrend in hospitalizations over the last 14 days. 94% of the new cases in the last 7 days were followed up on within 24 hours.

Marion County had .7% of emergency department visits for COVID-like illness with an uptrend of 18.4% of tests that were positive in the last 7 days. Overall Marion County had a 18% increase in new cases in the last 7 days. There were 819 new cases reported during this review period compared to 697 in the previous reporting week. 43% of cases were not traced to a known source in the last 7 days and they had a downtrend in hospitalizations over the last 14 days.

Ms. Umstead reviewed the handout she provided with the metrics for returning to in-person schooling. Polk County is currently in the “extreme risk” category. There were 431.62 tested positive per 100,000 people and in order to consider transitioning to limited in person instruction the county must has less than 10% test positivity. Polk County was at 10% for the review period from November 15th through November 28th.

Public Health continues to work with the administration at West Valley Hospital to come up with a way to offer free testing to those who have no insurance or no provider to order the COVID-19 test. Polk County is putting on two more testing events that will be held at the Polk County Fairgrounds. Those will be December 10th and December 29th from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. OHA will be providing the self-swab kits as well as medical professionals to help people who cannot swab themselves. This will be a drive thru event and there are multiple CBO's that will be there to assist with paperwork and managing the events.

4. ROAD LIST

Eric Berry, Polk County Surveyor, presented the Board with a proposed update to the county Road List. The original county road report was created in 1975 and was revised in 2000 with some minor corrections made in 2001. Mr. Berry informed the Board the majority of the changes are a result of better measuring techniques. Several lengths were changed as a result of city limits expanding. Also, we have removed several roads and gained some new roads and changed the names of several rods as well.

The revised road list shows new roads, road name changes, and all length changes from the last road list. The previous list contained 483.79 miles of maintained roads in and the revised list contains 470.79 miles of maintained roads, a difference of -13.01 miles that we no longer maintain. Mr. Berry stated that if the Board approves the proposed changes that he will prepare a Resolution to be approved at next week's Board meeting.

BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD APPROVED THE PROPOSED REVISED COUNTY ROAD LIST.

5. ECO DEVO GRANT APPLICATION

Lisa Solterbeck, owner of Journeys... A Center for Your Soul", submitted an application for a \$30,000 Economic Development Grant from Polk County. Ms. Solterbeck informed the Board that her establishment specializes in holistic healing, and has a chiropractor and massage therapy. The business is currently located in Salem on Liberty Street and she has just purchased a location in West Salem. She wants to expand the septic system from 10 people usage to 40 people usage, add walls for separate office spaces, becoming a public water system, and adding a radon mitigation system. Ms. Solterbeck has already obtained a \$150,000 loan which will cover the bare minimum costs of the remodel she would like to complete. Ms. Solterbeck believes Polk County would benefit from the Center she would like to open because she will bring healing to the county. Commissioner Pope stated that usually they invest this grant towards economic growth. Ms. Solterbeck intends to add 3 new full time employees. Ms. Solterbeck stated that they also do a lot of charity work and offer free services for those who need it. Commissioner Pope believes that Ms. Solterbeck should include that in her application and resubmit with a focus on that.

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

a) Brittany Hall, Monmouth resident, asked the Board what the benefit was in holding these testing events and stated that it seems this would just help to increase the positive case number by letting anybody be tested even if they have no symptoms. Commissioner Mordhorst stated that it can help lower the positivity rate if more people are tested. Noelle Carroll, Health Services Director, stated that just because a person doesn't have symptoms does not mean that they won't spread the virus to others. That is the reason they do not require a person to have symptoms in order to be tested.

b) Bodie Bemrose, Polk County resident, stated that the shutdown is majorly impacting small business. Mr. Bemrose stated that he appreciates the hard work our Public Health department is doing but that he thinks it would be more useful to compare flu cases from 2018 to the number of flu cases now, or to track the suicide rates from 20018 versus now. Commissioners Ainsworth stated that he agrees that small business are being negatively impacted and he believes we should all do our part in supporting them by purchasing from them whenever possible.

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

Commissioner Ainsworth adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m.