

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
December 29, 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 DECEMBER 22, 2020**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Jacqui Umstead, Public Health Administrator, reviewed the COVID-19 case data from the most recent review period for Oregon overall as well as Polk and Marion County. Oregon currently has a total of 110,545 COVID-19 cases and 1,433 deaths. Oregon overall has a test positivity rate is 6.5%, Marion County is 11.2%, and Polk County is at 7.7% for the December 13th through December 26th.

Polk County currently has 1,905 COVID-19 cases, 4 people in the hospital and a total of 28 deaths. Positive cases who are currently isolating is 118. Marion County currently has 13,532 cases, 56 hospitalizations and 207 deaths. Ms. Umstead also included the region 2 hospital capacity, which includes Benton, Lincoln, Marion, Polk, and Yamhill Counties. There are 40 adult ICU beds available in our region and the total occupied is 86. There are 171 non-ICU adult beds available and 616 are occupied. The occupied beds are not all COVID cases, it is overall how many are occupied and available.

Long term care facility, Windsong at Eola Hills still has a total of 11 cases, Capital Manor has one more since last week making their total 9. Jefferson Lodge has 50 positive cases, Dallas Retirement Village went from 39 cases last week to a total of 60 this week, Marquis Spa Corp. has 13 positive cases, and Truitt Bros. still have 8 positive cases. Salem Health has a total of 123 positive staff as of the 12/23 OHA weekly report. This number represents the total number of positive cases since they started reporting.

There is currently an open recruitment for a Nurse in Public Health, as well as a Public Health worker. There is a testing event today and the flu vaccine will be available. There are approximately 100 people signed up to come to the event and they will take walk in for as many tests that they have available. These tests were provided by the Oregon Health Authority and will be free.

As of January 1, 2021 the school metrics will become advisory only and the school districts will be allowed to make their own decision as to whether or not to allow in person instruction. The Local Public Health Authority will answer any questions the school districts have regarding the number of cases and the trends they are seeing but will have no authority to say the schools can or cannot open. Teachers are currently in phase 1B for the vaccine which will come after we complete phase 1A. There have been 20,000 doses administered in Oregon so far and they are a two part series. There have been just under 500 people vaccinated in Polk County so far including hospital staff and long term care facility residents and staff. Ms. Umstead will meet with the medical providers in the county next week to discuss the distribution schedule in greater detail.

During the weeks of December 6th through December 19th Oregon overall had 437.8 positive cases per 100,000 residents, with a positivity rate of 6.8%. During that time Polk County had 310 cases with a case rate 373.8 cases per 100,000 residents and a 7.1% positivity rate. 3.6% of emergency department visits in Oregon were for COVID-like symptoms. During the week of December 13th there were a total of 216 cases admitted to hospitals around Oregon and 3 of those were Polk County

residents. 98% of the time cases in Polk County were followed up on within 24 hours and 60% of cases in Polk County were traced to a known source.

For Marion County during that same date range, December 6th through December 19th, they had a total of 2,232 cases with a case rate of 641.8 cases per 100,000 residents and a positivity rate of 12.0%. During the Week of December 13th there were 40 Marion County cases admitted to the hospital. 71% of Marion County cases were followed up on within 24 hours and 44.9% of their cases were traced to a known source.

The Board will be given any updates that happen in regards to the distribution schedule for the COVID vaccine and requested a timeline for how the schedule is expected to happen.

4. ALYRICA BROADBAND PROJECT UPDATE

Jason Richards with Alyrica gave the Board the final update for the rural broadband project in Polk County. Alyrica had three main goals to accomplish during this project, to provide 90% of rural Polk County with service, for 80% of addresses within the 90% coverage will be able to subscribe to 100 Mbps service, and to this for less than \$100 a month. Mr. Richards stated that over 91% of rural Polk County now has access to broadband internet. Over 85% of these addresses can receive 100 Mbps service if they choose to do so, and broadband internet through Alyrica (25/5 Mbps) is offered at \$99.99.

There were six large towers infrastructures completed before the end of December 2020 all around Polk County, as well as 8 micro/macro pop infrastructures. Mr. Richards explained that in the beginning of this project the wildfires created some difficulties and did delay the building for about a month. The results of this project has been exceedingly positive and there were several areas that were severely underserved. Now that the equipment is in place they will continue to add micro pops to increase the coverage area. Users who allow Alyrica to place one of those micro or macros pops on their property will receive an employee discount or can choose to upgrade their plan to the next step up with no additional cost. Commissioner Pope awarded Alyrica the last payment for the project.

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

- a. Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer, informed the Board that the checks for the COVID Relief Grant will go out before the end of the week. All of the people who were awarded the grant have been reached or left messages and Mr. Hansen has almost reached everybody who was denied. There were over 170 businesses awarded this grant.

Commissioner Ainsworth adjourned the meeting at 10:05 a.m.