

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 5, 2021**

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Pope declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session. Commissioner Pope stated that he would like to begin Tuesday's Board meetings with the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Mordhorst and Commissioner Ainsworth were present.
2. **MINUTES:** **COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 29, 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 118,453 COVID-19 cases and 1,506 deaths. Oregon overall has a test positivity rate is 7.1%, Marion County was 11.6%, and Polk County was at 8.8% for the reporting period from December 20<sup>th</sup> through January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Polk County has a total of 2,097 COVID-19 cases since reporting started, 5 people in the hospital and a total of 33 deaths. There are currently 165 individuals who are insulating in Polk County. Marion County has a total of 14,561 positive COVID-19 cases since reporting started, 64 hospitalizations and 215 deaths.

Capital Manor has a total of 13 positive cases, Jefferson Lodge has 51 positive cases, Dallas Retirement Village has 77 positive cases, and Marquis Spa Corp. has 13 positive cases. Salem Health has a total of 136 positive staff as of the 12/30 OHA weekly report. This number represents the total number of positive cases since they started reporting.

Western Oregon University is still managing all of Polk County's contact tracing and they are currently monitoring 207 individuals. Within Polk County Public Health there are two Public Health Workers starting January 19<sup>th</sup> who will be helping with case investigation. There has been some intermittent assistance from Oregon Health Authority with case investigation when there has been a surge of cases.

There was a testing event last Tuesday at the Polk County Fairgrounds where 156 people were tested. 15 of those tests were positive which gives the event a test positivity rate of 9.6%. There were 9 people who received the flu vaccine at that event and they are working with the state to schedule more events in January. There were some individuals who came to that event that were not Polk County residents, some from Marion and Yamhill.

During the weeks of December 13<sup>th</sup> through December 26<sup>th</sup> Oregon overall had 376.7 positive cases per 100,000 residents, with a positivity rate of 6.5%. During that time Polk County had 295 cases with a case rate 355.7 cases per 100,000 residents and a 7.7% positivity rate. During the week of December 20<sup>th</sup> 2.9% of emergency department visits in Oregon were for COVID-like illness and 157 COVID-19 cases were admitted to a hospital in Oregon. Of those 157 admissions, 4 of them were in Polk County. 95% of positive cases were followed up on within 24 hours and 68.6% of cases during the week of December 20<sup>th</sup> were traced to a known source. Marion County had a total of 2,076 positive cases which is 597 cases per 100,000 residents with a test positivity rate of 11.3%. 31 positive cases were admitted to a hospital during the week of December 20<sup>th</sup>. During that same time frame 63% of positive cases in Marion County were followed up on within 24 hours and 43.4% of positive cases were traced to a known source.

Ms. Umstead discussed the preventative measure Public Health has taken to ensure that the long term care facilities (LTCF) are doing everything they can to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Public Health has continued to have good communication with the facilities as well as OHA while also ensuring that they have all of the PPE they need. Ms. Umstead also pointed out that the age group of employees that work at the long term care facilities tend to be younger and in the age range that is experiencing the most positive cases, the 20- 29 year olds. All of the LTCF have signed a contract with a pharmacy partner for them to go to the facility and vaccinate the employees and residents. PH is working on reaching out to all of these facilities to make sure they are scheduled for those vaccinations and to make sure it is not too far out. Due to the fact that Jefferson Lodge is not considered a skilled nursing facility they do not have a date scheduled. Ms. Umstead has reached out to West Valley Hospital to see how we can help them get those sooner.

Ms. Umstead reviewed the school metrics report for Polk and Marion County which shows an 8.8% positivity rate and cases per 100,000 is 396.7. Marion County test positivity rate is 11.6% and cases per 100,000 is 563.3. Both Counties are still considered in extreme risk category. 51,255 people have been vaccinated in Oregon, however only 9 have been fully vaccinated which means already getting their second dose. In Polk County 1,207 people have been vaccinated, which is more than double what we were at last week. PH is partnering with West Hospital to identify the populations that are in Phase 1A and they are being set up for closed PODs (Point of dispensing). Right now those PODs will be at the hospital but will most likely be transitioning to the Polk County Fairgrounds within the next week. This will help dispense more vaccine quickly while still ensuring the appropriate safety measures. PH is hoping to include teachers as group 5 of Phase 1A. Commissioner Mordhorst stated that he has heard a lot from concerned parents who want the kids back in school and asked if the Board has any influence on the schools in regards to opening or not. Ms. Umstead stated that PH only provides data and trend information when asked, the school districts is responsible for making that decision though. PH has met with all of the school district in the county to discuss how they can open safely if they choose to do so. Ms. Umstead believes it will be a slow process and will most likely start with the younger kids and then go from there.

Commissioner Pope mentioned discussed a timeline for the vaccine that he received from the administration at the West Valley Hospital and pointed out that jail detainees are not on that list. Vaccinating the jail detainees creates some concerns because we don't know where they will be in 28 days when it is time for them to get the second shot. The Sheriff Office and Corrections are scheduled to get the vaccine in the next week and PH is working to get all of the phase 1A population scheduled for the closed PODs. The nursing supervisor has reached out to the jail to look at the logistics of vaccinating the detainees and what that would look like. The state was not very clear where inmates fall on the schedule but also they said that LPHA can have some discretion with the detainees. Ms. Umstead is hoping to start that next week and explained how important it is to vaccinate them because they are in a congregate setting. Commissioner Ainsworth expressed his frustration that the plan is to vaccinate people in jail before all of the people in the long term care facilities. Ms. Umstead clarified that the long term care facilities do come first, and they will be contacted first and if they don't have a scheduled date that is soon then the vaccine we have would go to them instead. That is why they are reaching out to these facilities to find out how far out the pharmacy is scheduling their vaccines.

#### **4. FAIR BOARD APPLICANT**

William Barnhart attended the Board meeting for an interview for the Fair Board. Commissioners Mordhorst asked why Mr. Barnhart chose to apply for the position on the Fair Board and what strengths or skills do you have that will benefit the Fair Board. Mr. Barnhart was asked by a current Fair Board member to consider applying. He has been a Polk County resident for 40 years and grew up raising livestock and thought it was something he would enjoy and would be a good way to give back and help ensure the fairs keep going. Commissioner Ainsworth asked if Mr. Barnhart if he felt the fair was important to the county and if so why? Ms. Barnhart said he

does feel that it is very important. He feels it is the epitome of a community event that brings people together. Commissioner Mordhorst asked if he felt making the facility available to individuals and groups to use for functions on a year round basis. Mr. Barnhart answered that yes he does feel that it is important and also realizes that there could be some issues that he is unaware of given that he has not seen the inner workings of the Fair Board. He likes the idea because it is a facility not being used most of the year and it could be a good way to generate revenue for the facilities and brings people in that may have connections in the community. Commissioner Ainsworth asked if he was appointed to the Fair Board does he have any suggestions to enhance the operation and the management of the facility. Mr. Barnhart feels that it may be premature for him to make recommendations until he has more information. He does know there are some great members on the Board and would refrain from making suggestions until he has a chance to be involved. Commissioners Pope asked Mr. Barnhart if he has ever been involved in discussions of the finance needs of the Fairgrounds or fundraising. Mr. Barnhart has not with regards to the Fairgrounds but that he has been involved in some ways to other fundraising but does feel that if there is a need for fundraising that the Fair Board would be the ones making that happen.

**COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST  
SECONDED TO APPOINT WILLIAM BARNHART TO THE FAIR BOARD.  
THAT TERM WOULD EXPIRE 12/31/2024.**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**5. PROPOSED BUDGET CALENDAR FY 2021-22**

Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer, stated that the Board needs to approve the budget calendar as submitted if they have no conflicts. The Board was provided a copy of the proposed budget calendar in their packet. Mr. Hansen also stated they also need to appoint him Budget Officer if they are in favor of doing that and will also need to decide how they would like to hold the hearings. Last year due to COVID-19 the department heads did not appear to present the requested budgets themselves and Mr. Hansen presented them and answered the Boards questions himself. The lay members of the Budget Committee have also been provided the proposed budget calendar and have not reported any conflicts and they also liked how the hearings were held last year.

**COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH  
SECONDED TO APPOINT MR. HANSEN BUDGET OFFICER, WITH  
THE STREAMLINED HEARINGS, AND ASOPT THE PROPOSED BUDGET CALENDAR.**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

- a) Commissioner Ainsworth asked Ms. Morton how she felt after reviewing the list of grant recipients. Ms. Morton said she thought it was a well-balanced disbursal throughout the cities in the county.

Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 9:56 a.m.