

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
February 9, 2021

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Pope declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session and led the Board and attending audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Mordhorst and Commissioner Ainsworth were present.
2. **MINUTES:** **COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 2, 2021.**

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. As of February 2nd Oregon had a total of 147,419 COVID-19 cases and 2,024 deaths. The test positivity rate in Oregon for January 24th through February 6th was 4.8%. Marion County is at 7.9% and Polk County is at 6.7%.

Polk County has a total of 2,844 positive COVID-19 cases, 6 hospitalizations and 44 deaths. Positive cases who are currently isolating is 99, which is the number of positive cases identified within the last 10 days. Marion County has a total of 17,745 positive COVID-19 cases, 27 hospitalizations and 268 deaths.

Ms. Umstead reviewed the status of the outbreaks in Polk County's long term care facilities (LTCF). Capitol Manor has 18 positive cases; Dallas Retirement Village has 93; Blue Haven Residential Care has 22, and Meduri Farms has 6 cases. Salem Health overall has had a total of 173 positive staff according to the Oregon Health Authority weekly report and that is the total number of positive since reporting began.

Western Oregon University (WOU) continues to manage all of the contact tracing for Polk County. There are currently 133 close contacts to positive cases. In regards to internal staffing for Public Health they are currently training the new Public Health Workers and OHA has been providing intermittent support with case investigation as needed.

Based on data from January 17th through January 30th Oregon had a case rate of 225.9 per 100,000 residents and a 5.3% positivity rate. Polk County had a case rate of 247 cases which gave us a case rate of 297.8 per 100,000 residents with a 7.2% positivity rate and are still in the extreme risk category.

During the week of January 24th overall Oregon 1.9% of emergency department visits were COVID-like symptoms. During that same week 100 COVID-19 cases were admitted to a hospital in Oregon and of those 11 were from Polk County. 95% of cases were followed up on within 24 hours, 54.5% of cases during the week of January 24th were traced to a known source. The majority of cases were considered sporadic and for that week Dallas had the largest number of cases at 47 positive cases.

For January 17th through January 30th Marion County had a total of 1,090 cases and a case rate of 225.9 cases per 100,000 residents and a positivity rate of 5.3%. During the week of January 24th, 17 Marion County COVID-19 cases were admitted to a hospital. 90% of cases were followed up on within 24 hours and 58.2% of cases during the week of January 24th were traced to a known source.

Oregon has vaccinated 425,076 people and 141,874 have had both doses and are considered fully vaccinated. In Polk County 10,720 people has received a COVID-19 vaccine and 3,805 have had both doses. Right now Polk County is 4th highest in the state for vaccination per 10,000 residents.

The West Valley Hospital vaccination clinic is open at Western Oregon University on Monday/Wednesday/Friday. That will be for Phase 1a, educators/early learning/child care providers and the 80+ population. Beginning 2/15 phase 1b group will be eligible for the vaccination. That will include people 75 and older as well.

4. ECO DEVO GRANT APPLICATION

Andreas Wetzel, owner of Chateau Bianca Winery, gave the Board background on his business and how the recent pandemic has affected his business in many ways. Mr. Wetzel stated that he has an opportunity to expand but his biggest challenge is that in order to upsize his equipment that they run he will need 3 phase power which is not available where he is. Where he is the circuit is full so he can't get additional single phase power either. He spoke to PGE about bringing phase 3 power to him because it is located west of his property. PGE will have to bring the power by pole along the highway and once it is brought to the edge of his property he would have to bring it to the edge of his building and from there his electrician will distribute it throughout the building. This expansion will require him to bring new employees on and in the next 3-5 years he is hoping to add up to 8 more employees. They are a local business so the money will be going back into Polk County.

Commissioner Pope asked if Mr. Wetzel reached out to Regional Solution or Business Oregon regarding financial help. Being a family owned business he has not had much time to research the various options but would be open to any other options available. Commissioner Pope stated that the Board will consider and ask any other questions as well as have a direct conversation about other possible opportunities for more funding.

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

a) AOC LETTER

Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer, asked the Board if they are interested in signing onto a letter of support they received from AOC regarding how many roads are statewide and that revenues are down and they are want to negotiate the percentage that is being offered. Todd Whitaker, Public Works Director, stated that he believes AOC and Oasis are asking for is an equitable distribution of the funds. The Board would like to provide written comment to the Board of Transportation Commission as they make their decision. Mr. Whitaker also discussed an upcoming bill that would change how they calculate prevailing wage and how it could possibly affect the county.

b) SHERIFF UPDATE

Sheriff Mark Garton informed the Board that the passing of measure 110 has cause come logistical issues and they are currently working through and also that the body cameras are up and running and has proven to be beneficial. The jail is currently housing an inmate who was sentenced to the state hospital, guilty but for insanity plea. The state hospital is refusing to take him and he is a danger to the public. He is not receiving the treatment that he needs in the jail and he needs to be in the hospital. Mr. Smith, County Counsel, stated that he is expecting an update from the state hospitals attorney sometime this week. He spoke to her last week and she was not able to provide a specific date for when a bed will be open for him but hoped it would be within a week or two.

Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 10:04 a.m.