

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
February 16, 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 9, 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 16th Oregon had a total of 150,464 COVID-19 cases and 2,137 deaths. The test positivity rate was not available due to Monday being a holiday and the state has not pulled this information.

Polk County has a total of 2,985 positive COVID-19 cases, 3 hospitalizations and 44 deaths. Positive cases who are currently isolating is 70, which is the number of positive cases identified within the last 10 days.

Ms. Umstead reviewed the status of the outbreaks in Polk County's long term care facilities (LTCF). Capitol Manor has not had any more positive cases since last reported. DRV had 2 more bringing their total to 95 cases and Blue Have Residential Care had 1 more positive case making their total 23. According to OHA's February 10th weekly report Salem Health has a total of 174 positive staff.

Western Oregon University (WOU) continues to manage all of the contact tracing for Polk County. There are currently 74 close contacts to positive cases. The next testing event will be February 23rd at the Polk County Fairgrounds.

Based on data from January 24th through February 6th Oregon had a case rate of 213.5 per 100,000 residents and a 4.8% positivity rate. Polk County had a case rate of 239 cases which gave us a case rate of 288.1 per 100,000 residents with a 6.7% positivity rate and is still in the extreme risk category.

During the week of January 31st 1.7% of emergency department visits in Oregon were for COVID-like symptoms. During that same week 113 COVID-19 cases were admitted to a hospital in Oregon and of those 4 were from Polk County. 98% of cases were followed up on within 24 hours, 56.8% of cases during the week of January 31st were traced to a known source. The majority of cases were considered sporadic and for that week West Salem had the largest number of cases at 48 positive cases.

Oregon has vaccinated 483,090 people and 195,611 have had both doses and are considered fully vaccinated. In Polk County 11,888 people has received a COVID-19 vaccine and 6,130 have had both doses. Right now Polk County is 3rd highest in the state for vaccination per 10,000 residents. West Valley Hospital vaccination clinic will be open at WOU this week Wednesday and Friday to continue vaccinating phase 1a. Retail pharmacies began giving out the vaccine this week at the Safeway in West Salem and Dallas.

Dean Bender, Emergency Operations Manager, reported that there were very few PPE orders last week. He did fill an order for Central School District for masks and also put an order in to the state for gloves. Since Polk County started getting PPE from the state 31% of those orders were for equipment or staffing and 69% of the requests were for PPE or supplies.

Mr. Bender also gave the Board an update on the ice storm that happened over the weekend. 5,200 people are without power in Polk County. Governor Brown declared a state of emergency for multiple counties including Polk County. Falls City water treatment plant generator went down and the county was able to lend them one to get water to the people of Falls City. Public Works is working very diligently to clear the roads. The Board discussed the possibility of declaring a local state of emergency for Polk County. Mr. Bender informed the Board that the Governor will most likely be asking for federal money to assist with the disaster and declaring a local state of emergency may help Polk County get reimbursed for some of the expenses incurred by the weather event.

4. BOOKS ARE AWESOME MOBILE

Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer, informed the Board that the Kiwanis would like to donate their "Books are Awesome-Mobile" to Polk County. Family & Community Outreach would like to accept this and use it for outreach events that are put on in Polk County. The vehicle is an old ambulance and will need some minor work but is cosmetically in very good condition. The gentleman donating the vehicle would like to be reimbursed for some of the costs he incurred by making repairs which would approximately be \$700.00. There is currently a person who writes grants to receive new books for the Book-Mobile and she would like to continue doing so when new books are needed.

THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO ACCEPT THE DONATION WITH THOSE TERMS.

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

a) Commissioner Mordhorst would like the Board to consider reopening the county facilities to the public. He feels that since they are all in favor of opening schools and business that the county should also be open to the public.

THE BOARD AGREED THAT THE COUNTY FACILITIES WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC EFFECTIVE MONDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2021.

Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 9:34 a.m.

Minutes: Ciera Atha
Approved: February 23, 2021