

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
March 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 MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 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 March 9, 2021 Oregon had a total of 157,515 COVID-19 cases and 2,298 deaths. The test positivity rate for February 21st through March 6th was 3.9% with a case rate of 108.9 cases per 100,000 residents.

For that same time from Polk County had a positivity rate of 4.0% and a case rate of 145.9 per 100,000 residents. Polk County had 3,109 cases, 3 hospitalizations, 45 deaths and there are 46 people currently isolating. This is the number of positive cases identified within the past 10 days. Marion County had 18,662 COVID-19 cases, 15 hospitalizations and 287 deaths.

Capitol Manor is the only long term care facility with a current outbreak. They have a total of 4 cases. Salem Health has 182 positive staff as of the March 3rd OHA weekly newsletter. This is the number of total positive cases since reporting began.

There have been no changes in contact tracing protocols or staffing. WOU is currently monitoring 50 close contact to positive cases. Ms. Umstead also included a graph that showed the most common source of outbreaks in Polk County from February 8th to March 8th, 2021 was Congregate Living/Group Home facilities at 26.7%, followed by Maintenance facilities at 20.0%.

Ms. Umstead stated that all of the schools in Polk and Marion County are either currently doing On Site or Hybrid learning or working towards that.

Polk County Public Health expects there to be an increase in vaccine allocation beginning March 22nd. They will be setting up a warm line to help people sign up for the vaccine if they are having trouble or don't have access to the internet. West Valley Hospital Vaccine Clinic will be getting the Johnson & Johnson vaccine at the end of the week and people will get to choose which vaccine they would like. Johnson & Johnson is one shot and the others are a series of two shots.

Dean Bender, Emergency Operations Manager, was not available but did send his report to the Board and it reflects that orders for PPE continue to decrease steadily.

4. SHERIFF OFFICE UPDATE

Sheriff Mark Garton informed the Board that jail admissions have been steadily increasing. The Sheriff went on to review some legislation that would significantly impact Polk County if it passes. One of those being a bill that requires an individual to purchase a permit before being able to purchase a firearm. That permitting process would be the Sheriff's Office responsibility and the fee is set at a maximum of \$20.00. The Sheriff's concern is that the \$20.00 fee would not be enough to cover the staff time it would take to process those applications. Another problematic bill he is watching closely is one that would prevent an officer from being able to

arrest somebody for some very specific crimes that would make it difficult for Deputies to do their job effectively and safely. The Sheriff reviewed several other bills that he is concerned about and will be watching to see if any of them get any traction.

5. DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY UPDATE

Michael Curran, District Forester, and Jeff Classen, the Dallas Unit Forester, presented a forestry update to the Board. Mr. Curran informed the Board that their offices are only open by phone due to the pandemic. The Woods Patrol Officer, Deputy Knudson, is doing a great job and they are very happy to have him patrolling. Deputy Knudson is providing monthly reports to the land owners regarding the activity he has seen.

Mr. Curran reported on the various fires that broke out in their jurisdiction. The Echo Mountain Creek fire is still under investigation and they expect it will be awhile before that investigation is complete

The Forestry Board met in December via zoom and made the decision to recertify Polk County with no changes to the classification for one year. Mr. Classen and Mr. Curran reviewed some potential sales of timber that may be happening in Polk County and the revenue that would bring in. They discussed the clean-up happening at Blackrock and how long they think it will take until people can use it for their recreational uses again. They emphasized that their priority is to clear out and down limbs that could be hazardous to recreational users.

6. FAIR BOARD APPLICANT

The Board interviewed Roxanne Beltz for the vacant Fair Board position. The Board informed Ms. Beltz that there was another applicant and that they will deliberate and within a couple weeks they will make a decision. The Board's executive Assistant will contact her to let her know what that decision is.

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

Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 10:21 a.m.

Minutes: Ciera Atha
Approved: March 16, 2021