

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
March 23, 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 16, 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 for Oregon, Polk and Marion County. As of March 16th Oregon has a total of 159,788 COVID-19 cases and 2,324 deaths. Between February 28th and March 13th Oregon had a positivity rate of 3.2% and a case rate of 97.4 per 100,000 residents. For the same time frame Polk County had a positivity rate of 2.8% and a case rate of 90.4%. Marion County had a positivity rate of 3.4% and a case rate of 117.3. Ms. Umstead stated that Polk County is in a waiting week and if the numbers stay low she expects Polk County to be moved to moderate risk level next week.

The current Polk County case count is 3,142 positive COVID-19 cases, 4 hospitalizations, 46 deaths and there are 38 people who are currently being monitored for symptoms. Marion County has 18,878 positive COVID-19 cases, 9 hospitalizations and 290 deaths. Capitol Manor is the only outbreak in Polk County at this time with 4 cases.

The total number of people vaccinated in Polk County as of March 14th is 20,063 and we are currently 5th in the state for vaccination per 100,000 residents. This week's allocation is 900 first doses and 800 second doses. Polk County pharmacies that are currently receiving vaccines are Safeway- both locations, Walmart, Bi-Mart, Hi-School Pharmacy, and Walgreens. Public Health is planning for an increase in vaccine allocation to the state and county beginning the week of March 29th.

Dean Bender, Emergency Operations Manager, informed the Board that the only order filled last week was for 100 gallons of hand sanitizer to a local school.

4. DISTRICT ATTORNEY OFFICE UPDATE

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, announced that due to the fact that Commissioner Ainsworth is retiring as of July 31st, the Board will develop a timeline for the appointment of another Commissioner to fulfill his term into 2022. Mr. Hansen reviewed a draft timeline for that process and let the Board know it can be modified any way but this was a first draft. Once the candidates are selected there will be a public meeting in which the candidates will be interviewed.

b) Commissioner Mordhorst followed up on a letter he was asked to support from eastern Oregon counties which asks that state to allow counties to govern themselves. Commissioner

Pope expressed his concern with supporting the letter due to the fact that our Public Health Department has a working relationship with Oregon Health Authority and the state representatives. He feels that because the number of cases has dropped significantly and the county is continuing to have restrictions lifted he would like to continue the course we are on and does not want to jeopardize the relationship for fear that they could withhold vaccine because the state and OHA will still control vaccine allocation.

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

Minutes: Ciera Atha
Approved: March 30, 2021