

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
March 30, 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 MARCH 23, 2021.**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Jacqui Umstead, Public Health Administrator, gave the Board a brief review of the Oregon COVID-19 case data. Oregon has a total of 164,164 cases, 2,375 deaths, and a test positivity rate for March 14th through March 27th of 3.3% and the case rate per 100,000 population is 104.1. For the same date range Polk County had a test positivity rate of 2.4% with a case rate per 100,000 population of 77.2. Marion County's test positivity rate for that time frame was 3.6% and a case rate of 117.3.

Polk County has had 3,216 COVID-19 cases, there are currently 2 hospitalizations, and have had 49 deaths. There are 55 people currently isolating. Marion County has a case count of 19,298, there are 19 hospitalization in Marion County and there have been 296 deaths.

There are not any current outbreaks in Polk County. There have not been any changes in contact tracing and WOU is currently monitoring 42 close contacts for symptoms. Ms. Umstead stated that Public Health is working with West Valley Hospital to schedule targeted clinics in order to get more of the population vaccinated. They are also working with OHA to get the county's homebound population vaccinated.

Dean Bender, Emergency Operation Manager, filled \$2,000 worth of orders last week. That order was for hand sanitizer to one of the local schools. Mr. Bender also stated that he will be reaching out to first responders to see if they need anything.

4. POLK COUNTY CASA UPDATE

Mike Barnett, CASA Program & Volunteer Manager, presented an update on their program to the Board. Polk County CASA currently has 147 children in care and closed 46 cases last year. They were shut down due to COVID-19 for 3 months which resulted in the loss of \$40-\$50,000. They were unable to hold a number of fund raisers that they rely on in order to pay employees. They also saw a decrease of 2,000 volunteer hour because people were scared to go out and meet the children during the pandemic. This year however they are planning to do as many of those fundraisers as possible, including the Golf Tournament and possibly the Super Hero Run. The number of case referrals have decreased which is concerning to Mr. Barnett because he attributes that largely to school closures and court closures, because CASA's are court appointed. A lot of the cases that get referred to CASA stem from somebody outside the home, such as school, reporting something is wrong. He predicts that when school open again that there will be a significant need for more CASA's. Mr. Barnett stated that he is seeing that the cases they are getting right now are far more severe than he has seen in previous years.

Mr. Barnett reported that they were able to get a PPP loan which helped but that finances are always very tight so right now they are even tighter. Polk County CASA relies on many grants

to pay the staff and a lot of those grants were shifted toward COVID-19 relief efforts and were not available to them. He is very concerned for the kids during this pandemic and thanked the Board for their ongoing support. The Board thanked Mr. Barnett and CASA for the work they do for the kids.

5. AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN DISCUSSION

Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer, discussed the \$1.9 trillion stimulus that has been approved informed the Board that Polk County will most likely be receiving \$16.7 million of that. This will be paid out in two installments and will have its own dedication fund. This money will have to be spent by the end of 2024 and although Mr. Hansen is still waiting on the rules and reporting requirements that will be put in place he does know some of the things that it will be for is infrastructure improvements and broadband expansion. The Board will have the ultimate say for what the money is used for but Mr. Hansen intends on reaching out to cities because they will also be allocated a portion of the stimulus and some projects should be combined and worked on cooperatively. National Association of Oregon Counties (NACO) is tracking and gathering the different questions that counties has and are working to get those answers and compile them for all of the counties.

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

a) Matt Hawkins, Administrative Services Director, informed the Board that the Courthouse would be getting carpet installed starting one week from Friday. They will be starting on the third floor and working their way down.

Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 9:29 a.m.

Minutes: Ciera Atha
Approved: April 13, 2021