

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
April 27, 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 APRIL 20, 2021**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Jacqui Umstead, Public Health Administrator, reviewed the COVID-19 case data for Oregon, Polk and Marion County. As of April 27th Oregon has a COVID case count of 181,321 and 2,486 deaths. For the time frame of April 11th through April 24th Oregon had a positivity rate of 5.7% and a case rate of 240.6 per 100,000 population. For the same date range Marion County had a positivity rate of 8.8% and a case rate of 299.3 per 100,000 population. Polk County's positivity rate for that date range was 7.0% and the case rate per 100,000 was 215.8. Polk County will be moved into the Extreme Risk Level as of Friday due to the increase in positive COVID cases. The state will be reviewing case numbers weekly now rather than bi-weekly.

As of the most recent review period Polk County had 3,552 COVID cases, 8 current hospitalizations, 52 deaths, and there are 89 people currently isolating. Marion County has a case count of 20,876, 46 hospitalizations and 300 deaths. The only outbreak in Polk County is Dallas Retirement Village with 3 cases. Oregon Health Authority did provide assistance with case investigation due to the increase in cases and staff shortages in Public Health. In addition to having vacancies in Public Health, the database that is used statewide to track cases and case investigation was running slower than usual and cause delays. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine pause has been lifted because the state concluded their investigation into the cases that were thought to have linked the vaccine to blood clots. Commissioner Pope asked if we could stop using the term "outbreak" because it isn't truly an outbreak. The states deems it an outbreak if there is one positive case in a school setting. Ms. Umstead stated that she uses it because that is what the state uses when she gets her reports but that she agrees it should be more accurately reported and isn't sustainable.

The West Valley Hospital vaccine clinic is still open Monday, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The Board would like to see pharmacies giving out more vaccines and wonders how many they are being given and how many they are giving out each day. They would also like the vaccine to be available for Primary Care Physicians to give out. The state has updated the quarantine requirements. If you are not vaccinated and are traced back to a positive case as a close contact you are required to quarantine for 14 days. If you are fully vaccinated however you do not have to quarantine at all.

4. ROAD VACATION APPLICATION

Eric Berry, County Surveyor, is requesting the vacation of an un-used right-of-way located just south of Highway 19. The landowners on both side of this property are in agreement and have signed the petition to vacate this portion of land so no public hearing process is required. This right-of-way does not serve any foreseeable utility and if vacated the property would be divided between the two surrounding properties. The Board is in agreement of the vacation and Mr.

Berry stated that he would prepare the paperwork and add it to the consent calendar for the following week.

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

- a) The Board has been asked to provide a letter of support for the Purple Pipe Project which is a recycled water project that the City of Dallas is engaged in. The Recycled Water Project will give the City the ability to process up to 1.1 million gallons per day of wastewater effluent to produce Class A reclaimed water for industrial and potential irrigation use. This would also offset municipal water demands and extend the life of the city's water supply. Having recycled water available for industrial use will allow for new industrial development and new jobs in the city as well as numerous construction jobs.

BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD AGREED AND WILL SIGN A SUPPORT LETTER AS REQUESTED.

- b) Commissioner Pope presented the Board with a letter from the Association of Oregon Counties that they are asking all County Commissioners from all over the state to sign. The letter is in response to the Governors letter mandating many counties restaurants shut down.

BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD AGREED AND WILL SIGN A SUPPORT LETTER AS REQUESTED.

- c) Marilyn Morton, Independence resident, requested that the COVID update include the number of people who are choosing not to get the vaccine because they don't want to go to a mass clinic but would get it if they could get the vaccine at their Primary Care Physicians office. Commissioner Pope stated that would be good to know but doesn't know how the county would be able to pull that information.

Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 9:37 a.m.

Minutes: Ciera Atha
Approved: May 4, 2021