

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 4, 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 APRIL 27, 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 May 4<sup>th</sup> Oregon's total case count is 186,877, and 2,502 deaths. The positivity rate for the date range of April 18<sup>th</sup> through May 1<sup>st</sup> was 6.4% and had a case rate of 265.9 per 100,000 population. Marion County's case rate per 100,000 population for that time frame was 329.8 and had a positivity rate of 9.2%. Polk County's positivity rate for that time frame was 7.0% with a case rate per 100,000 of 207.4. The new state metric was triggered which means Polk County will go back into the Extreme Risk Level category beginning Friday May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Polk County's case count as of this morning is 3,639 with 5 hospitalizations and 52 deaths. There are currently 85 people who are isolating in Polk County. Marion County's case count is 21,413 with 45 hospitalizations and 302 deaths. Dallas Retirement Village has a total of 6 cases, Capitol Manor has a total of 3 cases, McDonalds in Dallas has 10 cases and Marquis Spa in Independence has 5 cases. Contact tracing is still being done by Western Oregon University (WOU) and they are currently monitoring 60 people.

Ms. Umstead reviewed the state's case data again and added that the peak daily number of bed occupied by COVID positive patient in the past 7 days was 351. There was an 18.2% change from the previous seven day period. The charts in the packet were reviewed, which broke down the number of cases by age, race, zip code and also the classification of cases. 44.9% of cases were traced to a known source as of April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021. As of May 3<sup>rd</sup> 26,369 people in Polk County have been fully vaccinated and 9,160 have received their first dose. Ms. Umstead also noted that last week the Board wanted to know how many people were asymptomatic versus symptomatic. She informed the Board that last week 17 people who tested positive were asymptomatic and 61 had symptoms. The number of people who have been vaccinated is not going up as quickly as before because 54% of people who are eligible for the vaccine have received it already. Now there is plenty of vaccine and less people who are wanting it. The West Valley Hospital Vaccine Clinic is still open Monday, Wednesday and Friday and the local pharmacies have also received more doses as well. The state is working on a dashboard that will show which pharmacies received doses and how much they have used and how much they have left. The vaccine clinic will be decreasing the days of operation because they are working to get more vaccine to pharmacies as well as primary care clinics.

**4. HIGH SCHOOL INTERNSHIP UPDATE**

Abby Warren, Prevention Coordinator in Family & Community Outreach (FCO), updated the Board on the high School Internship Program that was facilitated by FCO, school districts, as well as the host businesses. These students are required to submit a resume, cover letter and go through the interview process with the host business. In order for the intern to receive the

\$500 they must complete the 80 hours required as well as being on time to work and following the code of conduct required by the employer. The first cohort of interns was in the winter of 2019 and there have 19 students placed from Dallas and Morrison. The business also receives a \$500 stipend for participating but many of them decline that money and just want to do it to help the youth develop their work skills. Ms. Warren shared testimonials from the Dallas Superintendent on the value he sees in the program as well as a testimonial from a business host, who was very grateful to have the help of the student intern. There was also a student testimonial, who stated that she felt that she learned a lot about being responsible and learning something new. Ms. Warren stated that with additional funding they hope to expand the program to other schools in Polk County. Commissioner Pope asked if they have any information on whether or not the students moved on to find jobs after high school. Brent DeMoe, FCO Director, stated that they have not heard but he will make a point to follow up on that information and get back to the Board with the information. The Board also stated that they support this program but that the school district should be taking over now that they have developed the program and shown that it can be successful. Mr. DeMoe stated that he will continue to see out other funding sources.

##### **5. WILLAMETTE CAREER ACADEMY**

Bill Pugh, Campaign Council with Willamette Career Academy; Keith Ussary, Deputy Superintendent; Johnnie Ferro, Principal; Salam Noor, Mountain West Investment Cooperation; and Kacie Kintz, Brennan Martin Pugh & Associates Next Generation Consulting Services, attended the meeting virtually. Mr. Pugh introduced all of the individuals attending virtually and then let Mr. Ussary continue with the presentation. Mr. Ussary stated that they take a regional approach to technical education. Mountain West Investment Cooperation assisted in the purchase of the building they are housed in. Their goal is to provide equitable access to technical education. The school has partnered with 11 different school districts across Marion, Polk, and Yamhill County.

Ms. Ferro pointed out that when students are prepared correctly they inevitably will go back to their communities and by utilizing the skills they have learned will be able to better contribute to the success and improvement of the local economy. The program was the result of a collaborative process that included input from regional school districts, industry partners, parents and students. Course offerings were identified using local, regional, and state labor market information. Industry needs and projections factored strongly into the decisions. The course offerings will complement CTE programs in regional school districts and participating students will retain their school identity in their home district.

The Willamette Education Service District has entered into an MOU with Mountain West, and is fully committed to program development and the program's ongoing operations. Participating districts and Willamette ESD have made an initial investment of \$730,000 in the project. Students participating in the Cosmetology program will have access to a full salon at the school for them to learn at and will leave the program with a license in Cosmetology. The Health Services program provides the student with 16 college credits that are fully transferable and like the salon there is a lab for students to learn and get hands on experience. The Diesel Mechanic program offers 12 college hour credits and will also have access to a shop with all of the tools they will need for that trade.

The request from the presenters is for Polk County Board of Commissioners to invest in the program which in turn will be investing in the local workforce. Additionally, they requested the Board's legislative advocacy and to cultivate connections to help guide them to develop the best programs for the area. Commissioner Pope expressed his concern with the partnership with

Falls City being that it is so far away from the campus. Mr. Ussary assured the Board that the individuals who were interested were aware of that and were able to arrange transportation. The cost per student for a year is approximately \$4,000 and is paid for by the school districts.

**6. RECLASS IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Mat Hawkins, Administrative Services Director, requested a reclassification for Morgan Snyder in Community Development. Morgan is currently a Planner Trainee and if approved she would be reclassified to an Assistant Planner. When Morgan was originally hired she already had experience. She has been able to perform at a high level and take on additional duties. For a twelve month period the fiscal impact would be approximately \$2,100 including PERS contributions. This would be effective May 1, 2021.

**BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD APPROVED THE RECLASSIFICATION.**

**7. RECLASS IN PUBLIC WORKS**

Mr. Hawkins requested a reclassification for Joe Phillips from a Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) to a Lead Heavy Equipment Operator. Joe has been with the County since November 2003 and provided great work as a HEO. Joe is now one of the senior HEO's and ready to move on to the Lead HEO position. If approved this would be effective May 1, 2021 and would have an approximate fiscal impact of \$3,000 including PERS contributions should it be for a twelve month period.

**BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD APPROVED THE RECLASSIFICATION.**

**8. 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 10:08 a.m.

Minutes: Ciera Atha  
Approved: May 11, 2021