

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES**  
**Aug 3, 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 Gordon and Commissioner Mordhorst were present.
2. **MINUTES:** **COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER GORDON SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 27, 2021**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. COVID UPDATE**

Jacqui Umstead, Public Health Administrator, explained to the Board that COVID-19 is having a surge in cases that was triggered but the Delta variant. Ms. Umstead reviewed that number of cases and hospitalizations from COVID on a state level as well as a county level. The state has seen an increase in testing and the highest number of cases has been found in 0-11 year olds follow by 20-29 year olds. The Dallas Retirement Village has 10 cases but only 2 of them are residents, 5 are staff and 1 was found to be a contact from outside the retirement facility. Ms. Umstead reviewed the vaccine breakthrough and stated that the delta variant is three times more contagious. The vaccine rate was discussed in the county and in the state. Polk County is 20<sup>th</sup> in the state for number of residents vaccinated, and last week Polk County was 15<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Pope expressed concern he has over the science behind the masks. He stated he is not making a case against masks it just seems that it isn't stopping the virus being as the people in the retirement village would have had to be wearing masks. Commissioner Pope asked if we are tracking the European cases because he heard through media that their delta cases peaked and now numbers are getting low again. Ms. Umstead said that OHA is tracking those numbers but it has not been reported on to counties. Commissioner Pope wonders if the masks are really a defense or if the disease just has to run its course. Ms. Umstead explained that the science is changing constant and what they knew a year ago is very different than what they know today. One study she found showed that masks protect others 57-58% and they protect the wearer 37-50% and a mask is just one tool in the toolbox to help prevent the spread, just like washing hands, social distancing and vaccines. Commissioner Gordon asked if Ms. Umstead would recommend that everybody wear masks and if it would lessen the spread. Ms. Umstead stated that yes she absolutely thinks people should continue wearing masks and that when the mask mandate ended people went back to normal and now we are seeing a surge in cases. The Board would like her to give another COVID update in two weeks.

4. **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 9:30 a.m.