

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
Aug 17, 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 AUGUST 10, 2021**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. COVID UPDATE

Jacqui Umstead, Public Health Administrator, reviewed the handout that she provided the Board with the COVID case rates and other statistics related to COVID cases. The numbers of cases has increased significantly in the state as well as in Polk County. There are 16 COVID cases that are currently hospitalized in Polk County. Ms. Umstead reviewed the cases numbers broken down by age, race/ethnicity, and zip code. West Salem currently has the most cases, followed by Dallas. 32% of the cases in the county were traced to a known source. Dallas Retirement Village has 11 staff members and 13 residents that tested positive for COVID.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recently approved a booster shot for immunocompromised individuals. Commissioner Pope asked Ms. Umstead if she has heard of any discussion of closing down long term care facilities to outside visitors again. Ms. Umstead replied that she has not heard any talk about that but that DHS would be the agency to make that decision. Hospitals all over the state are being overwhelmed with positive cases of COVID. Public Health is still working on the Vaccine Equity Plan, but the due date has been pushed out due to the surge of COVID cases. Commissioner Pope would like the county to focus more on the amount of testing being done and feels that the focus should be on testing people so they can isolate and help slow the spread of the disease. Ms. Umstead stated that healthcare workers are getting tested weekly if they are unvaccinated and parents have the option to opt in to a weekly test for kids in school if they choose. Ms. Umstead will get an update from Salem Health next week and she will also be returning weekly for COVID updates until the numbers start to decrease.

4. DISTRICT ATTORNEY UPDATE

The DA was not present at the meeting.

5. RECLASSIFICATION IN PUBLIC WORKS

Matt Hawkins, Administrative Services Director, requested a reclassification of Matt Wallace in Public Works. He would like Mr. Wallace to be reclassified from a Laborer to a Road Maintenance Worker. Mr. Wallace recently obtained his CDL which is a requirement for him to become a Road Maintenance Worker. If approved this change would be effective September 1, 2021. This reclassification will have a fiscal impact of approximately \$3,000 including PERS contributions should it be for 12 months.

BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD APPROVED THE RECLASSIFICATION AS PROPOSED.

6. NEW JOB SPECIFICATION AND WAGE

Mr. Hawkins recommended the Board of Commissioners approve the new job specification for the positions of Lead School Based Mental Health Associate. This position will be allowed to

work in a lead position providing additional direction and assistance to other employees within the School Based Mental Health Program.

BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD APPROVED THE NEW JOB SPECIFICATION AND WAGE.

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

a) **RESIDENT TESTIMONY**

Carol Christ, Dallas resident, expressed her idea that the public might feel better if they knew what the COVID situation was in the Polk County Jail. Sheriff Garton was present and responded that there have been no COVID cases in the jail due to the very strict protocols that were put in place in the beginning of the pandemic. Commissioner Pope expressed his confidence in the Sheriff to manage the jail during this time and because there have been no cases it has not been a topic that was needing to be discussed. Staff in the jail is approximately 95% vaccinated and they are offering it to inmates as well. Commissioner Gordon suggested that the Sheriff should be very proud of that and that the public should know because it is a big accomplishment to have no cases in such a confined setting.

Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

Minutes: Ciera Atha
Approved: August 24, 2021