

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
Aug 24, 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 17, 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.

Jennifer Broadus, Shane Emmert, and Michael Gay from West Valley Hospital Administration appeared virtually to give the Board an update on how COVID is affecting the hospital. Ms. Broadus told the Board that the West Valley Hospital has 30 ICU beds and currently 24 are being used for COVID patients. The hospital does have capacity to expand but doing so would pull resources from other departments. There have been 24 pediatric admissions with COVID since the pandemic began and 80 of the 94 COVID patients they have, 80 of them are unvaccinated. Mr. Emmert explained that the hospital has multiple back up plans in case the numbers grow and they need more beds. It would start to pull people and space from various departments and use nontraditional spaces in order to meet the need. He also stated that it is very important that people do not avoid the hospital if in need, because they will take care of you.

4. SOUTHWEST POLK FIRE

Fred Hertel, Southwest Polk Fire Chief sent a letter to the Board requesting a letter of support from them for his application for ambulance licensure in Polk County. Mr. Hertel provided the Board with an annual report for 2020 and reviewed that. He provided maps of the SW Polk Fire District as well as statistics on how long a typical response time is. Todd Brumfield, Dallas Fire Chief also appeared and testified in opposition of the support letter from the Board stating that because SW Polk Fire doesn't have an assigned service area (ASA), that it would not be a legal action due to the requirement that all Polk County ambulances have an assigned ASA. Mr. Smith, County Counsel, explained that you have to have a licensed ambulance before you can be assigned an ASA. The Board discussed the matter and came to the conclusion that they all work for the citizens of Polk County and that faster and more efficient response times to an accident or fire would be a benefit to the county.

BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD AGREED TO PROVIDE A LETTER OF SUPPORT TO SW POLK FIRE FOR LICENSURE OF THEIR AMBULANCE.

5. RECLASSIFICATION IN PUBLIC WORKS

Matt Hawkins, Administrative Services Director, requested a reclassification of two Bridge Carpenters I employees with Public Works. Specifically for Ken Dunagan and Dustin Thompson to be reclassified to Bridge Carpenters II. Both individuals have obtained their bridge crane operators license as well as the welding certification that is required. Should the reclassification be approved it would become effective on September 1, 2020. The fiscal impact on the budget would be approximately \$6,000 including PERS contributions should it be for a 12 month period.

BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD APPROVED THE RECLASSIFICATIONS AS PROPOSED.

6. 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 10:18 a.m.

Minutes: Ciera Atha
Approved: August 31, 2021