

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 21, 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 was present. Commissioner Mordhorst was excused.

**2. MINUTES: THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 NOT AVAILABLE FOR APPROVAL**

**3. COVID UPDATE**

Jacqui Umstead, Public Health Administrator, reviewed the handout that she provided the Board with the COVID case rates and other data for Oregon and Polk County. For the Week of September 21, 2021 12,014 new positive Covid-19 cases were recorded in the state bringing our current total to 313,161. 80 new deaths were recorded so far bringing the state total to 3594. In the same week Polk County recorded 269 of those positive cases, bringing the county's total to 6,285 to date. 3 new Covid-19 related deaths were recorded that week in Polk County, bringing the county's total to 73. Positive test rates have decreased from 12% to 10.4% (from 328 to 281.5 positive cases per 100,000) statewide and from 13% to 11.1% (346 to 321 positive cases per 100,000) in Polk County. 0-19 year olds accounted for 23% of new positive cases and 20-29 year olds were 18%. Percentages for 30-39, 40-49, and 50-59 were distributed fairly evenly and decreased with older age groups. In pediatric cases aged 0-17 there were 57 new cases, bringing our case rate in that category to 290.5 per 100,000. 93 Cases were in West Salem (292 per 100,000), 80 were in Dallas (365 per 100,000), 26 were in Independence (233 per 100,000), 29 (236 per 100,000) in Monmouth, 20 (1919 per 100,000) in Grand Ronde. The following workplace related cases worth noting were mentioned: Dallas Retirement Village has a total of 54 cases- 24 of which are residents, 27 staff, and 3 are second generation cases. They have not reported a new positive case in the past week. Capitol Manor has remained at 6 cases, all staff. Independence Health & Rehab has 10 cases, 7 of which are staff and 3 are residents. Polk County tested over 2,000 people in the last week. Statewide, 968 people are currently hospitalized due to Covid-19. 278 of those are in the ICU, 176 are on ventilators. Within Region 2 (Polk, Marion, Yamhill, Lincoln, Benton, and Linn counties), 166 people are hospitalized with Covid-19, 11 of which are Polk county residents. Also within Region 2, 95/95 ICU beds are currently occupied and 705/709 non-ICU beds are currently occupied. The Oregon Statewide 18+ vaccination rate is at 74.3% and 51,433 of Oregon residents aged 12+ are vaccinated. Polk County's 18+ vaccination rate stands at 74.7%, and 61.4% of the total county population has been vaccinated. Age group 12-17 stands at 53.9% and 18-19 stands at 47.9%, both of which are a large improvement from August's numbers. Approval to roll out the Pfizer vaccine booster is likely within the next week or so with priority to administer to the 65+ and at risk populations. It will be available in all the same locations as the initial doses of Covid-19 vaccinations. Johnson and Johnson and Moderna boosters have not yet been approved, however they are expected to be ready this fall

Brandon Schmidgall, West Valley Hospital Administrator discussed similar data.

Numbers are "flattening" at Salem Health from a recent peak of 112 inpatients on September 6<sup>th</sup> to consistent high 90's since then. There are 96 inpatients this morning. Their hope is that this number will drop to 20 by the end of November. 77% of patients testing positive for Covid-19 have been unvaccinated in the recent surge of cases starting from July 2021 to present. Of the 96 inpatients today, 80 are unvaccinated, 24 are in the ED, and 12 are on ventilators in the ICU. 44 patients have delays in discharge. Yesterday there were 64 possible cases, 14 of which were confirmed positive so far. In the last week there has been an average of 5-7 ICU beds available across Region 2. Only 1 ICU bed is available in Salem this morning. They are still addressing cancellations of surgical procedures to make room for Covid-19 patients on a day to day basis. The National Guard have been present in hospitals for 10 days now. Staff have noticed positive changes in turn around, noting their help with transport and lessening conflict. Current PPE supplies are "Green", meaning they have a secure 30 day supply. Rapid Covid-19 test kits have been available at a 2-week supply and have been reserved for ED and emergency surgical cases. Commissioner Pope noted concern on retaining a secure supply of these tests to be better prepared when another surge of cases arises.

#### **4. Economic Development Grant Application**

Kevin Conzo, owner of Kevin's Daily bread submitted an application for a \$30,000 Economic Development Grant from Polk County. Mr. Conzo informed the Board that his initial reason for applying for this grant was to increase production and provide a more wholesale type of market. The grant would go toward upgrades in equipment, a transport vehicle, supporting an expansion of his products, and training/staffing. Commissioner Pope confirmed Mr. Conzo's total project budget is \$66,000 and would attribute one FTE. Mr. Conzo's plan includes a Business Capital Investment of \$5,000, Training Grant of \$25,000, and Vehicle Loan of \$20,000. Mr. Conzo has not heard back on securing the Training Grant. Commissioner Pope asked Mr. Conzo to expand on what the \$30,000 grant would go toward if granted, to which Mr. Conzo listed the following: Obtaining an oven, adding a Proofing Cabinet, a mixer, and upgrading electrical. Commissioner Pope noted that Mr. Conzo listed his total project budget outline as \$86,000 and asked if Mr. Conzo has secured a line of credit for his business expansion. Mr. Conzo currently has a high interest business loan. Commissioner Pope asked how this grant would better the community, to which Mr. Conzo stated that he hopes to add 3 new full time employees. Commissioner Gordon asked if Mr. Conzo has any projections for revenue upon expanding regionally, Mr. Conzo responded that would like to create a plan similar to Dave's Killer bread and work with a distributor. Commissioner Pope asked if the expansion of the business is contingent on obtaining this grant and Mr. Conzo stated that the expansion would happen regardless, just at a slower pace should he not obtain the grant. Commissioner Pope asked what Mr. Conzo's motivation is for requesting a grant over commercial money, to which Mr. Conzo responded that he would like to benefit the community through job creation as having his support in his business in Polk County is an investment in Polk County. Mr. Conzo mentioned that one of the biggest hurdles in his industry is training and retaining employees as turnover rates are high, and that investing in that on his own is "sink or swim" for him as a small business. He mentioned as well that traditional lending does not provide much help. As a resident of Polk County would like his business to stay in Polk County. Commissioner Pope discussed accurate pay on Mr. Conzo's application. Mr. Conzo mentioned a struggle of his as a small business is filling the need to increase pay for his employees to retain them as larger companies have been able to do. He mentioned again the need to expand and distribute his products through supermarkets to increase sales to provide those pay increases. Commissioner Pope asked where Mr. Conzo's base of operation is for his baking business, to which Mr. Conzo replied that 904 Main. St in Dallas, Oregon was his original location, which he still uses as a leased retail space, but he has also secured 119 SW Court St, also in Dallas, and moved baking operations there as it has more space for the tradition equipment upgrades he would like to improve his business. Kevin's Daily Bread has been in business almost 2 years and recently renewed his lease for his original location. At the start of Covid-19 his business did well as he did free delivery of his breads. Laws correlating to Covid-19 has forced him to be flexible with his business plans. Commissioner Pope stated that he would like more detailed information on how the money would be used before moving forward with this grant.

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

A) Morgan Smith, Polk County Counsel, moved to cancel the September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 Board meeting due to an empty agenda and a lack of minutes to approve. Both present Commissioners concurred.

B) Fred Hertel, Southwest Polk Fire Chief came forward to thank the Board for their support on his request for an ambulance licensure. He reviewed and gave context on response times and call volumes. Commissioner Pope suggested having an objective 3<sup>rd</sup> party put together a comprehensive report of their data. Commissioner Pope noted that the ASA is almost up and running.

Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 9:51 a.m.

Minutes: Rachel Green

Approved: