

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
October 5, 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 SEPTEMBER 28, 2021**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. COVID UPDATE

Ms. Umstead reviewed the handout she provided the Board. For the week of September 26, 2021 there were 10,423 Covid cases reported in Oregon, and 35 deaths. In Polk County there were 266 cases reported and 1 death. For the most recent reporting week the positivity rate in Oregon was 8.8% and the case rate per 100,000 population was 244.2. In Oregon the positivity rate was 11% and the case rate per 100,000 population was 317.4. Ms. Umstead addressed a request from Commissioner Mordhorst that she received at last week's Board meeting regarding the severity of disease and hospitalization with the Delta variant. She review the graph in the handout showing Oregon's epi curve, showing more cases with the recent delta variant surge compared to the surge last spring or last December. She also reviewed the deaths by age group graph which shows that in December, the 80 and older population was more susceptible to death that the recent surge. When the delta variant appears Polk County's cases surged as well as hospitalization and deaths.

Dallas Retirement Village has 55 positive cases, which is unchanged from last week. Independence Health and Rehab had one additional staff member test positive, and the outbreak at Capital Manor has closed. For the week of September 26th through October 2nd there were 2,085 test done in Polk County. 240 of those were positive tests and 1,845 were negative. As of October 4th, in Oregon there were 769 hospitalized Covid patients and 7 Polk County residents. Pediatric Covid cases have increased dramatically since July 2021. In Polk County the pediatric case rate as of September 21, 1284.5 and the total number of pediatric cases since reporting started, is 252. There was a vaccination event last week that Salem Health helped sponsor and they were able to vaccinate 66 more people. Polk County is still working with other agencies to provide additional vaccination events. Commissioner Mordhorst asked for clarification that there have been 21 deaths since the delta variant hit and he would like to know the ages of those and if they had any underlying conditions. Ms. Umstead said that she could pull age ranges for that time frame and also that most deaths do have underlying conditions but she will look into it.

Brandon Schmidgall, West Valley Hospital, stated there are 83 patients hospitalized with Covid. Mr. Schmidgall addressed a question regarding the likelihood of somebody who is put on a ventilator surviving and he stated that 92% of those patients in Salem do not get off of the ventilator. Out of the 39 that have died while on the ventilator, 5 of them were vaccinated and also extensive underlying medical conditions. The hospital is concerns about the October 18th date and the concern that they will lose staff but are confident that they will be able to mitigate the loss of staff. The National Guard is still assisting the hospital and it has been a tremendous help. Commissioner Gordon asked about people coming back into the hospital with post Covid problems. Mr. Schmidgall did not have those numbers on hand but will get the information and report back. He stated there is a significant concern because Covid attacks the lungs and can leave scar tissue.

4. RECLASSIFICATION

Matt Hawkins, Administrative Services Director, requested a reclassification OF AN Inmate Program Manager I. It is recommended that Jody Germond be reclassified from an Inmate Program Manager I to an Inmate Program Manager II. Jody has met all of the requirements to be moved into this position. If approved, the reclassification would be effective October 1, 2021 and would have an approximate fiscal impact of \$3,100 should it be for a 12 month period including PERS Contributions.

BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD APPROVED THE RECLASSIFICATION AS PROPOSED.

Matt Hawkins, Administrative Services Director, requested a reclassification of two Deputy DA II employees. District Attorney, Aaron Felton, recommends that Matt Wilson and Erin Brady be reclassified from Deputy District Attorney II to the newly created Deputy District Attorney III position. During negotiations with AFSCME-DDA group it was agreed that the County would create the new position. Mr. Felton is asking that Matt be reclassified as he meets the requirements for the new position and that Erin be reclassified as the next closest person to meeting these requirements. Should these be approved it would be effective October 1, 2021. There would be an approximate fiscal impact of \$17,100 including PERS contributions should it be for a 12 month period.

BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD APPROVED THE RECLASSIFICATIONS AS PROPOSED.

5. RECLASSIFICATION

Matt Hawkins, Administrative Services Director, requested a reclassification of two Deputy DA II employees. District Attorney, Aaron Felton, recommends that Matt Wilson and Erin Brady be reclassified from Deputy District Attorney II to the newly created Deputy District Attorney III position. During negotiations with AFSCME-DDA group it was agreed that the County would create the new position. Mr. Felton is asking that Matt be reclassified as he meets the requirements for the new position and that Erin be reclassified as the next closest person to meeting these requirements. Should these be approved it would be effective October 1, 2021. There would be an approximate fiscal impact of \$17,100 including PERS contributions should it be for a 12 month period.

Commissioner Mordhorst approved, Commissioner Gordon approved, Commissioner Pope did not approve.

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE QUORUM.

The reclassification passed by unanimous vote of the quorum, he would like to have more discussion about it.

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

a) UNVACCINATED EMPLOYEE STATUS UPDATE

Mr. Hawkins stated that October 18th is a deadline they are looking at for vaccines. Health Services has approximately 174 employees that fall under the vaccine mandate that has passed down from the federal government. He is only waiting on vaccine verification from two of those individuals that have said they are vaccinated and have not turned in the card yet. There are two other individuals who are hoping to get their medical exception approved. One is out on FMLA who will not be in the building at that time but will be vaccinated when they come back. There is one who has refused to be vaccinated or follow through with exceptions and have resigned from their position effective October 18th. There are approximately 6-8 individuals with exceptions.

With regards to the jail. Mr. Hawkins has received vaccine cards from everybody except one person. They have been vaccinated though. In General Services there have been two exceptions and everybody else has been vaccinated.

There is still a requirement for the people who have exceptions, so that will still need to be discussed. They may have to wear a K95 mask while in the building. Commissioner Gordon asked about those individuals who are still waiting to get their exception or card turned in and if there is any grace on the October 18th date. There are options for allowing a grace period.

Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 9:26 a.m.