

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
October 26, 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 OCTOBER 19, 2021**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. BROADBAND DISCUSSION

Dean Anderson, IT Special Projects Manager, discussed the broadband grant application that he put together after discussing evaluation criteria with internet service providers (ISP's) in the rural areas. He would like to get approval to move forward with the proposed application unless the Board would like him to make any changes. The goal is to help ISP's provide faster broadband to rural areas that currently don't have sufficient service. The Grantees will provide regular reports to Mr. Anderson to ensure their progress. Mr. Anderson will then give the Board quarterly reports on their progress.

MOTION: **COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER GORDON
SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS AS PROPOSED.**

4. DISCUSSION FOR INVESTMENT OF CRF BUSINESS FUNDS BALANCE

Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer, discussed the remaining \$100,000 Coronavirus Relief Funds to distribute. He provided the Board with a proposal for an application that was developed with Willamette Workforce Partnership that would be posted on their website and on the Polk County website and Facebook page. It would also be noted that if a business received grant funds through the first round they will not be eligible for the second round. Commissioner Pope asked why the county has to go through Willamette Workforce again if the application was developed through the first round. He is concerned about how long it took for Willamette Workforce to process the applications. Mr. Hansen stated that he would talk with the administrator and make sure he is aware of the time constraints on distributing the money, as federal guidelines state that the money has to be distributed by December 31, 2021. If the Administrator has any concerns about getting the applications processed in time then the county will complete the process in house. Mr. Hansen also stated that the reason we want to go through Willamette Workforce again is because they have a process already and also know all of the requirements that the federal government has put on the use of these funds.

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

a) ARPA UPDATE – Mr. Hansen discussed a preliminary list of projects that are being considered for spending the ARPA funds the county will receive. Some of them are already underway. The Academy Building gym remodel is almost complete. That will provide more meeting space. There is \$400,000 being spent on the Water Resource Planning project that is being managed by Community Development Director, Austin McGuigan, who is hiring a temporary employee to help manage that project. Grand Ronde Sanitary received a proposal for facilities upgrades in the amount of \$78,000. The Mobile Crisis Response Team has added one FTE, along with additional School

Based Mental Health Counselors and a suicide Prevention position. The county is planning to spend some of the ARPA funds on cyber security and supporting remote work as well as child care. Falls City will be bringing a proposal for a water waste project once they get it completed. In the future they will look at upgrading the HVAC systems in the county buildings also.

Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 9:42 a.m.

Minutes: Ciera Atha
Approved: November 2, 2021