

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
January 4, 2022

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 Mordhorst and Commissioner Gordon were present.

2. MINUTES: **COMMISSIONER GORDON MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST
SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 21, 2021**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. APPOINTMENT OF PLANNING COMMISSION CHAIR

Austin McGuigan, Community Development Director, gave the Board an update on the need for a new Planning Commission Chair due to the current chair needing to recover from medical issues. Planning staff recommend Chris Patoine be appointed to serve as the chair for the Planning Commission. Mr. Patoine has filled in during the absence of the current chair and vice-chair.

MOTION: **COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER GORDON
SECONDED TO APPOINT CHRIS PATOINE AS THE PLANNING COMMISSION CHAIR.**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Commissioner Mordhorst recommended allowing the Planning Commission to choose the vice-chair. Commissioner Gordon agreed with the recommendation. Commissioner Pope didn't have any issues with the recommendation. The decision for vice-chair appointment was turned over to the Planning Commission.

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

This item was moved above the previously scheduled agenda item due to special invitation to MINET.

PJ Armstrong, Interim Director of MINET & Willamette Valley fiber appeared to discuss a proposal for a grant application to provide broadband services for Falls City. Mr. Armstrong is looking to conduct a feasibility study. The study is expected to begin within 30-60 days and be a 90 day process. The study will cost \$20,000.

Commissioner Pope stated that this is a great opportunity for a partnership to apply for this grant. The Board will make a decision after seeing the full presentation.

5. POLK COUNTY FLOOD UPDATE

Greg Hansen, County Administrator, updated the Board on the North and Northwest county flooding issues. Nothing major in the northwest county Grand Ronde area. South county had flooding at the normal areas going over the road, but all surface water. High water flooding could come in South county Friday based on weather reports. The County has done well with the rising water and been fortunate.

Commissioner Pope reported flooding at 99W and Airlie Rd. Culvert and ditches are slowly flowing.

Commissioner Gordon reminded all that the County has sand bags available for residents and recommended that we advertise this information on social media.

6. COVID-19 UPDATE

Jacqui Umstead, Public Health Administrator, updated the Board on the number of Covid-19 cases in Polk County and in Oregon. She provided a hand out that she reviewed which also included the positivity rate and case rate in Polk County and Oregon. The handout had graphs breaking down the cases by age, zip code, and ethnicity. Ms. Umstead reviewed the hospitalizations in our region as well as testing and vaccination rates. Public Health is working with other agencies to set up low barrier vaccine clinics.

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

Commissioner Pope acknowledged receipt of a letter from West Valley Fire District ASA. The letter from Board President, Mike Alger states they have settled on a contract with Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde for 3 years. Commissioner Pope was looking for direction on how to respond to the letter. Response will be that the letter has been received and acknowledge that WVFD is responsible for the service area.

Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

Minutes: Matt Hawkins
Approved: January 11, 2022