

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**TUESDAY MEETING – MARCH 8, 2011**  
**MINUTES**

1. At 9:00 a.m., Chairman Propes declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session. Commissioner Ainsworth was present. Commissioner Pope was excused. A CD of the proceedings is on file in the Board of Commissioners' Office.
2. **MOTION: COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH MOVED, CHAIRMAN PROPES SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 1, 2011.**

**MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE QUORUM.**

3. **NEW CLASS SPECIFICATION FOR PLANNING MANAGER**

Matt Hawkins, Human Resources Director recommended that the Board approve a new class specification and salary range (\$4,691 - \$5,933) for Planning Manager and reclass Jerry Sorte from Planning Supervisor to Planning Manager effective March 1, 2011.

Austin McGuigan, Community Development Director said that as Planning Supervisor, Sorte supervises Planning staff and does long-range Planning. He said that as they cut back Planning staff, Sorte is doing all the current Planning as well as the long-range Planning and there is not enough time in the day to do all of those things and moving this into a position like this provides some flexibility in terms of this being a salaried position. Sorte also has more meetings he has to attend and more direction he has to provide to the Planning Commission and the CCI and this is an opportunity to maximize the efficiency in the department.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH MOVED, CHAIRMAN PROPES SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE STAFF RECOMMENDATION.**

**MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE QUORUM.**

4. **ASSOCIATION OF MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS (AOCMHP)**

Gina Nikkel, Executive Director of AOCMHP attended this meeting to discuss the Board of Commissioners' responsibility as the Mental Health Authority. She provided several handouts to which she referred and that have been made a part of the permanent record.

Nikkel said that AOCMHP is a 501(3)(6), which is a membership organization that was formed about 40-years ago when Commissioners started taking over Community Mental Health. She said that as of right now, the Department of Human Services at the State level is integrating yet they are splitting into two sections - the Oregon Health Authority and DHS. DHS will have senior services, child welfare, and people with disabilities, except for long-term care and everything else will go to the Oregon Health Authority, which is supposed to be cheaper and more cost effective. They are in the process, with the Obama Health Care Plan, of redoing health care and are trying to take a look at reforming health care for better care, better access, and more cost effective.

Nikkel said that the State has convened a number of Health Task Forces to redesign the system and most recently has appointed a Health Transformation Team with about 45 people who will meet every Wednesday night for about nine weeks. She said that members of this team are given homework assignments every week and are to report back at the next week's meeting. Last week they gave them a legislative concept for redesign, although they had been told that there was no "secret plan." She said that the legislative concept is to go out for an RFP next October for the delivery system and who is going to manage the delivery system. She said that it leaves out one important area and that is that the Local Mental Health Authority (Boards of County Commissioners) are not involved in the process or even mentioned from this day forward. She said she has concerns with that so has put in a request to Dr. Goldberg that he have a conversation with Boards of Commissioners because if we eliminate counties as service providers, County Commissioners should be involved as the Local Mental Health Authority. She said that at the very least, the Oregon Health Authority ought to be talking to the Local Mental Health Authority.

Nikkel said that they now have it on good authority that Dr. Goldberg has made statements, in a closed door meeting, to the effect that counties are irrelevant and it is clear to her that there is a move to eliminate local accountability out of the conversation. She said that she spoke with Commissioner Hurliman in Tillamook County, who is the Chair of the Local Government Advisory Committee to DHS, and has been troubled for some time and wanted to let County Commissioners know that we are “under attack.” She said that in fairness to Dr. Goldberg and others at OHA, she believes they would say that it is all about the community and local accountability; they just forgot the piece that includes Commissioners in the RFP process and the legislative concept. She said that if they are going to get rid of part of the system and call it “irrelevant,” they probably need to have conversations with the current government structure and she put that in a formal request this morning. She said that on the walls of DHS it says, “Transparency, Honesty and Integrity” and one of their concerns is that if there is transparency, honesty, and integrity, we ought to be having this conversation with our Local Mental Health Authorities.

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

(a) **FRANCHISE FEE - GARBAGE**

Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer said that he spoke with Chuck Lerwick from Allied Waste and he is in the process of asking for rate increases in the Dallas urban area and increasing the franchise fee that goes to Dallas. He said that Lerwick asked if Polk County would like to increase its franchise fee as well, which would be passed on to the consumer. He said that currently our franchise fee is 3% in the rural areas, which in Lerwick’s opinion is extremely low. He said that they are going with 7% in Dallas, and 6% and 7% is becoming the industry standard for franchise fees. He said that if the County goes this way with Dallas and increases it to 7%; we would probably want to do that with all the other providers as well to keep it equal. He said that the County would receive approximately \$30,000 back if we do this countywide. He said that Polk County has always prided itself in that we have tried to keep rates down for our citizens and this may not be the right time to consider raising the franchise fee. He said that he does not need an answer now; he just brought this before the Board for consideration.

Chairman Propes adjourned the meeting at 9:58 a.m.

Minutes: Jennifer Wheeler  
Approved: March 15, 2011