

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING – MAY 10, 2011
MINUTES

1. At 9:00 a.m., Chairman Pope declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session. Commissioner Wheeler was present, Commissioner Ainsworth was excused. A CD of the proceedings is on file in the Board of Commissioners' Office.
2. **MOTION: COMMISSIONER WHEELER MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 3, 2011.**

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE QUORUM.

3. **FARM BUREAU ACTION REQUEST**

Ray Steele, Chairman of the Polk County Farm Bureau, said the Bureau is requesting the Board of Commissioners to address the goose depredation problem in Polk County and its impact on the farmers in the region. He said there is an effort by the United States Fish & Wildlife Service and the State Fish & Wildlife Service not to address the target numbers for the Cackler Goose, whose population has increased to over 280,000 from 180,000 last summer. The Farm Bureau would like the Board to consider writing a letter to the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife describing the impact of the geese on the farmers and the need to get the geese population under control.

Commissioner Pope said that the use of the goose cannons generates many complaints each year. Allowing more extensive hunting could reduce the number of complaints as the geese are driven out of the area. The writing of the requested letter would show the public that the County is taking some action to address the problem.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER WHEELER MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE SECONDED TO CONSIDER WRITING A LETTER TO THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE ATTESTING TO THE FACT OF CROP DAMAGE, AFTER FIRST CONSULTING WITH THE COUNTY COUNSEL.

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE QUORUM.

Steele said that he also would like the County to look into a knoll on Farmer Road upon which vehicles must descend to a stop sign at Hwy 99W. This creates a dangerous situation for heavy farm machinery to try to stop before entering the intersection. There have been instances in the past where vehicles have not been able to stop in time and have continued into the intersection. He is asking if Public Works can do something to reduce the grade.

Todd Whitaker, Public Works Director, said they have looked into this possibility and it would require acquiring some slope easements from the adjacent property owners. If these easements can be acquired, he feels it could be done.

The Board agreed to have Public Works look into the issue.

4. **4-H BATHROOMS & BUILDINGS AT THE FAIRGROUNDS**

Tina Andersen, Fair Manager, said the Fair Board has received project request from the Polk County Fair Improvement Association to remodel the 4-H bathrooms. They are asking for help with a cost estimate for the project that could be passed on to the Improvement Association.

Greg Hansen said he would get some preliminary numbers but without some design work, it would be difficult to be accurate.

Pope asked if the County is prohibited from using local contractors for a cost estimate. Hansen said he would get together with some contractors for an estimate but it might not be the final estimate.

Andersen reported attending a meeting with Tom Gallagher, of the Ford Family Foundation, and they are interested in the 4-H building project. The Foundation can issue grants for thirty percent of the project, up to \$300,000.

Pope said he believes that if the Ford Foundation were offering this money, the County would be making a mistake not moving forward on it.

Andersen agreed to be the point person, along with Hansen, with the Ford Family Foundation.

The Board approved to move forward with securing the grant.

Andersen said that, due to liability issues, the Fair Board made a decision that no livestock were to leave the Fairgrounds during the Fair. In addition, the Livestock Association, who does the auctions at the fair, has never been asked to provide insurance and should this be required.

Pope said that another problem is with people moving their animals out before the Fair is over.

Commissioner Wheeler asked why someone would want to take his or her animals out early. Norbert Hartmann said because it is easier.

Pope said his position is the rules are already in place prohibiting the early removal of animals and lately they have not been enforced. He wants to know the Fair Board's thoughts on liability coverage. Andersen said that all the vendors and special events are required to carry liability insurance.

The Board agreed by consensus to require animals to remain at the Fair until it closes and to require liability insurance from the Livestock Association.

5. **COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSE SALARY**

Matt Hawkins, Human Resources Director, is requesting the Board to approve a revision in the salary range for the Community Health Nurse and Lead Community Health Nurse Positions to bring them in line with surrounding counties and making Polk County more competitive in attracting quality applicants

MOTION: COMMISSIONER WHEELER MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE SECONDED, TO REVISE THE SALARY RANGE FOR THE COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSE.

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE QUORUM.

6. **MENTAL HEALTH SKILLS TRAINER SALARY**

Hawkins is requesting the Board to approve a revision in the salary range for the Mental Health Skills Trainer Position to bring it in line with surrounding counties.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER WHEELER MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE SECONDED, TO REVISE THE SALARY RANGE FOR THE MENTAL HEALTH SKILLS TRAINER.

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE QUORUM.

7. **OUTDOOR SIGN AT THE ACADEMY BUILDING**

Hansen said that, as part of the Academy remodel, the County is looking into replacing a sign that used to stand at the exterior of the building. This will be an electric sign with a reader board. There is approximately \$9,000 in the Public Health budget that can be used to offset the approximately \$20,000 total cost.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER WHEELER MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE SECONDED, TO DIRECT STAFF TO PROCEED WITH PLANS TO ERECT AN OUTDOOR SIGN AT THE ACADEMY BUILDING.

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE QUORUM.

8. **2011 PAVEMENT PRESERVATION PROJECT**

Todd Whitaker, Public Works Director, said that bids for the project were opened last Thursday and that North Santiam Paving was the low bidder at \$466,485. He is before the Board today to request approval to send a notice of intent to award the contract to North Santiam Paving.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER WHEELER MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE SECONDED, TO DIRECT STAFF TO SEND A NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD THE 2011 PAVEMENT PRESERVATION PROJECT TO NORTH SANTIAM PAVING.

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE QUORUM.

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

(a) **REQUEST FOR SUMMER LEAVE**

Matt Hawkins said that he has received a request from three school-based therapists for modified work schedules during the summer school vacation. This would involve utilizing Leave Without Pay.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER WHEELER MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE SECONDED, TO GRANT APPROVAL FOR THESE EMPLOYEES TO UTILIZE LEAVE WITHOUT PAY DURING THE SCHOOL SUMMER VACATION

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE QUORUM..

Chairman Pope adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Minutes: Rick Davisson
Approved: May 17, 2011