

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**TUESDAY MEETING – August 9, 2011**  
**MINUTES**

1. At 9:02 a.m., Chairman Pope declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session. Commissioner Ainsworth and Commissioner Wheeler were present.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH MOVED, COMMISSIONER WHEELER  
SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 2, 2011.**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. **WEBSITE REVIEW**

Dean Anderson, IT Director had met with the Board last week about the web page policy and they requested that he update the policy to include a promoting Government activities section and to remove the Facebook policy because a separate social media policy is now in affect.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER WHEELER MOVED, COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH  
SECONDED TO ADOPT THE UPDATED WEB PAGE POLICY.**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Leslie Friesen, Senior Application Support Analyst gave the Board of Commissioners a short tour of the new website. The website should be going live to the public within the next couple of weeks, and will be hosted by AHA. Once the site is up, each department will be able to update their own business on their department page. With this new website, the County will be able to track how many people visit the page, how many permit and job applications are downloaded, etc. The new website should be easier for the public to navigate and search.

3. **FACEBOOK PAGE DEMONSTRATION**

Dean Anderson gave a demonstration of the Facebook page that was set up by the Polk County Youth Action Team during the Social Media Pilot Program. Dean informed the Board that any County Facebook page is considered public information and will be archived in accordance with the County retention policy, including individual 'professional' pages set up by County employees that they create in order to access the fan pages for the County. The Board requested County Facebook users have a training protocol in conjunction with Human Resources.

4. **AG ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STUDY**

Derek Godwin, Staff Chair, OSU Extension informed the Board about a study he would like Polk County to support, which will research how best to invest in agriculture within the local area in order to improve the economy. Derek then introduced Paul Lewin, the Community Economist for Western Oregon and Bruce Sortee, the Community Economist for Eastern Oregon, who discussed this study.

Paul and Bruce have been studying the local economy and will be suggesting ways to reconsider initiatives in agriculture. They gave an overview of their findings and suggestions so far:

- a) Polk County has done well at retaining commodity crops.
- b) Average size of farms has remained constant: A few large acreage farm and several smaller farms (>\$10,000 annually).

- c) Polk County's per capita income has held up and our unemployment and poverty rates are below the state average. Median household income is over the state average, but average earnings per job have decreased. Polk County has a higher homeownership rate and longer residency than the State average
- d) Per capita income has been kept up because transfer payments and rental and lease payments have grown dramatically (both for ag ground and real estate).
- e) Polk County economy primarily dependant on government, agriculture, casino, and education (WOU and OSU).
- f) Anticipates the amount of higher education (2 and 4-year & Technical degrees) surge for the next 5 years then flatten and drop off. PERS changes will cause a lot of retirements, which will cause a decline in consumption.
- g) There is quite a movement in local foods, and Polk County has the ground, background, and the paths to focus on niche-marketed foods and diverse crops (berries, nuts, tree fruits, etc.).
- h) Commodities like rye grass and wheat have long-term, stable support.
- i) Polk County has good exposure, and there are opportunities for agri-tourism and local marketing, and exports.
- j) There are some opportunities in planning and helping farmers diversify to reach higher net revenues.

Paul and Bruce would like to work with the County to make sure their models of use for this study are correct, in order to do that, they will:

- a) interview local farmers
- b) take information and run them through the current model to see where they have the most impact
- c) test initiatives with Commissioners and get feedback

Interviews would start after harvest, and a summary report would be compiled by the first of the year.

The Board recommends that the first farmers that are interviewed be the production ag and production forestry people, and not let small farms initiatives be the lead. The Board would like to understand what the demographic of production ag looks like today and what it is anticipated to look like in 20 years, and discuss what succession plans the current production ag and production forestry people have. Polk County has a division between small farmers and production ag farmers, and the Board of Commissioners requested that in the future a strategy be developed to facilitate compatibility and bringing shared uses together.

OSU Extension has budgeted \$5,000 for this study. Currently there is no need for additional monies, but this study needs Commissioner support in being able to visit, provide feedback, and support the process of the study. The Board of Commissioners agreed that this is a worthwhile endeavor for the County to accomplish the goals that have been previously discussed. The Commissioners pledged their support for this study, and will pursue Economic Development and USDA Rural Development funds if additional funds are needed.

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

**(a) POLK COUNTY FAIR OVERFLOW PARKING**

Ray Steele gave an update on the planned overflow parking for the Fair. If the weather holds, the area where overflow parking has been should start being harvested Wednesday and be available for parking on Friday afternoon/evening. If not, Ray presented these alternative-parking options:

1. Allow overnight tent camping at Nesmith Park where the air rifle/archery usually is, which will open up the usual overnight camping locations for overflow parking.
2. Use the 2+ acres next door to Ag West for off-site over flow parking.
3. Use Nesmith Loop shoulder for off-site overflow parking.

If off-site parking is used, additional costs would accrue for increased parking lot attendants and shuttle costs. Ray checked with the school district and school buses are available to use for \$80 the first hour, \$40 each additional hour, plus the County has a 12 passenger van. The Board of Commissioners discussed the need for lighting in the off-site areas if they are used.

Ray has been in contact with Public Works who have agreed to facilitate the request to allow over-flow parking on Nesmith Loop.

**BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD AGREED TO ALLOW OVERNIGHT TENT CAMPING IN NESMITH PARK DURING THE FAIR.**

**BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD AGREED TO ALLOW THE COUNTY PROPERTY NEXT TO AG WEST BE USED AS OVERFLOW PARKING FOR THE FAIR IF NEEDED.**

**BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD AGREED TO ALLOW NESMITH LOOP TO BE USED AS OVERFLOW PARKING FOR THE FAIR IF NEEDED.**

At 10:55, Chairman Pope recessed the meeting until 11:00AM

At 11:03, Chairman Pope called the meeting back to order.

**(b) SAFE DRINKING WATER CONTRACT**

Dave Doyle, County Counsel requested the Board of Commissioners re-sign Contract #11-86, the SAFE Drinking Water Agreement that was approved on July 6. The version that was signed did not have the correct effective dates on it. No other changes were made on the contract.

**BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD AGREED TO RE-SIGN CONTRACT #11-86**

**(c) HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

Stacie Chance, Health & Human Services Assistant Director and Geoff Heatherington, Mental Health Manager informed the Board that the Governor has announced four task forces starting that will be focusing on the criteria for Coordinated Care Organizations, including Metrics to Measure Community Health, Medicaid and Medicare, and the Global Budget. None of these task forces has much County representation.

There was a discussion about the BCN regional changes and CCO concerns in Polk County.

The Commissioners have a meeting with Rep. Thompson, NWSDS, and others scheduled during next Tuesday's Board of Commissioners' meeting. This meeting will be held in the larger Courthouse Conference Room.

Chairman Pope adjourned the meeting at 11:41 a.m.