

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING – August 30, 2011
MINUTES

1. At 9:06 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.

2. **MOTION: COMMISSIONER POPE MOVED, COMMISSIONER WHEELER SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 23, 2011.**

MOTION PASSED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE QUORUM.

3. **WEST VALLEY HOUSING AUTHORITY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Greg Hansen, County Administrator, reported that this discussion was carried over from last week's agenda. There are two WVHA position terms ending in September, one person has requested to be re-appointed and Commissioner Wheeler had inquired about a Commissioner serving in the other position. However, Commissioner Wheeler decided to serve only as a liaison to the WVHA Board, so the open position will be advertised to recruit for other possible candidates to serve on the Board.

4. **2-1-1 PHONE SYSTEM UPGRADES**

Greg Hansen informed the Board that the United Way has created a 2-1-1 phone line that is meant to be used to match public needs with local resources. However, the County's current phone system would need to be upgraded to allow County employees to dial the 2-1-1 number, at a cost of \$500.

Stacie Chance, Health and Human Services Assistant Director, thinks that staff would not need to call the 2-1-1 number because the resource information is available online, and the staff would be referring clients to call the 2-1-1 number from their own phone on their own time. If this changes, the phone systems could be upgraded at a later time.

BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DECIDED NOT TO PERFORM THE 2-1-1 PHONE SYSTEM UPGRADES.

5. **FAIRGROUNDS PARK AND RIDE RIGHT OF WAY DEDICATION**

Todd Whitaker, Public Works Director, requested that the Board dedicate the new Polk County Fairgrounds entrances and parking lot area as a public right of way.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER WHEELER MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE SECONDED TO DEDICATE THE DESCRIBED PORTION OF THE FAIRGROUNDS PROPERTY AS PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY.

MOTION PASSED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE QUORUM.

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

- (a) **CABLE COMPANY APPEAL**

Doug Schmidt, County Assessor, informed the Board that 2009 the Department of Revenue changed how cable companies, including Comcast, Charter, DirecTV, Dish Network, etc were valued. The companies were valued as locally assessed, but were changed to centrally assessed, taking Comcast's tax value in 2009 from \$4 million up to \$13 million.

Comcast and the other cable companies appealed the changes, and a judge has recently issued a ruling that the Department of Revenue was incorrect in classifying them as a centrally assessed property. This means that there is a potential for some large refunds. Statewide, the total refund to these cable companies for 2009-2011 will be around \$1.2 million. Polk County's share of that is about 14%, or \$75,000-\$100,000.

The Department of Revenue can appeal the decision within 30 days, but for tax purposes, the County has to certify values by September 25, 2011. The value that is currently on the roll is still the value from the centrally assessed property. If the appeal does not go through, the Department of Revenue feels that the County would have to refund the full amount, and then re-bill for the amount due for locally assessed value.

Doug reported that there is a new bill that was approved through the legislature last year, called Deferred Tax Credit Billing, which calculates the roll based on the full value of the property, but the tax bill is only for the reduced amount. This would allow the County to not pay the interest if the Department of Revenue does not appeal. This is a billing option, which would need to be decided before tax statements go out in October. Doug will keep the Board of Commissioners updated on this situation.

(b) EXTENSION BUILDING MEETING

Chairman Pope announced that the Board of Commissioners will be attending a Polk County Extension Building Meeting on Wednesday, August 31, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. in the Courthouse Conference Room.

Chairman Pope adjourned the meeting at 9:29 a.m.

Minutes: Heather Alvarez

Approved: September 6, 2011