

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
June 12, 2012

1. At 9:00 a.m., Chairman Ainsworth declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session. Commissioner Wheeler was present, Commissioner Pope was excused.

2. **MOTION: COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH MOVED, COMMISSIONER WHEELER SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 5, 2012.**

MOTION PASSED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE QUORUM.

3. **PROCESS FOR PETITIONS**

David Doyle, County Counsel updated the Board on a request from Mr. Paul Knobel regarding the policy for free speech at the Polk County Fairgrounds. In the past, the Fair Board has had an oral policy that allowed petition signature gatherers based on the type of event, but there has never been a written policy in place. Dave recommends drafting a policy and guidelines regarding the free speech area and petition process at the Fairgrounds, with input from interested citizens.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER WHEELER MOVED, COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH SECONDED TO DIRECT STAFF TO DRAFT A WRITTEN POLICY REGARDING FREE SPEECH AND PETITION PROCESSES AT THE FAIRGROUNDS WITH CITIZEN INPUT, TO BE PRESENTED TO THE BOARD IN THREE WEEKS.

MOTION PASSED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE QUORUM.

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

- a. **FEMA GRANT**

Austin McGuigan, Community Development Director informed the Board that there is one property owner on Elkins Road that has a repetitive issue with flooding. The property owner is working with FEMA and the Oregon Emergency Management Department to get a grant to pay 75% of the cost to elevate her home, but the grant requires the County to be the applicant on the property owner's behalf.

If approved, the County would be responsible to disperse the funds to the property owner upon receipt of construction work. The County would have to designate an agent for the grant application, and staff recommends designating Austin McGuigan, so that some staff and administrative costs can be billed to the grant.

There is some liability risk: for instance if the property owner fires the construction team before the work is complete but after funds are already dispersed, then the County would be responsible to repay those funds to FEMA. Before the grant is accepted, staff recommends taking action to mitigate the liability.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER WHEELER MOVED, COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH SECONDED TO DESIGNATE AUSTIN MCGUIGAN AS THE GRANT AGENT AND TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE GRANT APPLICATION.

MOTION PASSED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE QUORUM.

b. **ELECTION PROCESS AND CITIZEN VERIFICATION**

Ron Carey, citizen, reported that he has been investigating the elections system in Oregon. He discovered that the State of Oregon isn't requiring proof of citizenship in order to register to vote, instead just using legal presence.

The Board recommended Mr. Carey discuss the issue with Val Unger, County Clerk, since the County Clerk is the first resource for approving voter registration.

c. **CANDIDACY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Ross Swartzendruber, Candidate for House District 23, introduced himself to the Board and gave a brief overview of his history and qualifications.

d. **HELMICK ROAD OVERLAY**

Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer informed the Board that Helmick Road is in the process of being paved, from the City Limits to Parker Road. Half of the road was paved yesterday, and the other half should be finished today, weather permitting.

Chairman Ainsworth adjourned the meeting at 9:27 a.m.

Minutes: Heather Alvarez

Approved: June 19, 2012