

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
December 18, 2012

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

2. **MOTION: COMMISSIONER POPE MOVED, COMMISSIONER WHEELER SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 11, 2012.**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **AMBULANCE SERVICE ADVISORY RE-APPOINTMENTS**

Jim Solvedt, Environmental Health presented a memo for the re-appointment of the Ambulance Service Advisory Committee members, and the appointment of Todd Brumfield as Chairman. The terms are for 2-years, and some of the previous members have changed due to staff changes within the organizations represented.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER POPE MOVED, COMMISSIONER WHEELER SECONDED TO APPOINT THE ASA COMMITTEE MEMBERS AS RECOMMENDED.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. **FISCAL/BUDGET DISCUSSION**

Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer presented a memo recommending the Board consider a Criminal Justice Operating Levy for the upcoming fiscal year. Greg explained that the tax rate in Polk County was set in 1996, and was set artificially low because the County also received O&C Timber Funding. That timber funding is now gone, and the County is left with a tax rate that does not cover basic operating expenses and PERS and health insurance rates that continue to increase. Greg anticipates a \$600,000 - \$1 million deficit in next year's general fund. To combat this, Greg is proposing the County consider an operating levy for the May 2013 ballot.

Greg shared an example that if the levy was \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value, the cost for a \$200,000 house would be \$100 per year. At this tax rate, the County would collect approximately \$2.4 million, and could reinstate approximately 21 criminal justice positions for the duration of the levy, which Greg proposes to be 3 years. This levy would fund the County through the 2015-2016 fiscal year, at which time the Road Bond would be expired and the County can re-evaluate the operating levy.

The County has gone out for three successful bond measures in the past, two road bonds and one bond for the jail construction. Greg hopes that the voting public will be able to see that the County is fiscally responsible, and any additional cuts to the general fund will result in an elimination of 24-hour Sheriff patrols, POINT team, and many other criminal justice services.

The Board directed Greg to move forward with the operating levy planning to be on the May ballot. The next step will be to form a Blue Ribbon Committee, which will start meeting at the beginning of January to assess the feasibility of the operating levy.

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

a. **TRUANCY ORDINANCE**

Marty Silbernagel, Community Corrections & Juvenile Director, requested the Board consider adopting a truancy ordinance. The Cities of Monmouth, Independence, and Dallas have already adopted similar ordinances, with positive results. The proposed ordinance would make the third truancy violation a Class C felony, and would also impose parental penalties for allowing truancy. Staff will schedule a public hearing in January to consider the ordinance.

b. **OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL REQUEST**

Stacie Chance, Health and Human Services Director requested approval for two staff members to attend the Health Record Software Phase 2: Business Development Training in Baltimore, Maryland, January 23-24. The trip will cost approximately \$3,000 and was budgeted into the software costs.

Chairman Ainsworth adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

Minutes: Heather Alvarez

Approved: January 8, 2013