

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 14, 2014

1. At 9:05 a.m., Commissioner Pope declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session. Commissioner Wheeler and Commissioner Ainsworth were present.

2. **MINUTES** **COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH MOVED, COMMISSIONER WHEELER SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 7, 2014.**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

3. **COMCAST UPDATE** – Doug Schmidt, Assessor, gave a brief overview of an ongoing court case with Comcast. Prior to 2009, the County valued Comcast (and other cable and satellite providers) on their tangible assets. In 2009, the Department of Revenue started centrally assessing these businesses on intangible assets, and raised their taxable valuation from \$4 million to \$14 million in a single year. Comcast appealed this decision, claiming that they are not a communications company, that the Department of Corrections should not be the one valuing the company, and that the value increase in a single year was unfounded because no changes were made to buildings. A ruling was made this month: it was confirmed that Comcast is a communications company, and that the Department of Revenue should be the one valuing the company. The third item, regarding the large change in valuation of the company in a single year was referred to a lower court to determine.

During the years this case has been processing, Polk County opted to defer collecting the taxes on the higher assessed value from Comcast because if the Department of Revenues' value is overturned, the County would have to pay back that amount plus interest.

4. **EVIDENCE BASED DECISION MAKING** – Ted Smietana, Yamhill County Community Corrections Director, John Teague, Chief of Police for the City of Keizer, and Tom O'Conner, EBDM Facilitator, attended the meeting to discuss the Evidence Based Decision Making Initiative. Yamhill County was one of seven counties in six states across the Country to pilot a Evidence Based Decision Making approach to public safety. The program was so successful that the Criminal Justice Commission is wanting to expand into additional counties, within five of the states that have already had counties implement the program. This will be done through a competitive application process. So far, ten counties in Oregon, including Polk, have expressed interest or confirmed that they will be applying for this program, however, only six will be awarded with the technical assistance to implement the program.

The basic theory behind Evidence Based Decision Making is to focus on outcomes instead of numbers. The central principles of EBDM are:

1. professional judgment is enhanced when informed by evidence based knowledge
2. every point in the system is an opportunity for harm reduction
3. systems have better outcomes when operated collaboratively
4. the system learns and improves when decisions are based on collected data

Yamhill County used this initiative to create a policy committee consisting of staff from multiple departments, law enforcement, and judges that helped increase communication levels and allowed the departments to communicate risk levels for offenders. It also streamlined data collection of offender risk levels.

Marty Silbernagel, Community Corrections Director, Sheriff Wolfe and District Attorney Aaron Felton all expressed support for the County to apply for this initiative. DA Felton would like to use this program to better address challenges law enforcement face with behavioral health offenders.

Chief Teague explained that the rewards of the County implementing the program are to be more competitive for grants, be more effective, and increase public safety. There was a discussion about how this initiative may impact funding, which is unknown at this time.

MOTION COMMISSIONER WHEELER MOVED, COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH SECONDED TO DIRECT STAFF TO SUBMIT APPLICATION TO THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EVIDENCE BASED DECISION MAKING INITIATIVE.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Commissioner Wheeler requested to be the lead Commissioner for this initiative.

Commissioner Pope recessed the meeting at 10:20 am.

Commissioner Pope reconvened the meeting at 10:28 am.

5. **NON-LISTED ITEMS** (Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners considered the below identified non-listed items.)
 - a. **LETTER TO MAYORS** – Jennifer Wheeler questioned if any of the Board had started drafting a letter to the Mayors requesting assistance in hosting public forums regarding the proposed operating levy, and requested guidance in what information the Commissioners are hoping to convey in the letter.
 - b. **FAIR BOARD MEETING TIMES** – Jennifer Wheeler received an email from Tina Andersen, Fairgrounds Manager, requesting Board approval to change the time of the Fair Board meetings to the evening starting in February in order to better recruit members and increase attendance. The Board agreed that it should be a decision of the Fair Board.

Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 10:31 am.

Minutes: Heather Merrill
Approved: October 21, 2014