

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 9, 2016

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Wheeler declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session. Commissioner Pope and Commissioner Ainsworth were present.
2. **MINUTES** **COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 2, 2016.**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **HOMERULE CHARTER REQUEST** – E.M. Easterly, 775 Fir Gardens NW, Salem, explained that there are currently nine Oregon counties that are home rule. In order create a ballot measure to put before the voters; a committee would first need to be formed either by petition or by Board order. Mr. Easterly requested the Board start the process of forming a committee to decide whether to put before the voters a measure for Polk County to become a home rule county.
4. **PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE** – Todd Whitaker, Public Works Director discussed equipment purchases for the upcoming year:
 - Pickup: A new pickup for the Road Master is typically purchased every four years. 25,000 miles per year, then it is transferred to the Surveyor for four additional years.
 - Two Brusher Mowers: The department currently has one boom mounted mower and one tractor-mounted mower. The tractor mounted mower was originally less expensive, but has required over \$100,000 in additional maintenance costs then the boom mower. Each machine has approximately 10,000 hours of use. Todd would like to replace both of these mowers with two identical boom mounted mowers. One will be purchased in this fiscal year and one in next fiscal year (approximate cost of \$187,000 each).
 - Chip Spreader: Benton County has offered to jointly purchase a Chip Spreader for shared use. Polk County's portion would be \$137,500. Maintenance cost would also be shared. There is a potential to rent the machine to other counties to offset the cost.

BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD APPROVED THE PUBLIC WORKS EQUIPMENT PURCHASES.

Todd Whitaker also gave an update on the Grand Ronde Rd. school crossing. After a fatal accident last year, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde requested a school zone review. Todd did an engineering study and found a school crossing is warranted. The Tribe has already installed flashing crosswalk signs at the crossing, and Polk and Yamhill counties will be installing advanced warning signage. The County will also be doing a speed study on the road.

The Doaks Ferry Road project is nearly finished with the preliminary design. Todd informed the Board that due to the steep grade, safety and sight restraints, the decision was made to eliminate the alignment as right-in right-out. Anticipated construction start date will be late spring of 2017.

5. **NON-LISTED ITEMS** (Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners considered the below identified non-listed items.) None.

Commissioner Wheeler adjourned the meeting at 9:30 am.

Minutes: Heather Chase
Approved: February 16, 2016