

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES JANUARY 3, 2018

1. CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE

At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Pope declared the meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners to be in session. Commissioner Wheeler and Commissioner Ainsworth were present.

Staff present: Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Regular meetings of the Board of Commissioners are held on Tuesday and Wednesday each week. The meetings are held in the Courthouse Conference Room, 850 Main Street, Dallas, Oregon at 9:00 a.m. and is conducted according to a prepared agenda that lists the principal subjects anticipated to be considered. Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board may consider and take action on subjects that are not listed on the agenda.

Department Head/staff meetings with the Board of Commissioners are held on Monday, Thursday, and Friday. The meetings are held in the Board of Commissioners' Office Conference Room and are conducted between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The principal subjects anticipated to be considered are on-going, upcoming, and new matters bearing on County operations. Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners may consider and take action on subjects not listed within this announcement.

3. COMMENTS (FOR ITEMS NOT ON THIS AGENDA)

Jennifer Drill, Falls City Council member, 136 Kerry Ct., Laurie Albert, 315 Whitman, Jennifer Wright, 3300 Sample Rd., and Kathy Flanagan, attended the meeting to express concerns with the dissolution of the contract between the SW Polk Rural Fire District and the City of Falls City Fire Department. The contract previously provided funding to the City of Falls City fire department to respond to calls in a 5 mile radius outside of city limits. Now, the Falls City fire department can only respond to calls inside of city limits, and those outside of city limits must wait for the Dallas or Rickreall fire departments to respond. The two fire trucks have been removed from the Falls City fire station yesterday. Ms. Albert also explained that due to the ongoing drama, the Medical Director covering Polk County with her liability insurance, is pulling her coverage from Falls City as of January 21, so Falls City medics will only be able to provide first aid services instead of emergency medical services.

Ms. Drill expressed grief over this situation, and the number of citizens that are impacted by this unfair situation. Mr. Wright believes that the SW Polk Rural Fire District board doesn't have the best interest of the citizens in mind, and is looking into the process to start a recall of the Board members. Ms. Wright also worries that in the event of an emergency, the City of Dallas fire/ems does not respond in a timely manner, and recounted a recent fire outside of Falls City in which Rickreall responded to the scene before Dallas had even left their station. Ms. Flanagan feels that this situation is a power struggle between the two entities, and is concerned that if not resolved this is an issue of life and death. Those testifying also expressed concern that the SW Polk Rural Fire District has been changing their Board meetings/dates/locations at the last minute to seemingly avoid allowing the public an opportunity to weigh in on this process.

Commissioner Pope explained that the Falls City Fire Board and the SW Polk Rural Fire District Board are both elected officials, and the County does not control or manage them in any way. The Board feels that a mediator/3rd party should have been a part of this process from the beginning. The Board lent their support to Commissioner Pope to offer his assistance in any way possible to help resolve this situation as quickly as possible. Commissioner Wheeler requested the Falls City City Council make an official request of assistance from the County if the Council is in agreement.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: COMMISSIONER WHEELER MOVED, COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION: COMMISSIONER WHEELER MOVED, COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING OF DECEMBER 27, 2017

MOTION: COMMISSIONER WHEELER MOVED, COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 27, 2017.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. ELECTION OF CHAIR

MOTION: COMMISSIONER WHEELER MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE SECONDED, TO ELECT MIKE AINSWORTH AS BOARD OF COMMISSIONER CHAIR PERSON FOR 2018.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

At 09:40 a.m., Commissioner Pope asked if there was a need for executive session. Staff answered that there was not and the meeting was adjourned.

The following items were approved by Motion under **5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR:**

(a) ORDER NO. 18-01

Adopt Order #18-01 in the matter of designating official newspapers for publication of County public notices.

(b) RESOLUTION NO. 18-01

Adopt Resolution #18-01 in the matter of designating regular public meeting times and dates.

(c) RATIFY VALID VOUCHERS, LICENSES, PERSONNEL ACTIONS, PAYROLL, ETC., FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2017.

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mike Ainsworth, Chair

Craig Pope, Commissioner

Jennifer Wheeler, Commissioner

Minutes: Heather Chase
Approved: January 10, 2018