

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
June 4, 2019

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Pope declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session. Commissioner Ainsworth and Commissioner Mordhorst were present.
2. **MINUTES** **COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 28, 2019.**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **TALMADGE ROAD SPEED STUDIES** – Morgan Smith, County Counsel, informed the Board that after the speed studies were completed Public Works found that the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) recommends putting a “55mph” sign up at the end of that speed zone. Public Works Director, Todd Whitaker, believes that considering the circumstances on this road that it would be a safer choice to deviate from the standards on this occasion by putting up an “end of speed zone” sign instead. Morgan informs the Board that Mr. Whitaker believes that putting a 55mph sign would encourage drivers to accelerate after the speed zone and in this case there are some sharp turns that would be very dangerous to take going that fast. Morgan asked the Board if they are ok with Public Works deviating from the MUTCD standards for this particular speed zone.

BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD DIRECTS STAFF TO DEVIATE FROM MUTCD STANDARDS AS RECOMMENDED BY STAFF.

4. **CHARRIOTS** – Ted Stonecliffe, Planner at Charriots, stated that he was there to request a letter of support from the Board of Commissioner’s for a Transportation Growth Management (TGM) planning grant. The Grant would support the development of a twenty year long range plan for the District including the urban transit service in Salem and Keizer and the services provided in rural Marion and Polk counties. They have already receive a letter of support from many different cities including the city of Dallas, Woodburn, Silverton. They are requesting a letter from Polk County since the planning project will include the need for service to Falls City and they want to include Polk County as an important stakeholder in the process.

Commissioner Pope told Mr. Stonecliffe that he could not support their application because Polk County recently went through a very thorough process of trying to secure funding for a transportation program that had a proven need and were told that the money needed to stay dedicated to the current projects and also told that Polk County was already getting more than their share of support. Commissioner Pope also told Mr. Stonecliffe that he felt it would have helped if he Charriots had included them earlier, considering the deadline is two days away. Commissioner Mordhorst informed Mr. Stonecliffe that he would not be getting support from him either at this time. He feels that the process that was followed during the meetings he attended did not give him confidence and trust that a better process would be followed to appropriately allocate these funds they are requesting. Mr. Stonecliffe added that this Grant would be used to evaluate the need and help them appropriately allocate dollars. Commissioner Ainsworth also agreed that they would not be able to provide a letter of support at this time due to the lack of effort to fund the transportation to the rural areas in Polk County considering the vast need that has been proven.

Commissioner Pope recognized Mayor Gordon of Falls City in the meeting audience and asked him to please weigh in with his thoughts. Mayor Gordon stated that his thoughts are in line with the Commissioners and stated that he would like to know how the outcomes would change for rural cities like Falls City and Grand Ronde.

BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD DENIES THE REQUEST FOR THE LETTER OF SUPPORT.

6. **NON-LISTED ITEMS** - (Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners considered the below identified non-listed items.)
 - a. Commissioner Pope stated that he wanted it on the record that there is an appointment that will need to be made to fill the vacancy in the Senate. The Board will meet with the Marion County Board of Commissioners to discuss who will be their nomination. There have been multiple people who have expressed interest yet no decisions have been made. There will be 3-5 names they will submit with joint agreement with Marion County.

Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 10:36 a.m.

Minutes: Ciera Atha
Approved: June 11, 2019