

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MINUTES January 22, 2020**

**1. CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE**

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

Staff present: Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer  
Matt Hawkins, Administrative Service Director  
Morgan Smith, County Counsel

**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.

The Polk County Compensation Committee will be meeting on January 29, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. That will take place in the Board of Commissioners conference room, located at 850 Main St, Dallas, Oregon.

The Board of Commissioners will be attending the OSU Polk Extension Service District meeting on January 29, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. That will take place at 289 E Ellendale Ave, Suite 301, Dallas, Oregon.

**3. COMMENTS (FOR ITEMS NOT ON THIS AGENDA)**

None.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION: COMMISSIONER POPE MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING OF JANUARY 15, 2020**

MOTION: COMMISSIONER POPE MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 15, 2020.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **7. VALLEY OF THE GIANTS PROPOSAL**

Mayor of Falls City, Jeremy Gordon, City Manager, Mac Corthell & William Sullivan came to let the Board know of a project they would like to move forward with. Jeremy stated that they surveyed the people of Falls City to see what they wanted in the future for their town. The first was housing and the second was economic development. They want to enhance the existing assets and invite others to enjoy them. Increasing traffic to Valley of the Giants would help promote growth in Falls City. They are looking to engage Oregon Solutions who can take all the stakeholders to see if they can make it a viable recreation option in Polk County. They are in the process of trying to get a meeting with all the various stakeholders. They are asking the Board what their opinion of this project is and to ask for any feedback they might have. City Manager Mac Corthell stated that he feels like Falls City has more opportunity now than it has in the past and also that they are engaging the timber parties as well. They also have reached out to Salem Tourism Alliance and they agree that this is a unique place that Polk County has and would be a good addition to Polk County recreation. Commissioner Ainsworth stated that he believes the roads will be an issue depending on the weather and they will need a lot better signage. Commissioner Pope stated that he is a supporter of this project and he believes that Jeremy should make sure to stay involved in this process. He also stated that there is a long way to go and he believes BLM will be supportive but it is their responsibility to manage recreational needs. They are also responsible for cutting off access during high fire danger times. He suggests having a conversation with the Sheriff and discuss the new forest Deputy that will be patrolling and that could offset some of the issues with people violating safety measures. The mainline traffic management is also a concern. The log trucks are always on their CB radios so they know when they will encounter log trucks to avoid crashes and tourists won't do that. This is why Falls City should stay involved because they know the issues more than Travel Oregon. Commissioner Mordhorst suggests selling permits or doing guided tours for groups to limit access and give the timber companies reassurance that it will be a controlled number of people visiting. Mac Corthell said they will continue working on this and they will come back when they have some progress to report back on.

At 09:36 a.m., County Counsel announced that the meeting was recessed to Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660(e) To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions.

Commissioner Ainsworth called the meeting back into regular session and adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

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

**(a) COMMITTEE VACANCIES**

Approve appointment of Tim Ray and Kevin Chambers to the Hospital Facility Authority Board.

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Ainsworth, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Craig Pope, Commissioner  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lyle Mordhorst, Commissioner

Minutes: Ciera Atha  
Approved: January 29, 2020

