

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
February 11, 2020

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Ainsworth declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session. Commissioner Mordhorst was present. Commissioner Pope was excused.
2. **MINUTES** : **COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 4, 2020**

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE QUORUM.

3. **DEPT OF FORESTRY UPDATE** – Mike Totey, West Oregon District forester and Jeff Classen, Dallas Forester, came to give the Board a formal update on in the Department of Forestry in Polk County. Mr. Totey stated that there is a vacancy on the Forest Land Classification Committee and also has some members that are due to be re-appointed if the Board chooses to accept his recommendation to do so. Mr. Classen told the Board that they have three original members including himself, Brad Withrow-Robison, who is the Extension Forester, and Terry Lamers, who is the Chair of the committee, and Frank Pender was appointed in 2014, who are managing the duties of the committee to ensure nothing falls through the cracks. They currently have one vacancy and the committee is recommending Jacque Dalton, who has expressed willingness to serve if the Board approves the committee member's recommendation. The rest of the members, Chief Hurtle, Mr. Withrow-Robison, Mr. Classen and Mr. Lamers are all due for re-appointment in 2022. Mr. Pender's term is up and if the Board approves they would like them to make that re-appointment at this meeting today. Mr. Classen explained that Mr. Pender has been engaged in the committee since joining and has done a good job and is also willing to continue to serve if they approve it. Mr. Classen asks them to appoint Mr. Dalton at today's meeting if they are comfortable with their recommendation.

BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD ACCEPTED STAFF RECOMMENDATION TO RE-APPOINT FRANK PENDER, AND TO APPOINT JACQUE DALTON TO THE FOREST LAND CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE.

Mr. Totey explained that the purpose of this committee is to evaluate Polk county land specific to wild land fires. This is in order to determine if the Department of Forestry has a fire protection responsibility on the property or not. The next update the committee will be discussing the fire protection district line, which has not been update since the mid 60's. Mr. Totey will be retiring July 1, 2020 and he expects that they will start advertising the position in April.

Mr. Classen said last year was a very light fire year for our area. They had about 12 fire runs, the biggest was approximately one third of an acre. They were however called in for mutual aid to help at a much larger fire. Commissioner Mordhorst expressed interest in going on a tour of the Polk County forest land, which has been something they offer the Commissioners each year. Mr. Totey and Mr. Classen will connect with the Board Assistant to coordinate that when the weather starts getting better. Mr. Totey updated the Board on some possible timber sales in the next year and also stated that Polk County has been a challenge because of the spotted owl and marbled murrelet. They discussed an MOU signed between private land owners and some conservation organizations regarding a statewide habitat conservation plan.

4. **NON-LISTED ITEMS** - (Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners considered the below identified non-listed items.)

- a) **CITIZEN COMMENT** – John Golly asked if the Board has any information on the possible harvest of BLM land in the Gooseneck area. He noticed the roads had been re rocked and wanted to know if they were made aware of and plans they may have. The Board said not they did not have any information on any possible plans, or if there were any.

Commissioner Ainsworth adjourned the meeting at 9:30 am.

Minutes: Ciera Atha
Approved: February 18, 2020