

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES June 2, 2021

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 Mordhorst was present and Commissioner Ainsworth was excused.

Staff present: Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer
Matt Hawkins, Administrative Service Director

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Regular meetings of the Board of Commissioners are held on Tuesday and Wednesday each week. Each meeting is held in the Courthouse Conference Room, 850 Main Street, Dallas, Oregon. Each meeting begins at 9:00 a.m. and is conducted according to a prepared agenda that lists the principle 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. The Board also holds a department staff meeting at 9:00 a.m. on every Monday in the Commissioners Conference Room at 850 Main Street, Dallas, Oregon.

3. COMMENTS

None.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE QUORUM.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

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

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE QUORUM.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING OF MAY 26, 2021

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 26, 2021.

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE QUORUM.

At 9:04 a.m. County Counsel announced that the meeting was recessed to Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660 (d) to conduct deliberation with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations.

The Board returned to regular session at 9:18 a.m. and then recessed until 10:00 a.m.

The Board reconvened at 10:00 a.m. at the Emergency Operations Center located at 820 SW Ash St, Dallas.

7. BOC POSITION #3 INTERVIEWS

Commissioner Pope thanked those in attendance for the interview process for the upcoming vacancy in July. He explained to the candidates that the selection would not take place at this interview, but will be announced at the June 9, 2021 Board of Commissioners meeting at 9:00 a.m. in the Courthouse conference room. Commissioner Pope announced that there will not be any participations by non-finalists and asked attendees not attempt to ask questions or voice their approval and/or disapproval on the answers from the finalists.

Commissioner Pope congratulated the finalists and explained that Commissioner Mordhorst and he will be asking a total of nine (9) questions on a rotational basis so every candidate will have an equal

Ms. Morton stated that the complaint should be directed to the immediate supervisor of whoever the complaint is on. She would follow up by making sure to connect the person with a complaint to the appropriate staff.

Mr. Gordon stated that he agrees with Ms. Morton and believes their role in large part is constituent services. He would listen to the complaint in its entirety and would have an open door policy. He would discuss with the appropriate supervisor and also noted that a lot of complaints that he has encountered as his role as Mayor has been largely resolved by mediation and education.

Mr. Rivera stated that he feels the same as the previous candidates answered and reiterated that the county has department heads that are very knowledgeable and as elected officials they should support and trust them.

Question 5: As a Commissioner, you are just one of three decision makers. How well do you see yourself working in that type of environment where you eventually will be on the short end of a vote amongst your fellow Commissioners?

Mr. Gordon answered that he would be grateful to be in a position to get a vote and would support the decision that was made even if it was not his own. He stated that all you can do is lead the best you can and in the end there are three of them for a reason because that is democracy.

Mr. Rivera replied that he believes that this will not be an issue very often as he has been attending Board meetings for months now and has never seen a split vote amongst them. He believes that if they are all listening to each other and are fully informed that the best decision will be made by all eventually.

Ms. Morton responded that she believes that if there are too many unanimous votes it could be viewed as being "rubber stamped". She doesn't presume that it is the case but does feel it could be viewed that way. She believes that elected officials need to go into any meeting after having educated themselves on the issue at hand thoroughly ahead of time and that democracy goes hand in hand with a healthy debate on the issues.

Question 6: What do you think the duties of a County Commissioner are or should be?

Mr. Rivera replied that the duties of the Commissioner position are to manage the county. He acknowledged that there are so many aspects to managing the county and he will enjoy learning about those challenges first hand. He stated that there are roads, infrastructure, and zoning and so much more. He knows that the staff the Commissioners have in place are very knowledgeable in their specialties and they can trust in their guidance.

Ms. Morton stated that communication, convening, and being engaged in the community are the duties of the Commissioners. She believes it is important to listen to all sides of any matter in order to make a good decision. It is also important to stand by that decision after it has been made.

Mr. Gordon stated that making decisions whether it be administrative, legislative or judicial. It is their job to be community builders and to engage and communicate with the citizens. He also recognized that it is the Commissioners job to make sure the citizens tax dollars are spent wisely and on things that will best benefit the county and the citizens.

Question 7: If you are appointed Commissioner, do you have any one particular issue of one particular agenda that you would like to pursue?

Mr. Gordon stated that no he does not have one but a series such as investing federal dollars wisely. He would like to immerse himself in all things county in order to know what areas need his attention most and foremost. The only thing he knows for sure that is an immediate need is to focus on post pandemic recovery.

- (c) **CONTRACT NO. 21-79 – PUBLIC HEALTH**
Approve Contract No. 21-79, amendment 1 to Contract No. 20-02 with Marion County Health and Human Services to increase funding to offset costs related to Coronavirus outbreak.
- (d) **RATIFY VALID VOUCHERS, LICENSES, PERSONNEL ACTIONS, PAYROLL, ETC., FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2021.**

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Craig Pope, Chair



Mike Ainsworth, Commissioner



Lyle Morandorst, Commissioner