

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
July 13, 2021

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Pope declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session and led the Board and attending audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Mordhorst and Commissioner Ainsworth were present.
2. **MINUTES: COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 6, 2021**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. SHERIFF OFFICE UPDATE

Sheriff Mark Garton informed the Board that the Sheriff office is working on adding an additional Mobile Crisis Response Team out of Salem. That would make 3 teams total. It has been difficult getting recruits to apply but there were 8 recruits who recently passed, one of them being a female. The Doctor in the jail retired but they have already found a replacement who has experience working in a jail setting already. The jail is still required to follow CDC guidelines and wear masks, limit capacity. If they didn't follow the CDC guidelines it would open the county up to fines. They do have to prioritize the arrests because of the limited capacity. Their jail population numbers have increased since the state opened up, but they could hold more if the guidelines were not in place. Sheriff Garton stated that in order to get restrictions lifted there will need to pressure from more than just the Sheriff Association. Commissioner Pope would like this conversation to be a regular occurrence until we all find a pathway to get everything back to normal, including the jail. The inmates were all offered the COVID-19 vaccine but there was very little interest.

DA Aaron Felton, who was in attendance, came forward to share the Sheriff's sentiment and would also like to see arrests and prosecutions back to normal.

4. SOUTH WEST POLK FIRE DISCUSSION

Commissioner Pope explained that Chief Fred Hertel is currently deploy on a wildfire and was not be back in time to attend the Board meeting. Agenda item #4 was rescheduled to next Tuesday.

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

a) LETTER OF SUPPORT REQUEST

Commissioner Pope announced that he received a request from the City of Dallas for a letter of support regarding their application for a Transportation and Growth Management Grant. The Board and Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer, discussed potential impacts on the County if the city forms a taxing district. It will affect the county but the grant would pay for a feasibility study which they need.

BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD APPROVED A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE CITY OF DALLAS'S TGM GRANT APPLICATION.

b) EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Dean Bender, emergency Operations Manager, informed the Board that they replaced an antenna that was damaged in the ice storm earlier this year. They also have to move

the tower that is on top of the Courthouse but the parking lot will have to be closed off when they do. That project will be done Saturday to avoid congestion around the Courthouse. Mr. Bender is also working on getting the Emergency Operations Plan updated.

Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 9:29 a.m.