

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
July 20, 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 was present. Commissioner Ainsworth was excused.
2. **MINUTES:** **COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 13, 2021**

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE QUORUM.

3. DISTRICT ATTORNEY OFFICE UPDATE

Aaron Felton, DA, informed the Board that they currently have 38 felony trials scheduled between now and the end of the calendar year, as well as 12 misdemeanors. Kyle Haney, Deputy DA, who worked primarily on domestic violence cases has accepted an offer from Benton County so the DA's office will be opening a recruitment to fill that position soon. DA Felton said he normally doesn't restrict the positions to certain crimes but there is a unique need and he will be looking for somebody whose focus will be domestic violence cases. Another Deputy DA, Mihnea Moga, was rehired and has a lot of experience prosecuting misdemeanors. Commissioner Pope asked DA Felton if how he felt about the possibility that the BAR exam will no longer be a requirement for Lawyers to practice law after graduating. DA Felton said it is definitely a concern for him but there has not been any discussion about it yet in his meetings with other DA's across the state. Commissioner Pope expressed his concern as well as other Commissioners he has talked to about it and asked that if the top arises that DA Felton express that sentiment on behalf of the Commissioners.

4. POLK COUNTY WATER UPDATE

Joel Plahn, Watermaster for Polk County, gave the Board a brief update on the water shortage in Polk County. Mr. Plahn informed the Board that district 16 was split up and that removed Marion County and some of Linn County from his jurisdiction. Polk County is currently in a moderate to severe drought and flows are 50% of what they normally are. Mr. Plahn plans to start regulating the Luckimute River August 1st. He has been in contact with farmers in the areas to let them know they could be facing possible water shut off later in the summer because of the shortage of rainfall this year. Commissioner Pope expressed his appreciation for the work being done and told Mr. Plahn to let the Board know if there is anything they can do to help him in his efforts.

5. SOUTH WEST POLK FIRE DISCUSSION

Fire Chief Fred Hertel is still deployed on a wildfire and was not able to attend. Commissioner Pope suggests they postpone the conversation until September. The Board agreed.

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

Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.