

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MINUTES October 13, 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 Gordon and Commissioner Mordhorst were present.

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**

Commissioner Gordon recommended they pull the memorandum with Travel Salem off of the consent calendar until the other Board members had a chance to review more closely and to modify the agenda to add on a discussion regarding the selection of an Ambulance Service Area Committee member.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER GORDON MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING OF OCTOBER 6, 2021**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER GORDON MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 6, 2021.**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**6. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR AS MODIFIED**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER GORDON SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS AMENDED.**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**7. LENGTH OF SERVICE**

The following employee(s) were acknowledged for their length of service with the County:

- Josh Herzberg – 15 Years
- Dale Hlavinka – 25 Years

**8. BROADBAND SURVEY UPDATE**

Dean Anderson, IT Special Projects Manager, gave the Board an update on the most recent broadband survey that was sent out to Polk County residents. The survey was an effort to see what kind of progress they have made in regards to improving rural broadband in the county.

There were 5,000 surveys sent out and there was also an option to respond online. The last time there was a 32% response rate and this time there was a 28% response rate. Mr. Anderson felt they got a good response rate and reviewed some data points that they received from the survey responses. Residents are still largely below the speed that the Federal Communications Commission defines as high-speed broadband. Although, they did see improved numbers. Some of the barriers residents named that have kept them from getting access to faster speeds were the cost of the service, the cost of the installation, and some feel there is just nothing better available. Some residents who said they don't have access to broadband, do in fact have access and are unaware that it exists. Mr. Anderson stated that the providers will be given these results and will hopefully do more outreach to connect those members who they can serve that are not currently connected. Mr. Anderson and his team will meet with the internet service providers next week to review the survey results and discuss what to do next to continue expanding high-speed broadband in rural Polk County.

**9. AMBULANCE SERVICE AREA COMMITTEE MEMBER APPOINTMENT**

The Board deliberated on the two ASA candidates that were interviewed at Tuesday's Board meeting. Candice Strickland, independence resident, and Carter Rickert, Dallas resident.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER GORDON MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST SECONDED, TO APPOINT CARTER RICKERT TO THE AMBULANCE SERVICE AREA ADVISORY BOARD.**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**10. ADD-ONS**

(a) Commissioner Pope stated that he would like to also add on a discussion regarding a letter drafted for the West Valley Fire District Board of Directors. Commissioner Pope and Commissioner Starrett of Yamhill County, drafted a letter to the WVFD regarding services in their ambulance service area. If the Board approved the letter, Commissioner Starrett will also run it by the Yamhill County Commissioners as a joint county letter to the district.

**BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD APPROVED MOVING FORWARD WITH THE LETTER AS PROPOSED.**

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

- (a) **BOPTA APPOINTMENTS – CLERKS OFFICE**  
Appoint Susan Thompson and Timothy English to the Board of Property Tax Appeals.
- (b) **CONTRACT NO. 21-181 – BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**  
Approve Contract No. 21-181 with the Oregon Health Authority for payment for SE28 Residential Care invoiced services.
- (c) **CONTRACT NO. 21-183 – SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
Approve Contract No. 21-183 with the Willamette Humane Society to board dogs impounded by Polk County Dog Control.
- (d) **CONTRACT NO. 21-185 – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
This item was removed from the consent calendar.

- (e) **CONTRACT NO. 21-186 – PUBLIC HEALTH**  
Approve Contract No. 21-186 with the State of Oregon acting by and through its Department of Revenue for Tobacco Licensing and Fee Collection agreement.

Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Not available for signature  
Craig Pope, Chair

Lyle Mordhorst  
Lyle Mordhorst, Commissioner

Jeremy Gordon  
Jeremy Gordon, Commissioner