

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 18, 2022**

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Mordhorst 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 Pope and Commissioner Gordon were present.

**2. MINUTES:**      **COMMISSIONER GORDON MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE  
SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 11, 2022**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. COVID UPDATE:**

Jacqui Umstead, Public Health Administrator, provided her report to the Commissioners to the current status of Covid-19 throughout Polk County and the State for both number of vaccinations and positive cases.

**4. DISTRICT ATTORNEY UPDATE:**

Aaron Felton, District Attorney, provided an update on Senate Bill 751 and addressed a discovery fee issue. However, Mr. Felton stated it didn't have much of an effect to Polk County. Another topic Mr. Felton wanted to address was unanimous jury verdicts and his organization came out in favor of unanimous juries but not retroactively. Also, Mr. Felton addressed that staffing issues that Criminal Justice is having as a whole.

**5. BROADBAND PROPOSAL UPDATE:**

Dean Anderson, IT Special Projects Manager, gave his recommendations on grant proposals for NW Dallas, SW Dallas, & Clow Corner/Rickreall. Mr. Anderson stated that the fiscal impact would be \$2 million and impact over 1000 rural Polk County residents. Commissioner Pope stated that he is really excited to connect that number of homes. Mr. Anderson and Greg Hansen (Administrative Officer) discussed the funding details.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE  
SECONDED TO APPROVE THE BROADBAND PROPOSAL.**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**6. PRIVATE FAMILY BURIAL GROUNDS**

Austin McGuigan (Community Development Director) and Sidney Mulder (Community Development Planning Manager) provided a brief summary on private family burials and how they are regulated through State Law, Oregon Statute, and the Cemetery and Mortuary Board. Mr. McGuigan stated there was a bill that passed that allows the composting of human remains. This bill goes into effect July 1 2022. At this time, it is unclear where that event would occur and whether or not it is in a facility, much like cremation. Staff recommended to continue with our status quo and if we see that there are potential issues, we can address it at a later time.

**BOARD AGREES UNANIMOUSLY TO MAKE NO CHANGES AND REVISIT THIS  
TOPIC AT A FUTURE TIME.**

**7. CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER UPDATE:**

Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer, went over a proposal that he is submitting to AOC and the DOJ requesting planning funds (\$450,000) to develop a Criminal Justice Center across the street. This would be the initial step in process to construct the facility.

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

Morgan Smith, County Counsel, recommends that we sell a piece of property that Polk County acquired through tax foreclosure to the City of Dallas. It is bare land and zoned for commercial use.

**BY CONSENSUS THE BOARD APPROVES THE SALE OF THAT PROPERTY TO THE CITY OF DALLAS.**

Mr. Smith recommends that Greg Hansen enter into a deferral agreement that specifically relates to the improvement of Riddel Rd that would take it from county standards to city standards due to an apartment complex being developed. Mr. Smith stated that the staff has created an agreement to defer those improvements until further into the development, provided that they provide Polk County with a bond that will cover and guarantee the performance of those improvements.

**BY CONSENSUS THE BOARD APPROVES ENTERING INTO THAT AGREEMENT.**

Mr. Smith also recommends to dispossess a piece of property that was acquired through tax foreclosure. The next of kin for the previous owner has been identified and would like to purchase the property back. Commissioner Pope stated that he would prefer that we don't carry a contract. Commissioner Mordhorst seconded that.

**BY CONSENSUS THE BOARD APPROVES THE SALE OF THE PROPERTY.**

Commissioner Mordhorst adjourned the meeting at 10:09 a.m.

Minutes: Nicole Pineda  
Approved: January 25, 2022