

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
September 13, 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 September 6, 2022**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL FUNDING:

Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer, stated that each of the Commissioners received an email requesting donations from local counties for a Vietnam War Memorial Fund. Mr. Hansen is asking what amount the Board of Commissioners would like to donate. Commissioner Pope stated that he would like to donate \$10000.00.

**COMMISSIONER POPE MOVED TO DONATE \$10,000.00, COMMISSIONER GORDON
SECONDED TO DONATE \$10,000.00 TO THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL WAR FUND**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4: ANDANTE VINEYARDS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Karen Saul, Owner of Andante Vineyards, shared a power point presentation that went over the background history of their vineyard and what their plans are for Andante Vineyard. Mrs. Saul also talked about the wines that they are currently offering from their vineyard. Mrs. Saul talked about their current staffing levels and what they are planning to add as they continue to grow. She shared that they offer health insurance for their employees who work at least 35 hours, they offer a 401k plan, and their lowest paid wage is currently at \$15.00. Andante Vineyards is also working with Willamette Workforce who is helping them apply for grants to hire students who are interested in working in that field. Karen Saul is requesting \$30,000.00 from the Economic Development Funds in order to expand their business. Commissioner Pope asked how are the gravel roads impacting her business and what do the customers have to say about it. Mrs. Saul stated that the customers don't mind it, but they say that they are careful about which cars they drive to the vineyard. Commissioner Pope asked who the inspections are completed by. Mrs. Saul stated inspections are completed by the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Commissioner Pope asked if they are planning to host special events or weddings. Mrs. Saul stated that no, they do not want to be a wedding venue and they would only look into hosting small musical events. Commissioner Pope asked what the benefit to the public is for them using the public money for their enterprise. Mrs. Saul stated that she believes they are improving the overall attractiveness to Polk County as well as increasing their staff which is creating jobs in Polk County. Alex Paraskevas stated that the reason he is here today is because he wanted to highlight and speak to everything that Andante Vineyards is bringing to Polk County agri-tourism and that they are leading the way in this industry. Commissioner Gordon asked what her end goal date of her patio completion is. Mrs. Saul stated it was last summer but due to supply chain issues, they are behind. The

Commissioners thanked them for their presentation and their time and stated that we would be in touch soon.

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

None.

Commissioner Mordhorst adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

Minutes: Nicole Pineda
Approved: September 20, 2022