

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
October 4, 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 27, 2022**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3: PUBLIC SAFETY OPERATING LEVY:

Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer, presented a packet to the Board that went over details of the Public Safety Operating Levy. Mr. Hansen stated that the Levy reauthorization will need to be ready for Public Hearing on February 15, 2023, followed by Board Order approval on February 22, 2023. Next it needs to be delivered to the County Clerk by February 25, 2023 for public review and then be filed by the County Clerk on March 16, 2023 for the Elections on May 16, 2023. Commissioner Gordon stated that the conservative assessed value growth option would be more appropriate. Commissioner Mordhorst asked if the Sheriff or the District Attorney would like to make a statement. Sheriff Garton stated that this is something that they need to talk more about. Commissioner Gordon asked if 14 deputy's means fully staffed in the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Garton stated that they would rather be more proactive than reactive when it comes to staffing. DA Aaron Felton stated that the District Attorney's Office agrees with the Sheriff and is in the same place that they are in. DA Felton stated that there is a delicate balance that needs to happen now and reductions would have an immediate impact to the jobs that they need to do. Mr. Hansen stated that for clarification, in the options that he has given to the Board, the only office looking at a reduction would be the Sheriff's Office of one FTE. Captain Isham stated that the world we live in is different than it was several years ago. There are more bodies needed to deal with the complexity of current cases. The Sheriff's Office would like to have a dedicated FTE for highway traffic control. Commissioner Gordon asked if they thought that fully staffed would be closer to 16 FTE. Captain Isham stated yes ideally. Commissioner Pope asked if the 2 deputies that have been moved from patrol to MCRT will have to go back to patrol due to behavioral health laws that are changing. Sheriff Garton stated that he has not heard that. Mr. Hansen gave some history going back to the 2015 Public Safety Levy. DA Felton talked about his staffing levels and what is needed in his office in today's world in order for his staff to be effective.

4. 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 9:43 a.m.