

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
October 11, 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 October 4, 2022**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3: DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

Sheriff Mark Garton provided an update for the Sheriff's Office to the Board of Commissioners. Sheriff Garton stated for the record that the Public Safety Levy is on its way to be on the ballot in May 2023 and that there will need to be a slight increase in order to maintain staffing for the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Garton stated that the workload for dog control has increased which is why they are hiring a part time dog control position. Next he talked about the workload in the jail and that they are having some burnout from the deputies and the staff in the jail. Sheriff Garton stated that they have been working with Behavioral Health to apply for a grant and do some renovation in the jail to offer more intensive treatment for mental health. Sheriff Garton stated that they are currently down 2 FTE for patrol. Next the Sheriff talked about a big project and that they are replacing the security cameras in the jail. He is thankful for that work being done which will help better protect the jail staff. Sheriff Garton discussed their year over year stats and what changes he is noticing. Commissioner Pope asked what the stats were for the traffic stops on highway control. Sheriff Garton stated that for the calendar year 2021 there were 4400 stops and so far for 2022 they are at 3400 which puts us on track for similar numbers. What the sheriff and staff are noticing is there is a behavior change on the highway and people are driving much faster on the highways. Commissioner Mordhorst stated that OSP only has 2 officers on duty at a time and they have to cover Marion County, Polk County, and Yamhill County. He also commended the Sheriff for all of his hard work and the hard work of their staff. Commissioner Gordon thanked the Sheriff for working with Behavioral Health to find solutions to help those in need. Commissioner Mordhorst thanked the Sheriff for his stance on Measure 114.

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

Mandy Straus, wanted to follow up with the Commissioners about the BOC meeting on August 23, 2022 and the comments she made for items not listed on the agenda. Mrs. Straus wanted to share some concerns that she has with the Sheriff's Advisory Board. She wanted to state for the record that what was said about her talking to several people were not accurate, that she has only tried to speak with Micky Garus. Mrs. Straus asked if Commissioner Mordhorst if he had any updates that he could share with her about the Sheriff Advisory Team. Commissioner Mordhorst stated that he only knows that they will be meeting soon to discuss the Public Safety Levy. Mrs. Straus shared what she has learned about her research from looking into what that board does. Mrs. Straus doesn't understand why it is so secretive. Commissioner Gordon stated that he knows someone on the SAB and he could reach out to her to see if she would be willing to speak with Mrs. Straus. Mrs. Straus stated again that she doesn't understand why she, a member of the community, can't address them and share her concerns within the committee. She wants more transparency. Mrs. Straus asked if Morgan Smith, County Counsel) could comment on the Sheriff Advisory Team and he said no. Mrs. Straus asked about the payment being made to Liberty House monthly from Polk County. Matt Hawkins, Admin Services Director, stated that it is for services that they provide for

Polk County Residents. Commissioner Pope stated that if she has an issue with Liberty House, that she needs to talk with Liberty House, not the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Gordon stated that the Sheriff is an elected official and Mrs. Straus stated that he answers to no one except the people. Commissioner Gordon stated the Sheriff Advisory Board can be used at the discretion of the Sheriff.

Commissioner Mordhorst adjourned the meeting at 9:44 a.m.

Minutes: Nicole Pineda
Approved: October 18, 2022