

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
October 25, 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 18, 2022**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE BOARD.

3: DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

Aaron Felton, Polk County District Attorney, provided an update for his department to the Board of Commissioners. DA Felton discussed his current staffing levels and stated that both of their deputy district attorneys have passed the bar. DA Felton then gave a breakdown of which cases they are currently working on. Next DA Felton stated that he wanted to give credit that is due to both the Sheriff's Office and the Cold Case Team for finding a break in a domestic violence cold case and helping bring justice to the victim. Commissioner Gordon stated that he really appreciates the work that the DA has been doing to help and focus on public safety, specifically for homeless prevention and supporting those who are victims of domestic violence. Commissioner Pope asked for more details on their staffing levels. DA Felton stated that they are down one victim's advocate position and that they completed interviews last week. Commissioner Mordhorst asked what staffing does the DA's Office need in order to meet the needs of the County. DA Felton stated he would need 2 to 3 more Deputy District Attorneys and support staff.

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

Commissioner Pope brought to the attention of the Board and staff a letter that was sent from Commissioner David Yamamoto from Tillamook County and is asking for support in sending to our State Representatives in regards delaying implementation of the NOAA-NMFS Biological Opinion now part of the National Flood Insurance Program in the State of Oregon (Oregon NFIP BiOp or BiOp) (NWR-2011-3197). This Oregon BiOp concludes that FEMA's implementation of the NFIP in Oregon is causing jeopardy to numerous ESA-listed fish species and/or the destruction or adverse modification to their designated critical habitat in Oregon.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE BOARD.

Madeline Straus wanted to address the Board and staff in regards to October being National Dating and Domestic Violence Month and stated that she is a victim and survivor herself. Ms. Straus stated that her mother, Mandy Straus, has been her advocate for her and that she feels that the Sheriff's Office was very unprofessional towards her mother. Ms. Straus stated that just being believed and heard is something that can help a victim. She stated that she has not been believed and that she and her mother have been laughed at. Ms. Straus stated that DA Felton cannot do his job properly if he doesn't received the correct information from the Sheriff's Office and that is what has happened with her case.

Commissioner Gordon stated that he was appointed to the NACo steering committee and that there is a conference happening in February and is wondering how the other Commissioners feel about him attending that meeting. Commissioner Pope stated that he agrees that Commissioner Gordon attends this meeting. Commissioner Mordhorst also supports this.

DA Felton wanted to make an amendment to his update and correctly answer a question that was asked of him. He stated that he has 7 attorneys in his office and a law clerk.

Commissioner Mordhorst adjourned the meeting at 9:33 a.m.

Minutes: Nicole Pineda
Approved: November 1, 2022