

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MINUTES February 8, 2023**

**1. CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE**

At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Gordon declared the meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners to be in session. Commissioner Pope and Commissioner Mordhorst were present.

Staff present: Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer  
Morgan Smith, County Counsel  
Matt Hawkins, Administrative Services Director

**2. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Regular meetings of the Board of Commissioners are held on Tuesday and Wednesday each week. Each meeting is held in the Courthouse Conference Room, 850 Main Street, Dallas, Oregon. Each meeting begins at 9:00 a.m. and is conducted according to a prepared agenda that lists the principle subjects anticipated to be considered. Pursuant to ORS 192.640, The Board may consider and take action on subjects that are not listed on the agenda. The Board also holds a department staff meeting at 9:00 a.m. on every Monday in the Commissioners Conference Room at 850 Main Street, Dallas, Oregon.

**3. COMMENTS**

None.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.**

**MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.**

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING OF February 1, 2023**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER POPE MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF February 1, 2023.**

**MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.**

**6. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR.**

**MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.**

**7. RECLASSIFICATION OF AN EMPLOYEE**

Matt Hawkins, Admin Services Director, is recommending that the Board of Commissioners approve the reclassification of an employee from an Engineer Survey Tech II to an Engineer Survey Tech III. Should the reclassification be approved, it would be effective February 1, 2023 and would have a fiscal impact for the FY 22-23 budget of approximately \$3500.00 including PERs contribution should it be for 12 months.

**MOTION PASSED BY CONSENSUS OF THE BOARD.**

**8. PUBLIC HEARING – CONSIDERATION OF A BALLOT MEASURE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY**

Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer, went over a Memorandum that was given to the

Commissioners and staff. Mr. Hansen is recommending that the Commissioners consider the following:

1. To place a Local Option Tax (operating levy) measure on the ballot for the May 16, 2023, general election to re-authorize the 2019 public safety levy in Polk County.
2. A local option tax (operating levy) in an amount not to exceed \$0.495/\$1,000 assessed value for the duration of five (5) years.
3. As part of the measure, the County would eliminate the final year of the 2019 voter approved public safety operating levy.

Mr. Hansen provided some background information and went over the timetable for the operating levy re-authorization. Commissioner Pope asked what date does the Board need to make a decision. Mr. Hansen stated preferably today, but no later than next week. Commissioner Gordon opened the public hearing to public comment at 9:10 am.

Ted Campbell provided public testimony that he supports the re-authorization of the public safety levy.

The following items were approved by Motion under **5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- a) Polk County Contract No. 23-13, Oregon Health Authority  
(Rosana Warren, Behavioral health)
- b) Polk County Contract No. 23-18, Oregon Health Authority  
(Rosana Warren, Behavioral Health)

At 9:12 a.m. County Counsel announced that the meeting was recessed to Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2) (e) To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions. (h) To consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed. The Executive Session ended at 9:20 a.m and Commissioner Gordon recessed the meeting until 6 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING (CONTINUANCE) – CONSIDERATION OF A BALLOT MEASURE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Commissioner Gordon called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer, provided a recap of the morning meeting and some background information. Commissioner Gordon opened the meeting up at 6:07 p.m. for public comment.

Mandy Straus wanted to ask the Board and staff questions about the sheriff's budget. Mr. Hansen answered her questions.

Public comment closed at 6:20.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER POPE MOVED TO DIRECT STAFF TO DRAFT AN ORDER RE-AUTHORIZING THE PUBLIC SAFETY LEVY, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST SECONDED, TO DIRECT STAFF TO DRAFT AN ORDER RE-AUTHORIZING THE PUBLIC SAFETY LEVY.**

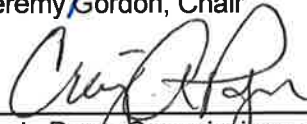
**MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.**

Commissioner Gordon adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**



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Jeremy Gordon, Chair



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Craig Pope, Commissioner



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Lyle Mordhorst, Commissioner

Minutes: Nicole Pineda  
Approved: February 8, 2023