

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 14, 2023**

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Gordon 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 Mordhorst were present.

**2. COMMENTS (for items not on this agenda):**

Mandy Straus wanted to address the Board and read a speech that she had prepared. Mrs. Straus shared her personal experience with both departments and explained what happened to her daughter. Mrs. Straus stated that she has not felt heard or seen by the Polk County Sheriff's Office and the Polk County District Attorney's Office and it has now been 18 months since they first reported the incident that happened to her daughter.

**3. MINUTES:**      **COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE  
SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF March 7, 2023**

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

**4. SHERIFF UPDATE:**

Mark Garton, Polk County Sheriff, provided an update for his department to the Board of Commissioners. Sheriff Garton provided a handout that went over a Year End Review for 2022 and went over some of the information in the handout. Commissioner Gordon asked about some of the data that was provided and Sheriff Garton answered his question. Commissioner Pope asked about the nature of the cases that have doubled. Sheriff Garton stated that they have been responding to more traffic crashes on the highways and in the safety corridor. Commissioner Mordhorst asked the Sheriff to talk about their community engagement which was in the report. Sheriff Garton shared those highlighted community events. Commissioner Pope asked what the status of the Citizen Advisory Committee is. Sheriff Garton stated they met recently to create a new mission statement and explained why they are not in this report. Sheriff Garton talked about their plan over the next few weeks to speak about the Public Safety Levy Reauthorization. Commissioner Mordhorst asked about the current staffing levels and the Sheriff stated they are currently down 5 positions.

**5. ATTORNEY GENERAL 2024 CANDIDATE:**

Will Lathrop, 2024 Attorney General Candidate, introduced himself to the Board and then explained why they wanted to attend a Polk County Board of Commissioner's meeting. Mr. Lathrop shared some of his personal background information and his career background.

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

None.

Commissioner Gordon adjourned the meeting at 9:43 a.m.