

**TUESDAY WORK SESSION AGENDA**  
**March 28, 2023**  
**Courthouse Conference Room**

THE LOCATION OF THIS MEETING IS ADA ACCESSIBLE. PLEASE ADVISE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS (503-623-8173) AT LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE IF YOU NEED SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS TO ATTEND OR TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING VIRTUALLY.

**Approximate Time**

**AGENDA**

- |           |  |
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| 9:00 a.m. | 1. CALL TO ORDER – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE                                  |
|           | 2. COMMENTS (for items not on this agenda)                               |
|           | 3. APPROVE MINUTES OF March 14, 2023                                     |
|           | 4. CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION PROCLAMATION – Abby Warren & Stephanie Gilbert |
|           | 5. DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S OFFICE UPDATE – Aaron Felton                      |
|           | 6. NON-LISTED ITEMS (Pursuant to ORS 192.640)                            |

Regular meetings of the Board of Commissioners are held on Tuesday and Wednesday each week. The meetings are held in the Board of Commissioners’ 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 principal subjects anticipated to be considered. Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners 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, Oregon.

A public meeting of the Budget Committee for Polk County will be held in the Main Conference Room, Polk County Courthouse, 9:00 a.m., on Tuesday, April 4, 2023. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the budget for fiscal year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 and to receive the budget message and document. The public meeting will continue on Wednesday, April 5, 2023. Additional time is reserved for public comment at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 5, 2023. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after April 1, 2023 at the Board of Commissioners’ Office, Polk County Courthouse, during regular business hours. This is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Any person may appear at the meeting and discuss the proposed budget with the Budget Committee. Please advise the Board of Commissioners (503-623-9237) at least 24 hours in advance if you need special accommodations to attend or participate in the meeting virtually.

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**APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS**

The Board sets aside a time at each regular meeting for comment by the public on subjects not appearing on the Agenda. Individuals may come forward and make any statement they wish, but not to exceed three (3) minutes in length, except as is required to give concise answers to questions from Board members. If the subject will require a lengthier presentation, or merits inclusion as an item on the Agenda of a future meeting, the Board shall schedule it accordingly.

**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.

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR  
POLK COUNTY, OREGON**

In the Matter of Proclaiming                    )  
The Month of April, 2023                        )  
As Child Abuse Prevention Month            )

**PROCLAMATION NO. 23-02**

**WHEREAS**, Oregon’s future prosperity depends on nurturing the health and development of over 1 million children currently living, growing and learning within our many diverse communities; and

**WHEREAS**, research shows that safe and nurturing relationships and engaging and stable environments improve brain development and child well-being, while neglectful or abusive experiences and unstable or stressful environments increase the odds of poor childhood outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, the abuse and neglect of children can cause severe, costly and lifelong problems affecting all of society, including physical and mental health problems, school failure and criminal behavior; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals, businesses, schools, and faith-based and community organizations must make children a top priority and take action to support the physical, social, emotional and educational development and competency of all children; and

**WHEREAS**, during the month of April, Polk County along with community partners will be engaging families in a coordinated effort to prevent child abuse and neglect by promoting awareness of healthy child development, positive parenting practices and concrete support families need within their communities through a month of play and family friendly activities,

**NOW THEREFORE, THE POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DO HEREBY PROCLAIM** the month of April 2023 as ***CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH*** and urge all residents to engage in activities whose purpose is to strengthen families and communities to provide the optimal environment for healthy child development.

Dated this day of March 28th 2023, at Dallas, Oregon.

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Jeremy Gordon, Chair

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Lyle Mordhorst, Commissioner

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Craig Pope, Commissioner