

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
January 9, 2024

1. At 9:03 a.m., Commissioner Pope 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 Gordon and Commissioner Mordhorst were present.

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

Commissioner Pope talked about the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) Legislative Steering Committee meeting that he was apart of yesterday and wanted to talk more about what items he has weighed in on. Commissioner Pope wanted to state that there are some items that he feels they need to keep an eye on as they come into the 35-day short session. Commissioner Pope is asking the public to pay attention and to contact their local representatives, specifically on taxation, to voice any concerns that they might have. Commissioner Gordon stated that that they should consider preparing a letter from the Board that voices their concerns, especially on the wildfire bill that would be coming. Commissioner Mordhorst also talked about what he had concerns about and Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer, also weighed in his opinion and agreed with Commissioner Mordhorst. Commissioner Gordon talked more about a bill that could bring funding of approx. \$16 million towards Community Corrections and another bill that would reduce the retirement age of law enforcement to 55 from 60 and not require the 25 years. Commissioner Gordon stated he would approve of something like that with an amendment that income tax is increased so it doesn't fall onto the responsibility of the general fund. Next the Commissioners talked about the revenue challenges with PERS retirement funds and Mr. Hansen provided his input on what will happen if they reduce the retirement age and what he is now seeing when people retire and then decide to contract back.

3. MINUTES: **COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER GORDON
SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF December 26, 2023**

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.

4. RECLASSIFICATION OF AN EMPLOYEE:

Matt Hawkins, Admin Services Director, is recommending the reclassification of a Health Services Admin Specialist I to a Health Services Specialist II. Should the reclassification be approved, it would be effective January 1, 2024 with an approximate impact to the FY23-24 budget of \$3600 including PERS contribution should it be for 12 months.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS OF THE BOARD.

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

Commissioner Pope talked about future agenda items and making sure that they send more topics over to the Board's Executive Assistant, Nicole, that way we don't have item less agendas. Next, Commissioner Pope thanked Matt Hawkins for making sure today's agenda had an item and then he asked Mr. Hawkins to give the Board an update on the new Family & Community Outreach (FCO) building. Mr. Hawkins, provided an update on the new FCO building and then he stated that Buena Vista Park was completed a few months ago. Mr. Hawkins also stated that he plans to show them renderings of the BH/Crisis Building addition that is being added onto the Academy Building. Mr. Hansen talked about building projects on the AOC level and stated that every two years there

is an AOC committee that meets and puts together a list of counties to partner with for projects for courthouse replacement, improvements and planning of projects. He stated that we are in the planning stages of those elements and that we submitted an application two years ago but were not selected last time. Mr. Hansen is working with Mr. Hawkins to submit another letter for Polk County to be considered. Mr. Hansen then explained the process and next steps. Commissioner Mordhorst asked for an update on the Crook County Lawsuit and Mr. Hansen stated that he does not know where they are at with the lawsuit but he did provide some background information on it.

Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 9:38 a.m.

Minutes: Nicole Pineda
Approved: January 16, 2024