

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
February 20, 2024

1. At 9:00 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):

Joann Crosby provided public comment to the Board in regards to a problem they have between Firehall Rd and Andy Riggs Road. Mrs. Crosby stated that she has brought in photos to submit to the Board to show them a RV that has been there for months and her photos show the damage that is being done. Mrs. Crosby stated that because there are no No Parking signs out on that road, the Sheriff's Office cannot remove the vehicle. Commissioner Gordon asked about any County Ordinances that would help remove the vehicle and Morgan Smith, County Counsel, answered him. Mrs. Crosby gave her photos to Nicole Pineda, Executive Assistant to the Board.

Sue Bateman provided public comment in regards to this RV that has been left on the road and she stated that she has seen the black water being run into a local creek. Mrs. Bateman wanted to reiterate the need for putting some No Parking signs out on the road. Commissioner Pope thanked them for coming forward and making these comments on the record and stated that he believes they are entitled to have a neighborhood that isn't belated by this type of thing. Mrs. Crosby asked if they need to take this to the legislator next and if there is anything that they can help with to please let them know.

3. MINUTES: **COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER GORDON
SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF February 6, 2024
COMMISSIONER POPE ABSTAINED BECAUSE HE WAS ABSENT THAT DAY.**

MOTION PASSED BY VOTE OF THE QUORUM.

4. PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE:

Naomi Biggs, Health Services Division Manager, provide an update to the Board for the Public Health. Ms. Biggs provided a handout to the Board that highlighted the Public Health Modernization Plan, CHA/CHIP (a Marion/Polk Collaborative), Polk County Public Health Strategic Plan for 2024-2027, Modernization (PE-51), Covid-19 Funding (PW 01-10) and some funding allocation. Ms. Biggs also went over from program updates, staffing successes and staffing concerns. Commissioner Mordhorst asked about the Baby's First & Cocoon Program and if they are working with Family & Community Outreach Department and Mrs. Briggs answered his question. Commissioner Gordon asked about the WIC Program and stated that there is a million-dollar shortfall and wanted to know if there was any communication happening in regards to those budget cuts. Mrs. Briggs stated that she has not received any communication about that yet. Commissioner Pope wanted to talk about the challenges with staffing in the Polk County Jail with nurses and Mrs. Briggs answered his question. Commissioner Mordhorst asked about the wages that that position pays and if that is a reason it is hard to retain staff in the jail. Mrs. Briggs stated that yes that wage could be a factor in retention but that also working the jail is a different kind of environment to work in and they need to work on hiring the right type of person to work in that environment. Matt Hawkins, Admin Services Director, wanted to state that since the new Nurse Manager has been employed has done a great job in recruitment since working at the jail and that Michael deserves a lot of credit.

5. AOCC LETTER OF SUPPORT:

Commissioner Pope stated that he would like the support of the other two Commissioners in regards to sending a letter of support for the Association of O & C Counties (AOCC) to Barry Bushue, Bureau of Land Management State Director. Commissioner Pope provided a backstory on what this letter is supporting. Commissioner Mordhorst asked if he would explain what the AOCC is for the record and Commissioner Pope answered his question.

**COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER GORDON
SECONDED TO SIGN THE LETTER**

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.

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

None.

Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Minutes: Nicole Pineda
Approved: February 27, 2024