

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES June 5, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE

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

A public meeting of the Budget Committee for Polk Extension Service District will be held in the Main Conference Room of the County Courthouse at 11:00 a.m., on Wednesday, May 8, 2024. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the budget for fiscal year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 and to receive the budget message and document. Time is reserved for public comment at 11:15 a.m. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after May 3, 2024, 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.

The Homeless Prevention Advisory Council (AKA P.A.T.H.S) will be meeting on May 8, 2024 from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm located at 1407 Monmouth Independence Hwy, Monmouth OR 97361.

3. COMMENTS

None.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF May 29, 2024

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF May 29, 2024.
COMMISSIONER GORDON ABSTAINED DUE TO BEING ABSENT THAT DAY.

MOTION PASSED BY VOTE OF THE QUORUM.

6. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

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

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.

7. VSO UPDATE

Eric Enderle, Nikki Rak & Andrew Webster, Polk County Veteran Services Office, provided a department update to the Board and staff. Their update went over data and statistics for their office stating they have filed 818 claims, 56% of claims decided within 1 year and over \$24 million in total active monthly payments for Polk County veterans. Commissioner Pope asked Mr. Enderle to give an example of the timeline for a claim and Mr. Enderle answered him. Mr. Enderle shared some more data that shows more information on their client demographic. Mr. Enderle spoke about Gale's Lodge and how Mr. Webster has been moved to a full-time connector in their office. Commissioner Pope asked if the VSO is still seeing a flow of new faces and if any of them are from the Vietnam era and staff stated yes. Commissioner Pope asked why do they think some of these older veterans have waited so long to seek assistance and Mr. Webster answered his question. Commissioner Mordhorst asked a follow up question so a conversation that he and Mr. Enderle had a few months ago and Mr. Enderle answered his question. Commissioner Mordhorst asked how they assist the veterans who need assistance getting to their appointments and Mr. Enderle answered his question. Commissioner Gordon asked a question about the PackDeck and with the increased funding and if they have increased eligibility and Mr. Enderle said no and explained his answer. Mr. Webster stated that he wanted to give Mr. Enderle and Ms. Rak credit for always going above and beyond with their veteran clients. Commissioner Pope asked how do they rank themselves with other veteran service offices and Mr. Enderle answered his question. Mr. Enderle spoke about the structure of Marion County VSO versus Polk County's VSO. Ms. Rak spoke about the growing female veteran population and the impact her role has in their office. Commissioner Mordhorst shared the praise he has received from veterans about Polk County's veteran services office.

8. THE WALL THAT HEALS

Brent DeMoe, Family and Community Outreach Director and Billy Whisenant, American Legion Post 33 wanted to talk to the Board about the VSO. Mr. Whisenant wanted to state for the record that Vietnam veterans have had to fight for benefits but that Eric, Nikki and Andrew fight for their clients. Mr. Whisenant shared a recent story about his experience with the Polk County VSO. Mr. DeMoe shared his history with Mr. Whisenant over the last several years. Mr. DeMoe stated that he and Mr. Whisenant has a goal to bring the Wall that Heals to Polk County and at some point, they would like a letter of support from the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Whisenant gave background information about the Wall that Heals and how they just submitted an application asking Polk County to be able to host the wall. Mr. Whisenant explained why this is so important to him. Mr. DeMoe spoke about where the ideal location would be to host the wall in the 2025 que, if we are chosen. Mr. Whisenant spoke about the estimated site fees to host the wall and he spoke about the fundraising that would be needed. Commissioner Mordhorst asked about the size of the wall and Mr. Whisenant answered his question. The Board supports writing and sending a letter of support for their application. Commissioner Pope stated that Polk County should have funds to help support this and is asking that they keep the Board informed on their application status.

9. RECLASSIFICATION OF AN EMPLOYEE

Matt Hawkins, Admin Services Director, is recommending the reclassification of a Heavy Equipment Operator to a Lad Heavy Equipment Operator. Should the reclassification be approved, it would be affective June 1, 2024 with an approximate fiscal impact of \$5000 including PERS contributions should it be for 12 months.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS OF THE BOARD.

10. SECOND READING OF POLK COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 24-04

Morgan Smith, County Counsel, stated that this was the second reading of Ordinance No. 24-04 and that the first reading occurred 14 days ago on 5/22/2024. Mr. Smith read aloud the ordinance into the record.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER GORDON MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST SECONDED, TO APPROVE & SIGN ORDINANCE NO. 24-04.

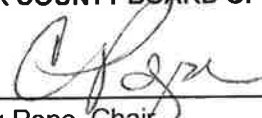
MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.

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

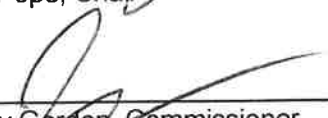
- a) Polk County Contract No. 24-81, Service Contract
(Rosana Warren, Behavioral Health)
- b) New Job Specification & Wage, Correctional Medical Technician
(Matt Hawkins, Admin Services Director)
- c) Polk County Contract No. 24-84, Tillamook County
(Dean Anderson, Information Services)

There no need for an executive session and Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 9:59 a.m.


POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Craig Pope, Chair



Jeremy Gordon, Commissioner



Lyle Mordhorst, Commissioner