

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
June 11, 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):

None.

3. MINUTES: **COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER GORDON
SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF June 4, 2024**

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.

4. CHILD CARE DATA/TRENDS FOR POLK COUNTY

Brent DeMoe, Family and Community Outreach Director, along with Jenna Sanders & Lucy Escobar, came before the Board to share some data about the Polk County Child Care program that was implemented in 2020. Mr. DeMoe's snapshot showcased information about program types, the Polk County grant program, maximum licensed capacity, desired capacity, age groups and if it is working for working families. Mr. DeMoe stated that the Dallas Retirement Center is going to be opening up a child care facility for their employees. Commissioner Pope asked a question about the 2020 numbers and if we needed to look at 2019 numbers due to the pandemic and Mr. DeMoe answered his question. Ms. Escobar spoke about who they are currently working with and what their vision is with education in early childhood and child care for working families. Ms. Escobar talked about the number of educators they are currently working with in Polk County. Ms. Sanders spoke about how they have been working with the City of Independence to gain funding for a cohort and talked about that cohort model. Ms. Sanders stated they would love a letter of support from the Board that they can send in with that grant application. Commissioner Mordhorst stated that this all sounds great and supports what they are doing. Commissioner Gordon asked about the certifications and license requirements for these child care facilities and centers and asked how they are monitored. Ms. Sanders answered his question. Commissioner Pope asked about their relationship with Willamette Workforce Partnership and Ms. Sanders answered his question. Commissioner Pope asked if they have ever presented to the WWF Board of Directors and Ms. Sanders stated no. Commissioner Pope asked them to please do so and asked Mr. DeMoe to assist her to get in front of them and said they are welcome to use his name. Commissioner Gordon asked when they want to get the letter of support and Ms. Escobar answered his question. Commissioner Gordon stated that he is also in support of this. Ms. Escobar stated that they have been conducting surveys in the communities and that she would be happy to share those responses with the Commissioners.

5. POLK COUNTY BUSINESS COHORT IDEA

This item was combined with the above agenda item.

6. NWREC FUNDING REQUEST

Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer, stated that the Board has received a letter from the North Willamette Research and Extension Center (NWREC) requesting additional funds. Mr. Hansen provided an explanation of what NWREC is and why they are important to the county. Mr. Hansen stated that they are requesting an 85% increase from \$12k to \$22.2k and that this money would come from the Economic Development Fund and that we do have the funds to support this. Commissioner Gordon stated that he is a little hesitant on giving them the full amount that they are requesting. Commissioner Mordhorst agrees and is wondering why they haven't asked for an increase sooner. Mr. Hansen stated that they have probably felt the pinch over the last decade and isn't sure why they haven't asked sooner. Mr. Hansen stated that this is a resource that is utilized by Polk County. Commissioner Gordon is good with \$20k and Commissioner Mordhorst agrees. Commissioner Pope stated that he is grateful that the Dean has put this letter forward because it has been very needed for years and he is hopeful that by Polk County stepping up will lead to other counties following our lead. Commissioner Pope also supports \$20k.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS OF THE BOARD.

7. 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 9:39 a.m.

Minutes: Nicole Pineda
Approved: June 25, 2024