

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
August 6, 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. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER GORDON
SECONDED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA**

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.

4. MINUTES: **COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER GORDON
SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF July 30, 2024**

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.

5. POLK COUNTY CLERK UPDATE:

Kim Williams, Polk County Clerk, and Cole Steckley, Chief Elections Clerk, provided an update to the Board that specifically addressed the recent public comments that have been made in regards to Oregon voting systems and the voter rolls. Mrs. Williams gave an explanation of what Polk County is responsible for in her office and what her and Mr. Steckley's roles are. Next, Mrs. Williams shared the data on the number of registered voters in Polk County and how they receive those registrations. Mrs. Williams explained that the voter roll numbers are constantly changing and she shared an example of how the numbers changed on the same day at three different times that day. Mrs. Williams explained that there is some voter responsibility where they need to make sure to notify the county if they move out of the county and explained that it is too difficult for them to keep track of every single registered voter. Mr. Steckley went over their upload process to address some inaccuracies from Polk County versus the Secretary of State's website and he stated that the system they use (DS 850) does not use a modem. Mr. Steckley then went over his process step by step. Mrs. Williams wanted to address some of the public comments that had been made recently; it was stated that someone "had voted after dying" and they looked it up, and that ballot had not been counted. Mrs. Williams then addressed several other comments that had been made and shared her research with the Board. Commissioner Mordhorst wanted to recognize Mrs. Williams and her team for taking their time to be transparent and working with the public. Commissioner Pope stated for the record that he does not trust motor voter and explained why and asked them to explain more about the registered voters through Oregon Health Authority. Mrs. Williams stated that they haven't received much information because it hasn't moved forward yet, but she will look into more for the Board. Commissioner Pope asked Mr. Steckley asked if there was ever a time, he had an issue with a cross check with the State and Mr. Steckley stated no. Commissioner Pope wanted clarity on the process with getting ballots from the US Postal Service and Mr. Steckley answered his question. Mrs. Williams stated that new ballot boxes have been ordered and they are larger, more secure and will be bolted down. Commissioner Gordon asked Mr. Steckley asked what triggers a random hand count from the SOS and Mr. Steckley stated there

is a formula they use and Mrs. Williams explained what that process looks like for their office. Commissioner Mordhorst asked about the choice rank voting coming to the November ballot and asked what her opinion is. Mrs. Williams stated that if it becomes law, they have to follow the law and explained her main concern would be keeping the voter's confidence up by learning the new way to vote. Commissioner Mordhorst stated for the record that he does not agree with it.

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 9:29 a.m.

Minutes: Nicole Pineda
Approved: August 13, 2024