

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
August 13, 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 THE AGENDA

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

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.

4. MINUTES: COMMISSIONER GORDON MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST
SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF August 6, 2024

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.

5. MINUTES: COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER GORDON
SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF August 7, 2024

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.

6. MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY LETTER OF SUPPORT

Robert Marshall, MWVCAA, stated that he was here to ask for a letter of support from the Board of Commissioners because Community Action and the Salem Regional Office of Legal Aid Services of Oregon (LASO) are submitting a joint funding request to the Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Eviction Protection Grant Program. Mr. Marshall shared data that supported why they are seeking this letter of support from the Polk County Board of Commissioners. Mr. Marshall stated that the joint project will significantly increase access to comprehensive, client-centered case management, wrap-around services, and legal representation and advocacy for those impacted by the harmful effects of eviction or threatened with losing their primary nighttime residence. Mr. Marshall stated that they are wanting to partner with Polk County Family & Community Outreach and put a full time Case Manager in the Polk Community Resource Center. He then stated what their goals would be with utilizing that staff person. Commissioner Mordhorst asked what underlying reasons there are for evictions and Mr. Marshall stated the number one reason is for non-payment and explained how they are able to help prevent eviction with these resources. Commissioner Mordhorst asked if he knows why they haven't been able to pay their rent and Mr. Marshall stated that his research is showing that wages are not keeping up with the cost of living and most rent is 40% or more of income now. Commissioner Mordhorst asked what percentage of these households are families and Mr. Marshall answered his question. Commissioner Gordon confirmed that there is currently not a legal

aid office in Polk County an Mr. Marshall stated that is correct, that this would add 6 FTE to our county. Commissioner Gordon asked how they plan to have the legal aid integrated into the work that is already being done for housing assistance and everything that is already being done at the resource center and Mr. Marshall answered his question. Commissioner Gordon stated that he supports signing a letter for this grant application and explained his reasons why. Commissioner Pope stated that he has concerns with grant and where this money is coming from and asked Mr. Marshall where this money is coming from. Mr. Marshall answered him and Commissioner Pope stated that it was coming from people's taxes. Mr. Marshall responded to his statement. Commissioner Pope asked how much are they applying for and Mr. Marshall stated that they are applying for \$2.5 million for Marion/Polk County and that he cannot give him the exact amount that applies to Polk County. Commissioner Pope asked if he has a list of endorsers for this applications and Mr. Marshall named a few. Commissioner Gordon shared a story of an elderly woman who benefited from these types of programs specifically with MWVCAA. Brent DeMoe, Family and Community Outreach (FCO), provided his input on this topic and responded to some of the Commissioners concerns in previous comments. Mr. DeMoe asked if they applied for HRSN Funding and Mr. Marshall stated yes, they have. Mr. DeMoe stated then that means they would be competing and it would be his recommendation that if the Board put a pin in this because he was not included in this conversation and he thinks there could have been much better planning for this. Commissioner Pope stated that he will not sign this letter. Commissioner Mordhorst stated that he doesn't like only having 7 days to make a decision and would like to table this until next week. Commissioner Gordon provided his input and stated that he still supports the letter but he agrees that waiting a week so MWVCAA can connect with FCO.

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: August 20, 2024