

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
September 24, 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):

Mrs. Straus provided comments in regards to a term called trauma trigger and shared a personal story and interactions she has had with the Polk County Sheriff's Office.

3. 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 September 17, 2024**

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.

5. POLK COUNTY SHERIFF UPDATE:

Sheriff Garton provided a department update for the Board and stated that over this last weekend they held an event called Buckets of Brass. Sheriff Garton stated that Community Corrections were a great partner in this event, as well as the BLM. Sheriff Garton talked about how great the community support was for the event as well and he said the only thing they could have done better was to have had better marketing for it to reach more people in the community. Next the Sheriff stated that starting back in the beginning of September, they reinstated the Forest Deputy position, which hasn't been active since before the pandemic and for the months of August and September, they are participating in a distracted driving and speeding grant through the State. Next, Sheriff Garton shared some data with the Board about tickets distributed and then he went over their staffing levels. Commissioner Mordhorst asked about the safety corridor and whether or not OSP is still offering overtime to their deputies and the Sheriff answered his question. Commissioner Pope wanted to address the behavioral issues on the road we have been seeing on HWY 22 and specifically on the HWY 22 and 51 interchange and wanted to know what his position/strategy is today on helping solve these issues and the Sheriff responded to his question. Commissioner Pope asked about his communication with OSP and asked what OSP's position on HWY 22 is and the Sheriff answered his question. Commissioner Pope wanted to remind the Sheriff what ODOT's statements over the years have been to Polk County in regards to HWY 22 and that he needs the Sheriff's Office to help the Board with getting the proper funding in order to make the highway safer. Commissioner Pope asked how the Sheriff plans to mitigate some of the expenses from the Jail in the medical costs of the inmates and the Sheriff responded to his question. Captain Isham wanted to add that there are continuous conversations with OSP on HWY 22, but their main focus is I5 and that they are also understaffed. Commissioner Pope stated that he would like to collaborate with them on getting a letter to the governor's office because he is tired of kicking the can around on this issue. The Commissioners thanked the Sheriff for his update.

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

None.

A 9:37 a.m. County Counsel announced that the meeting was recessed until 10 a.m. to Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(h) To consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

The executive session ended at 10:41 a.m. and Commissioner Pope directed staff to move forward as directed and the meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

Minutes: Nicole Pineda
Approved: October 1, 2024