

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
October 15, 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 was present and Commissioner Mordhorst was absent.

2. COMMENTS (for items not on this agenda):

None.

3. AGENDA: **COMMISSIONER GORDON MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE
SECONDED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA**

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.

4. MINUTES: **COMMISSIONER GORDON MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE
SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF October 8, 2024**

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.

5. NESMITH PARK – CEMETERY DISCUSSION

Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer, along with Todd Whitaker, Public Works Director, recapped the last FEMA event that took place in Polk County and stated there was some severe erosion that took place in the Nesmith Cemetery. Mr. Whitaker provided some background information going back to the 2021 ice storm that occurred which caused there to be some bank failure in a portion of the cemetery. Mr. Whitaker stated that FEMA has approved funding for the park to be repaired, but not the cemetery because it is privately owned. FEMA has authorized a small project to investigate some alternatives in order to resolve the issue that is happening with the bank and he discussed what those alternatives are. Mr. Whitaker stated that FEMA is now saying that their project is not eligible and he went over their options if they want to dispute it, which would mean they may have to pay back those costs, or they can leave the project and not be responsible for those costs. Morgan Smith, County Counsel, recapped a previous meeting where it was discussed that we would be putting together a letter to distribute to Federal Delegates, State Reps and Local Reps. The Commissioners and staff talked about the issue they have with not knowing who currently owns the cemetery and even if they were able to move it, they need to have the owner's permission. Commissioner Pope wanted to state for the record so that the public understands that FEMA doesn't want to help with funding for this issue. The commissioners support writing and sending a letter and Mr. Smith will work on that. Commissioner Pope asked Matt Hawkins, Admin Services Director, if he wanted to look into Department of State Lands to see if there are any avenues to gain assistance and he said that he and Mr. Hansen can look into it. Mr. Whitaker talked about having a conversation with SHIPO as well. Mr. Hawkins agrees. Mr. Whitaker also recommends having the consultant finish their study, even if FEMA isn't going to fund it and the Commissioners and staff agree because the study is almost finished.

6. ANDY RIGGS ROAD SPEED ZONE CHANGE

Todd Whitaker, Public Works Director, is recommending that the speed zone for Andy Riggs Road be changed from 55 MPH to 35 MPH. Mr. Whitaker provided background information on the history of the road, the discussions that have been made with the local residents and their department and he went over the speed study that was completed by ODOT. Mr. Whitaker stated that if the Board accepts this, it will then go to ODOT.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS OF THE QUORUM.

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

Commissioner Pope wanted to talk about a contract that is on tomorrow's consent calendar for his department and would like him to elaborate more about it before they approve it tomorrow.

Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

Minutes: Nicole Pineda
Approved: October 22, 2024