

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
February 4, 2025

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):

Mandy Strauss provided public comment requesting that the Sheriff's Office reopen a couple of cases that have been closed.

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

**COMMISSIONER POPE VOTED YES
COMMISSIONER GORDON VOTED YES**

MOTION PASSED BY VOTE OF THE QUORUM.

4. MINUTES: **COMMISSIONER GORDON MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE
SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF January 28, 2025**

**COMMISSIONER POPE VOTED YES
COMMISSIONER GORDON VOTED YES**

MOTION PASSED BY VOTE OF THE QUORUM.

5. POLK COUNTY SHERIFF UPDATE

Mark Garton, Polk County Sheriff, along with Captain Jeff Isham, provided a department update to the Board and staff. Captain Isham provided some background information on the dog kennel that they are working on building for Polk County and then said that the pad has been poured. Capt. Isham stated that next they are going to be trenching to get electricity to where the building is going to be placed. Matt Hawkins, Admin Services Director, stated that trenching actually took place yesterday. Capt. Isham talked about the size of the building that is being placed and how many dogs it can hold at one time. Capt. Isham stated that there is a lot of interest from the public who are willing to volunteer at the facility in order to clean up or feed the animals. Commissioner Gordon thanked them for all of their hard work on this topic. Next, Sheriff Garton talked about a murder investigation that started last week. He stated that there was a car accident that had a deceased body in the car. Sheriff Garton talked about the involved parties in the response and explained why they handle investigations with other agencies. Sheriff Garton then updated the Board on traffic safety and shared some data that was shared from OSP for all the highways in Polk County. Sheriff Garton also talked about what they can and can't do in regards to immigration. Commissioner Pope stated that he appreciates that he was able to get more information from OSP to share with the public. Commissioner Pope brought up deflection and wanted to know more information about those who have been successfully deflected. He asked for the Sheriff's perspective and what he is seeing when it comes to possession of a controlled substance. Sheriff Garton responded to his

questions and statements. Commissioner Pope wanted to make sure that the public understands that we are spending \$250k on deflection and that we only have 1 person who has been successful in the program. Commissioner Gordon provided his input on this topic and what he is seeing in similar sized counties.

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 9:30 a.m.

Minutes: Nicole Pineda
Approved: February 11, 2025