

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 11, 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 and Commissioner Mordhorst were present.

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

None.

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

**ALL COMMISSIONERS VOTED YES  
MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.**

**4. MINUTES:**      **The wrong date was listed on the agenda for the approval of minutes, this will be  
rectified during next week's meeting.**

**5. COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT UPDATE:**

Jodi Merritt, Community Corrections Director, provided a department update to the Board and staff. Mrs. Merritt's report highlighted the following items: adult parole & probation, statistics for types of crimes on supervision, caseload distribution, demographics, additional field investigations, warrants/reports/sanctions for 2023-2024, community service and juvenile probation. Mrs. Merritt provided a staffing update and stated that her department is struggling a little bit in that area and explained why, but stated that they should be back at full capacity within the next 6-8 months. Next, Mrs. Merritt stated they were going into a legislative session and she knows that they are all involved in that as well, she explained what their Association's goals are for this session. Commissioner Pope asked questions about the dollar amount being asked for with funding and what the difference was between the Governor's recommended budget versus what they are asking for and Mrs. Merritt answered his question. Commissioner Gordon provided his input on the importance of maintaining our autonomy with the funding and his hope for that funding to come through. Commissioner Pope asked Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer, what funding comes from the property tax "general fund" to support Community Corrections and Mr. Hansen answered his question. Commissioner Mordhorst commended them for all of their hard work. Commissioner Gordon stated that going forward, he would be curious about the drug enforcement misdemeanors and would like to be updated on those, however he recognizes it is early and Mrs. Merritt agrees that it is very early, but she gave him a brief update. District Attorney Aaron Felton was present, he stated that he saw this on the agenda and he just wanted to recognize her office for their level of communication and just the overall collaboration and working together with his office has been incredible.

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

Aaron Felton, Polk County District Attorney, wanted to talk to the Board about the recent articles centering on the statewide shortage of public defenders. DA Felton provided some statistics that showed Polk County was not one of those counties. Commissioner Pope asked who are the people who determine whether there is a shortage or not on public defenders and DA Felton responded to his question.

Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 9:42 a.m.

Minutes: Nicole Pineda  
Approved: February 18, 2025