

TUESDAY WORK SESSION AGENDA
February 18, 2025
Courthouse Conference Room

THE LOCATION OF THIS MEETING IS ADA ACCESSIBLE. PLEASE ADVISE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS (503-623-8173)
AT LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE IF YOU NEED SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS TO ATTEND OR TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
MEETING VIRTUALLY.

**Approximate
Time**

AGENDA

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| 9:00 a.m. | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. CALL TO ORDER – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE2. COMMENTS (for items not on this agenda and limited to 3 minutes. We encourage all community members to engage with public comments to the Board of Commissioners. However, out of respect for our audience and a general sense of decorum please refrain from vulgar, threatening or inappropriate language.)3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA4. APPROVE MINUTES OF February 4th & February 11, 20255. STAR RECOGNITION AWARD – Brenda Dornbusch6. NON-LISTED ITEMS (Pursuant to ORS 192.640) |
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Regular meetings of the Board of Commissioners are held on Tuesday and Wednesday each week. The meetings are held in the Board of Commissioners' conference room, 850 Main Street, Dallas, Oregon. Each meeting begins at 9:00 a.m., and is conducted according to a prepared agenda that lists the principal subjects anticipated to be considered. Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners may consider and take action on subjects that are not listed on the agenda. The Board also holds a department staff meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Every Monday in the Commissioners Conference Room at 850 main Street, Oregon.

APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS

The Board sets aside a time at each regular meeting for comment by the public on subjects not appearing on the Agenda. Individuals may come forward and make any statement they wish, but not to exceed three (3) minutes in length, except as is required to give concise answers to questions from Board members. If the subject will require a lengthier presentation, or merits inclusion as an item on the Agenda of a future meeting, the Board may schedule it accordingly.

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

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