

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
February 25, 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 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):

Mandy Straus provided comments in regards to her comments during the February 4, 2025 BOC meeting and to those approved minutes. She wanted to clarify for the record because she felt like the minutes were not correct. Commissioner Pope thanked her and stated it was noted for the record.

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

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

4. MINUTES: **COMMISSIONER GORDON MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST
SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF February 18, 2025**

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

5. DISTRICT ATTORNEY DEPARTMENT UPDATE

District Attorney Aaron Felton, provided a department update to the Board and staff. DA Felton wanted to address what is happening in our local areas and talked about where we are in terms of the decisions that are being made in his office for strategic decisions and economic decisions. DA Felton provided a basic background of his current staffing levels totaling 23 FTEs. DA Felton talked about the importance of having a fully staffed department and whether or not our tax dollars are being spent strategically. Commissioner Mordhorst asked how many cases his office handles a month on average, and DA Felton stated that handles isn't the correct word but that they have a steady number of "referrals" and he explained what that means. Commissioner Gordon asked if he is seeing a spike in the discovery costs in regards to budget and DA Felton stated that he is seeing a rise in the base licensing costs which does tie into discovery. Commissioner Pope wanted DA Felton to talk about the pay schedule and whether or not that is something that affects his department being able to maintain staffing levels and DA Felton answered his question.

6. FINANCIAL SUPPORT REQUEST FOR NWREC

Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer, stated that he has received a request from the Co-Directors of NWREC in regards to a funding request in the amount of \$23,000. Mr. Hansen explained what they are requesting and why they have made this request and he is recommending that we pay them \$20,000 which is what we funded back in June of 2024. Mr. Hansen explained that we used to fund \$12,000 and we recently increased that to \$20k and we can sustain that amount for a while. Sam, Interim Director of NWREC, was present and explained why they are requesting \$23,000. Commissioner Pope provided his input about how he would like to see more financial accountability on the budget, and that he has never seen an itemized budget. Commissioner Pope supports Mr. Hansen's recommendation.

**COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER GORDON
SECONDED TO FUND GREG HANSEN'S RECOMMENDATION OF \$20,000
FOR FY2025-2026**

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

7. 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 9:42 a.m.

Minutes: Nicole Pineda
Approved: March 4, 2025