

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
May 27, 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 VOTED YES.
MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.**

4. MINUTES: **COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER GORDON
SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF May 20, 2025**

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

5. HUD FY26 PROPOSED BUDGET IMPACTS TO LOCAL HOUSING AUTHORITIES

Jessica Blakely & Christian Edelblute provided an update to the Board for local housing authorities. Ms. Blakely works at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Mr. Edelblute works for the West Valley Housing Authority (WVHA). Ms. Blakely explained why she was presenting here today and provided her background information. Ms. Blakely went over a handout that she brought with her that goes over the funding cuts that could potentially impact Polk County residents. Ms. Blakely stated that their ask for them today is their support in contacting their legislators to help fight for this funding. Commissioner Gordon thanked them for their presentation and shared some data to show how important this funding is. Commissioner Gordon asked if they can talk more about the HUD VASH Program and how that funding could be impacted and Mr. Edelblute answered his question. Commissioner Mordhorst stated that he is thankful for the funding that is set aside for the families, younger adults and the elderly and would like them to keep their focus on those 3 categories. Commissioner Pope confirmed that their ask is for them to advocate for this and he wanted the public to understand that this bill has already been passed. Commissioner Pope agrees that giving the state more regulatory control isn't the best, but he does agree that a lot has come to light nationally with funding and we need to tighten up. Ms. Blakely responded to Commissioner Pope's comments and questions. Commissioner Pope stated he would like to find out who specifically is lobbying for this funding and he asked Commissioner Pope asked Commissioner Gordon what is NACo doing to help with this issue and he also wonders what are the cities doing to help with this funding issue. Commissioner Pope stated that he also hasn't heard anything from Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) about this either and Commissioner Gordon stated that they have a task force and he will look more into what they are doing. Mr. Edelblute wanted to clarify for the record that the Salem Housing Authority is different and larger

than the WVHA. He also stated that they are very frugal and they put a lot of work into making sure there is no fraud happening in the WVHA.

6. POINT IN TIME COUNT RESULTS

Ryan Pollard and Stephanie Gilbert, Family & Community Outreach, presented to the Board the most recent Point in Time Count (PIT) data. Mr. Pollard went over a flier that his team created that shared all the results and he explained what the PIT Count is for and it occurred on January 22, 2025. Mr. Pollard talked about the types of questions that they ask these individuals. Mr. Pollard stated how they tried to be more strategic this year with where they went to look for these individuals. The flier shares 308 individuals that is a verified, unduplicated number and he went over the breakdown for these individuals. Next, Mr. Pollard also talked about the Homeless Prevention & Outreach Program and went over another flier that his team created for that. He stated that this highlights all the work they have accomplished since June 2023. Commissioner Mordhorst asked what the average cost to get a family into housing and Mr. Pollard stated a ballpark figure is \$5-\$6k and Ms. Gilbert stated that the highest she has ever seen was \$11-\$12k.

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

Morgan Smith, County Counsel, stated that he needs the Board to direct Matt Hawkins, Admin Services Director, to sign the selling documents related to 945 SE Uglow Ave, Dallas OR 97338. Mr. Smith stated that the Board has previously signed an Order (Order No. 24-15) but the language did not name a staff member specifically.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST
SECONDED TO GIVE MATT HAWKINS SIGNING AUTHORITY FOR 945 SE
UGLOW AVE, DALLAS OREGON 97338.**

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

Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 9:52 a.m.

Minutes: Nicole Pineda
Approved: June 3, 2025