

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
July 15, 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 POPE
SECONDED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA**

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

4. MINUTES: Commissioner Pope called for the approval of the minutes from June 24, 2025. The agenda had an incorrect date on it for this item.

**COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER GORDON
SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF June 24, 2025**

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

5. POLK COUNTY SHERIFF UPDATE

Mark Garton, Polk County Sheriff, provided a department update to the Board. Sheriff Garton's update went over an activity summary from May 7th through July 8th, 2025 and he went over some "noteworthy" incidents. Sheriff Garton also went over crime & investigations, traffic safety & enforcement, arrests & agency assists, and he shared data from call and traffic stop totals. Sheriff Garton talked about their current staffing levels in his office and for the jail. He talked about some changes in Marine Patrol but he doesn't have much information as of now. Sheriff Garton gave a small preview of National Night Out, which is happening soon and he updated the Board on where they are at with the dog kennel. Sheriff Garton also shared a handout that went over an operational snapshot of the last two months. Commissioner Mordhorst thanked him and his team for all their hard work and asked him to elaborate on more on the numbers of citations and Sheriff Garton answered his question. Commissioner Gordon also thanked him for his work and asked him to talk a little more about the struggles happening with the marine boards funding. Sheriff Garton answered his question. Commissioner Pope shared his concerns with the marine board and applauds the fact that the Sheriff's Office is involved with them as much as he is. Commissioner Pope asked the Sheriff to elaborate more on the data he shared about inmates in the jail.

6. PROPOSED SPEED ZONE ON SOUTH OAK GROVE RD.

Todd Whitaker, Public Works Director, stated that he was here today to talk to the Board about a proposed speed zone request on South Oak Grove Road. Mr. Whitaker stated that there was a traffic pattern change that occurred on HWY 22 and 51 which is increasing traffic on South Oak Grove Road and due to complaints from local residents, ODOT reached out to Public Works asking if they would want to implement a speed zone of 25 mph.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS 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 9:26 a.m.

Minutes: Nicole Pineda
Approved: July 22, 2025