

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES April 30, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE

At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Pope declared the meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners to be in session. Commissioner Mordhorst and Commissioner Gordon were present.

Staff present: Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer
Morgan Smith, County Counsel
Matt Hawkins, Administrative Services Director

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Regular meetings of the Board of Commissioners are held on Tuesday and Wednesday each week. Each meeting is held in the Courthouse 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 principle subjects anticipated to be considered. Pursuant to ORS 192.640, The Board 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, Dallas, Oregon.

The Polk County Board of Commissioners will be attending the Polk County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council meeting on May 5, 2025 at 12:00 p.m., located at 850 Main St., Dallas, OR 97338.

The Homeless Prevention Advisory Council (AKA P.A.T.H.S) will be meeting on May 14, 2025 from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm located at 1407 Monmouth Independence Hwy, Monmouth OR 97361.

A public meeting of the Budget Committee for Polk Extension Service District will be held in the Main Conference Room of the County Courthouse at 11:00 a.m., on Wednesday, May 14, 2025. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the budget for fiscal year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 and to receive the budget message and document. Time is reserved for public comment at 11:15 a.m. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after May 9, 2025, at the Board of Commissioners' Office, Polk County Courthouse, during regular business hours. This is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Any person may appear at the meeting and discuss the proposed budget with the Budget Committee.

3. COMMENTS

None.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF April 16, 2025

MOTION: COMMISSIONER GORDON MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF April 23, 2025.

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

6. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION: COMMISSIONER GORDON MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

ALL SAID YES.

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.

7. MONTHLY TREASURER REPORT

Steve Milligan, Polk County Treasurer, provided his monthly financial report to the Board. Mr. Milligan asked if the Board had any questions and they stated that they do not.

8. HWY 22 & 51 ODOT PRESENTATION

Anna Henson, ODOT Area 3 Manager & Kumar Rethnasamy, ODOT Project Manager, presented a power point presentation to the Board and the public.

Mrs. Henson stated that Kumar was running late, but she could talk about a few things until he arrived. Mrs. Henson talked about the last two fatalities that occurred were left turns and she is happy to say that these coming changes will prevent future fatalities. Mrs. Henson stated that her biggest recommendations for people who are driving on OR22 are to drive the speed limit, don't be on your phone, and don't drive under the influence. Commissioner Pope asked her to talk about who she is and what she does for ODOT and Mrs. Henson answered his request. Commissioner Pope asked her to talk about the projects that she is in charge of and she answered his request. Mrs. Henson talked about the work that will be starting on the Center Street Bridge spring of 2026 and she stated that it will have huge traffic impacts for people who travel to and from Polk County. Commissioner Gordon asked her to talk about the ADA work that is happening in the City of Dallas and wanted to know if there were any improvements they were planning to make to some roads as well and Mrs. Henson answered his question. Commissioner Pope stated that two specific roads in Dallas, Fremont and Washington are in terrible shape, and he wanted to know how are they planning to improve those roads and Mrs. Henson stated that they currently don't have the funds for that other than pot hole maintenance.

Next, Mr. Rethnasamy went over their power point presentation. Their presentation went over the OR 22 and OR 51 project. Mr. Rethnasamy talked about the project background, the number of crashes that have occurred from 2018-2022 and what the project limits are. Mr. Rethnasamy talked about the next steps and what they are currently working on for this project. Next, they talked about the proposed cross section on OR22, which includes south side Frontage Road and a multiuse path. Commissioner Gordon asked him to provide his expertise and explain to the public why this change is a safer option than the left turn that is there now. Mr. Rethnasamy stated he will answer that question shortly when he gets to that slide. Once he got to that slide, he then answered Commissioner Gordon's question. Mr. Rethnasamy stated that the next steps to the project are to finalize the design and review which phases we clear now for the environmental process. Commissioner Mordhorst thanked them both for being here and for working with Polk County so well. Commissioner Mordhorst asked for Mr. Rethnasamy to state the number of projects he is currently working on and he answered his question. Commissioner Mordhorst wanted to talk to them about Stapleton Road and asked if they are currently looking at that intersection. Mrs. Henson thanked him for his compliments to them and their team and next she answered his question. Commissioner Mordhorst asked her to talk about the Perrydale Road realignment and Mrs. Henson provided some information on that project and stated that it is currently sitting right now as they try to find funding for it. Commissioner Pope asked them to go back to the slide that shows the overview of OR22 and OR51 and wanted to ask them if they are still

planning on putting in any roundabouts and Mr. Rethnasamy answered his question. Commissioner Mordhorst asked if there have been any updated traffic counts at OR22 and OR 51 and they stated no there have not but they will get them that information after the next county occurs.

9. Order No. 25-06 / JURISDICTIONAL TRANSFER

Darren Blackwell, Polk County Surveyor, stated that he was here today to request the approval of Polk County Order No. 25-06, in the matter of surrendering jurisdiction over various roadways to the City of Independence. Mr. Blackwell provided background information and reminded the Board about what was discussed a few weeks ago. Mr. Blackwell talked about the changes that had been made to the order, at the request of the Board. Commissioner Mordhorst asked where we were at with Talmadge Road and Mr. Whitaker answered his question.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER GORDON MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST SECONDED, TO APPROVE AND SIGN POLK COUNTY ORDER NO. 25-06

ALL SAID YES.

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.

The following items were approved by Motion under **5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- a) Polk County Contract No. 25-47, Liberty House
(Aaron Felton, District Attorney)
- b) Polk County Contract no. 25-48, DOJ & Child Support
Division
(Nathan Druery, Child Support Supervisor)
- c) Polk County Contract No. 25-49, Deschutes County
Dean Anderson, Information Services)
- d) Polk County Contract No. 25-52, Marion County Health
Department
(Rosana Warren, Behavioral Health)
- e) Polk County Contract No. 25-50, Cigna Health & Life
Insurance Company
(Rosana Warren, Public Health)
- f) Polk County Contract No. 25-53, Helms Counseling, LLC
(Rosana Warren, Behavioral Health)

At 9:49 a.m. County Counsel announced that the meeting was recessed to Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2) (h) To consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

The Executive Session ended at 10:28 a.m. and Commissioner Pope directed staff to move forward as discussed and the meeting was adjourned.

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Craig Pope, Chair



Jeremy Gordon, Commissioner



Lyle Mordhorst, Commissioner

Minutes: Nicole Pineda
Approved: May 7, 2025