

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES July 23, 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 Gordon was present and Commissioner Mordhorst was absent.

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 August 4, 2025 at 12:00 p.m., located at 850 Main St., Dallas, OR 97338.

3. COMMENTS

Rima Vogenson provided public comment in regards to her son who has mental health issues and will be released tomorrow and they are afraid of him. They are working with behavioral health and stated that there are no beds. Commissioner Pope responded and Commissioner Gordon asked them to leave their contact information with our office so they can chat offline.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

**BOTH VOTED YES.
MOTION PASSED BY VOTE OF THE QUORUM.**

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF July 9, 2025 & July 16, 2025

MOTION: COMMISSIONER GORDON MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF July 9, 2025 & July 16, 2025.

**BOTH VOTED YES.
MOTION PASSED BY VOTE OF THE QUORUM.**

6. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

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

**BOTH VOTED YES.
MOTION PASSED BY VOTE OF THE QUORUM.**

7. MONTHLY TREASURER REPORT

Steve Milligan, Polk County Treasurer, stated that he emailed the report to the Commissioners yesterday afternoon. Mr. Milligan stated that he will not be coming to this meeting anymore and explained why and his concerns with him being expected to come here. Commissioner Pope stated that he will still be placed on the agenda in order to keep a gateway for him to present should he choose.

8. SALEM HEALTH CHECK PRESENTATION TO FCO WARMING CENTERS

Jena Hendricks, Nurse Manager, Tia Rodriguez, West Valley Hospital, Savannah Ross, Salem West Valley Health, all introduced themselves and Ms. Henricks stated that they were here today to present a check to the Family & Community Outreach Department to go to the Polk County Warming Centers. Commissioner Gordon asked about how these funds are distributed/used for and they answered his question. Brent DeMoe, FCO Director, was also present and stated that Matt Smucker, who was present, would be giving the board an update on the warming centers. Mr. Smucker gave some background information on the warming centers and talked about how these funds will help those centers. Mr. Smucker stated that since 2018, he has seen a real growth in community care and partnership. Mr. Smucker shared some data from this last winter and how many nights they were open. Mr. Smucker shared a story of a local unhoused individual and how their partnerships with FCO and the Resource Center have helped get people into the resources they need. Commissioner Pope asked what their annual budget is for Polk County and Mr. Smucker answered his question. Commissioner Pope asked him to talk about what that budget covers and Mr. Smucker answered his question. Commissioner Gordon wanted to recognize his dedication in helping our most vulnerable community members. Commissioner Pope also recognized him for all his hard work in our community.

9. USDA APHIS UPDATE

Brian Thomas, NW District Supervisor for USDA-APHIS, along with Matt Alex, NW USDA-APHIS Assistant District Supervisor, Landon Shaw, Wildlife Specialist, provided an update to the Board and staff. Mr. Thomas stated that they attended an event recently with the Polk County Extension District in order to get the word out to the public about the services they offer to the community. Mr. Thomas talked about how they haven't been needing to use all the funds that come from the county because the calls are not coming in. Mr. Thomas stated they want to start attending the county fair in order to have a booth and to hand out information to the public. Mr. Thomas talked about staffing changes and how it has been negatively affecting them due to funding costs. Mr. Alex shared his input on how they have been trying to get the word out about the services they offer. Commissioner Pope shared his experience with the elk and geese in his area and the conversations he has had with their department and Mr. Alex responded with what can be done to kill geese outside of hunting season. Commissioner Pope asked about their engagement with people in certain areas and Mr. Alex responded. Commissioner Gordon asked if people will google or use social media to get information and Mr. Thomas stated that they have rules and regulations that keep them from being able to advertise and share how you can get information through their website or through extension. Mr. Hansen said we will get them a booth at the fair this year.

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

- a) Polk County Easement Agreement
(Todd Whitaker, Public Works Director)

There no need for an executive session and Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 9:41 a.m.

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Craig Pope, Chair



Jeremy Gordon, Commissioner



Lyle Mordhorst, Commissioner