

TUESDAY WORK SESSION AGENDA
September 16, 2025
Courthouse Conference Room

THE LOCATION OF THIS MEETING IS ADA ACCESSIBLE. PLEASE ADVISE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS (503-623-8173) AT LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE IF YOU NEED SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS TO ATTEND OR TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING VIRTUALLY.

**Approximate
Time**

AGENDA

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| 9:00 a.m. | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. CALL TO ORDER – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE2. 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.)3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA4. APPROVE MINUTES OF September 9, 20255. SALEM HEALTH LETTER OF SUPPORT REQUEST – Ruth Miles6. NON-LISTED ITEMS (Pursuant to ORS 192.640) |
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Regular meetings of the Board of Commissioners are held on Tuesday and Wednesday each week. The meetings are held in the Board of Commissioners' 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 principal subjects anticipated to be considered. Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners 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, Oregon.

The Grand Ronde Sanitary District Board is meeting on September 17, 2025 at 9:15 a.m. The meeting will take place in the Polk County Courthouse, 850 Main Street, Dallas, OR, 97338.

APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS

The Board sets aside a time at each regular meeting for comment by the public on subjects not appearing on the Agenda. Individuals may come forward and make any statement they wish, but not to exceed three (3) minutes in length, except as is required to give concise answers to questions from Board members. If the subject will require a lengthier presentation, or merits inclusion as an item on the Agenda of a future meeting, the Board may schedule it accordingly.

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
September 9, 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 MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER GORDON
SECONDED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA**

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.

4. MINUTES: **COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER GORDON
SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF September 2, 2025**

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.

5. STAR RECOGNITION AWARD

The Polk County Board of Commissioners and staff recognized Annie Buse for the STAR Recognition Award. The STAR Recognition Award is a quarterly recognition program that allows each department head to nominate someone in their department for going above and beyond.

6. YOUTH CONFERENCE RECAP

Annie Buse, Polk County Family & Community Outreach, provided a recap of the March 2025 Youth Conference and shared a video for the Board and staff. Mrs. Buse talked about how many kids attended the conference and why they believe this is so important for our local youth. Mrs. Buse shared that the next one will be March 2026 and she extended an invitation to 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 9:14 a.m.

Governor Tina Kotek
Office of the Governor
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Oregon Health Authority
500 Summer Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for Rural Health Transformation Funding – West Valley Hospital Expansion

Dear Governor Kotek and Dr. Hathi,

We are writing to express our strong support for Salem Health's proposal to expand and modernize West Valley Hospital in Dallas, Oregon. This project is a critical investment in rural healthcare infrastructure and directly aligns with the State of Oregon's goals to improve access, equity, and outcomes for underserved populations.

Polk County is one of the fastest-growing regions in Oregon, driven in part by local efforts to increase affordable housing and attract working families and retirees. Between 2020 and 2022, the county's population grew by nearly 19%, with the senior population increasing by over 50%. These demographic shifts place significant pressure on our healthcare system, particularly in rural areas where hospital beds and specialty services are limited.

West Valley Hospital serves not only Polk County residents but also individuals from coastal communities who often face long travel times and limited options for care. The proposed expansion—which includes an enlarged Emergency Department, modern imaging capabilities, and upgraded infrastructure—will dramatically improve access to timely, high-quality care for thousands of Oregonians.

Salem Health has demonstrated a thoughtful, phased approach to this project, with built-in financial safeguards and a commitment to regional collaboration. Their readiness to move forward, combined with strong community and local government support, makes this an ideal candidate for rural health transformation funding.

We respectfully urge the State of Oregon to prioritize this project for funding and support. It represents a strategic, data-driven response to real and growing healthcare needs in our region.

Thank you for your consideration and continued commitment to rural health.