

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES August 6, 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 (Via phone)
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 Homeless Prevention Advisory Council (AKA P.A.T.H.S) will be meeting on August 13, 2025 from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm located at 1407 Monmouth Independence Hwy, Monmouth OR 97361.

3. COMMENTS

None.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF July 30, 2025

MOTION: COMMISSIONER GORDON MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF July 30, 2025.

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

6. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

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

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

7. CENTER STREET BRIDGE: ODOT PRESENTATION

Anna Henson, ODOT Area Manager, Andrew Walker, ODOT Project Manager and Bob Goodrich, ODOT Consultant, were present to talk to the Board and the public about the Center Street Bridge Seismic Retrofit Project. Mr. Walker introduced himself and went over a PowerPoint presentation which went over the project overview, project schedule, anticipated impacts, construction schedule, traffic impacts and EMS coordination. The timeline shows that in 2026 there will be waterline relocations, in 2027 they will start the east side bridge construction, in 2028 continue east side construction and in 2029 they will finish in river and east side work. Commissioner Pope asked them why are they starting this project when they don't have Phase 2 planned and Mr. Walker answered his question. Commissioner Pope shared his concerns with not having a plan for Phase 2. Mr. Walker stated that the estimated cost for this project is around \$400 million and explained why he doesn't like to talk about cost projections this early. Commissioner Mordhorst stated that he thinks would be a great opportunity to fix the Wallace Road/HWY22 interchange and Mr. Walker responded. Mr. Walker talked about how they are trying to anticipate the traffic changes during the construction phase and they recognize that there will be a large impact to the community. Commissioner Gordon asked if they anticipate design work for Phase 2 during the Phase 1 period and Mr. Walker answered his question. Commissioner Gordon asked if they foresee any feasibility that Phase 2 might not happen due to lack of funding or any other reason and Mr. Goodrich answered his question. Commissioner Gordon shared a question that he has received from multiple constituents and asked why they are not considering building a third bridge instead of working on an existing bridge and Mr. Walker answered his question. Commissioner Pope asked them what kind of conversations they have had about using the railroad bridge for EMS during the construction and Mr. Walker answered his question. Commissioner Pope stated that he would like something written that he can distribute to anyone who has concerns about this and Ms. Henson stated that they have another presentation they can go over for them. Mr. Goodrich went over the traffic impacts and a summary of restrictions and the first responder accommodations. Mr. Goodrich stated that they will have to close the bridge completely for up to 4 nights total, on nonconsecutive weekend nights. And explained why. Mr. Goodrich said that there will be up to 20, 20-minute full closures limited to 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. and explained why. Commissioner Pope stated that he appreciates them sharing this additional information because it is important for us to see the whole picture. Commissioner Mordhorst thanked them for presenting and for their hard work on this project. Ms. Henson thanked the Board for their good questions today and then provided an update on the HWY 99/Clow Corner Road project and on the HWY 22/51 project. Next, Ms. Henson updated them on the Kings Valley Hwy project. Commissioner Mordhorst asked about possible funding for Perrydale Road realignment and Ms. Henson stated that she thinks their best bet would be to apply for a grant. Commissioner Pope stated for the record that Stapleton Road is getting worse by the day and that there was another very serious crash that occurred there. Ms. Henson thanked him for bringing it up and stated she needs to look into where they are at and she will touch bases with her traffic team.

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

- a) Polk County Contract No. 139, Central School District
Dana Goodale, SBMH Supervisor)

At 10:00 a.m. County Counsel announced that the meeting was recessed to Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e) To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions.

The Executive Session ended at 10:30 a.m. and Commissioner Pope told staff to move forward as directed and adjourned the meeting.

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Craig Pope, Chair



Jeremy Gordon, Commissioner



Lyle Mordhorst, Commissioner