

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES November 12, 2014

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 Ainsworth and Commissioner Wheeler were present.

Staff present: Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer
 Morgan Smith, County Counsel

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Regular meetings of the Board of Commissioners are held on Tuesday and Wednesday each week. The Tuesday meeting is held in the Board of Commissioners' Office Conference Room, 850 Main Street, Dallas, Oregon. The Wednesday 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 principal 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.

Department Head/staff meetings with the Board of Commissioners are held on Monday, Thursday, and Friday. The meetings are held in the Board of Commissioners' Office Conference Room and are conducted between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The principal subjects anticipated to be considered are on-going, upcoming, and new matters bearing on County operations. Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners may consider and take action on subjects not listed within this announcement.

There will be no Board of Commissioners' meetings on Tuesday, November 18 or Wednesday, November 19 due to lack of a quorum.

The Board of Commissioners will be attending the Association of Oregon Counties Annual Conference November 17-21, 2014 at the Eugene Hilton, 66 East 6th Ave, Eugene, Oregon 97401.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Pope added two items to the agenda: discussion of the Council of Governments and a discussion of Code Enforcement.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH MOVED, COMMISSIONER WHEELER SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 5, 2014

MOTION: COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH MOVED, COMMISSIONER WHEELER SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 5, 2014

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS DISCUSSION

The Commissioners received a response letter from the five Mayors in the County who suggested that the County wait until at least November 2015 to go out for an operating levy. The Mayors would also like to meet with the Commissioners to discuss the proposed operating levy, and suggested that this meeting be facilitated by Nancy Boyer with the Council of Governments (COG). The Commissioners do not know if the COG knew about the letter, but would like to contact COG to discuss this issue. Austin McGuigan, Community Development Director and Greg Hansen explained that the Council of Governments provides more assistance to cities than counties, and the only element of COG currently utilized by Polk County is with federal transportation funding.

The Commissioners have had discussions with a handful of City Councilors from these five jurisdictions, none of whom were aware that the mayors were collaborating on this letter. The Commissioners discussed a plan to respond to this letter with a follow up at each City Council's meeting. However, before that occurs, the Board would like to schedule a public forum in each community so that these dates could be shared with the City Councils.

Greg Hansen recommended that the Board use these public forums as Public Hearings in the County's decision to proceed with the levy or not, but the Board would first need to pass a resolution confirming the intent of the County to move forward with an operating levy.

7. CODE ENFORCEMENT

The Itemizer Observer this week included a story of Code Enforcement complaints in the Grand Ronde area that the Commissioners requested an update on. Austin McGuigan explained that the County is working with DEQ and is handling the situation adequately. After addressing immediate health and safety issues, the County then works with the landowners on voluntary compliance, and if they do not comply then the Code Enforcement officer cites them into Circuit Court. There are some individuals in the Grand Ronde area that have been cited into court, and requested a jury trial that is scheduled for this week. This process takes time but the County is making headway on the issue.

Austin McGuigan also reported that he was contacted by attorney Lane Shetterly on behalf of some Chatnicka Heights residents in West Salem who would like to request a change in the Code of Ordinances for parking standards. Austin anticipates that Mr. Shetterly will request time on a future Tuesday meeting to discuss this issue.

At 10:12 a.m., Commissioner Pope asked if there was need for an Executive Session. Staff answered that there was not and the meeting was adjourned.

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Craig Pope, Chair

Jennifer Wheeler, Commissioner

Mike Ainsworth, Commissioner