

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
March 24, 2015

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Wheeler declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session. Commissioner Pope was present, Commission Ainsworth was excused.
2. **MINUTES** **COMMISSIONER POPE MOVED, COMMISSIONER WHEELER SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 17, 2015.**

MOTION PASSED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE QUORUM
3. **LOCKS RESOLUTION** – Morgan Smith, County Counsel, presented a draft resolution in support of reopening the Willamette Falls Locks. Commissioner Pope has had discussions with Regional Solutions and the Marion County Board of Commissioners, and explained that these locks provide significant value to Polk County because they are the only source of passage for the three ferries located around the County to travel to dry dock for needed repairs and maintenance. Commissioner Pope also explained that the locks could be even more of a benefit if more navigation channels were opened, and directed Morgan to incorporate that into the resolution for approval on next week’s consent calendar.
4. **PLANNING COMMISSION** – Austin McGuigan, Community Development Director explained that there is a vacancy on the Planning Commission and the County has received two applications for consideration. Due to some recent employee turnover in the Community Development department, Austin would like to postpone filling this Planning Commission vacancy until his department returns to full staffing and there is the ability to reevaluate the Planning Commission needs and meeting schedule.
5. **SAFETY CORRIDOR DECOMMISSION** – Todd Whitaker, Public Works Director was notified by ODOT last week that the Hwy 18 Safety Corridor will be decommissioned effective on March 31. Todd explained that it appears ODOT is decommissioning many safety corridors, since there are only four now left in the state, out of an approximate high of 20. ODOT is also blocking the County’s attempts to reinstate the Hwy 22 safety corridor after numerous accidents over the past five years. Commissioner Pope volunteered to work with Todd on getting a local Transportation Safety Commission formed. Once formed, this commission would be better engaged in the decommission process that impact the Counties. Todd also suggested reaching out to ODOT Regional Director or a higher level staff member to attend a meeting and ask them to explain their logic behind the recent decommissions in Polk County. Craig will also contact the Oregon Transportation Commission to get on the agenda to present Polk County’s concerns about the decommission process. Eventually, Craig would like to see a bill pass the legislature to fix this system, since there are no statutes in place currently to guide ODOT’s actions.
6. **NON-LISTED ITEMS** (Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners considered the below identified non-listed items.)
 - a. **PLANNING DEPARTMENT STAFFING** – Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer explained that with the recent turnover of staff in the planning department, in order to attempt to recruit qualified applicants, the Planning Supervisor, Senior Planner, and Planning Manager position salary ranges need to be increased \$300-\$400 to remain competitive with surrounding counties. Until this position is filled, a temporary Office Specialist will be hired to allow Autumn to assist with planning tasks in the interim.
 - b. **BUDGET REMINDER** – Greg Hansen reminded the Board that budget hearings are next week. Proposed budget binders will be completed by tomorrow.

Commissioner Wheeler adjourned the meeting at 9:58 am.

Minutes: Heather Merrill
Approved: April 7, 2015