

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
February 3, 2020 - 7:00 PM
R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice Womack Building Columbus, NC
Columbus, NC
MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Yoder, Vice-Chairman Melton, Commissioner Beiler, Commissioner Gasperson, and Commissioner Moore. Also in attendance were County Manager Pittman, Attorney Berg, Clerk to the Board High, media and citizens.

1. Call to Order - Chairman Yoder.
2. Invocation - Commissioner Beiler.
3. Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Gasperson.
4. Approval of Agenda
 - A. Commissioner Moore moved to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Vice-Chairman Melton and the motion carried unanimously.
5. Consent Agenda

Vice-Chairman Melton moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

 - A. January 21, 2020 regular meeting minutes.
 - B. Tax refund requests through January 31, 2020 in the amount of \$9,132.89.
 - C. FY 20/21 Budget Calendar.
6. Citizen Comment(s)

One citizen spoke thanking Cooperative Extension for the information and training they provide citizens, especially recently about kudzu. She thanked the Sheriff and his staff for all they do for the community, and asked the Chairman to be considerate, and not start the meeting early.
7. Annual Sheriff's Report.

Sheriff Timothy L. Wright presented the Board with the Polk County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) 2019 Annual Report, a copy of which is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes. He introduced Chief Deputy Jeff Ramsey, Investigations Captain Breena Williams, Patrol Lieutenant Tim Davis, Detention

Center & Courthouse Operations Captain Mark Herman, and Staff Attorney & Public Information Officer JJ Sauve. Sheriff Wright said each individual on his team has a goal focusing on building partnerships, training, and accountability to build a career path.

Chief Hamby spoke about the collaboration between the two departments, and the good working relationship between the agencies. He said working together they are able to accomplish so much more, and he appreciates their partnership.

District Attorney Greg Newman spoke about the open communication his office has with the Polk County Sheriff's Office, and the good working relationship they have created over the past year. He said they are collaborative, and supportive, and he appreciates the good work ethic and level of training that has created a strong law enforcement presence in the community.

Staff Attorney JJ Sauve reviewed some of the 2019 statistics and trends in the report. He said they had an intern working with them on gathering the data, and the Sheriff said he would like to continue the intern program in the future. The Commissioners discussed the number of calls, and how many individuals are arrested while passing through Polk County on the interstates. Sheriff Wright said his officers are trained to look for suspicious activities on the interstates and in the communities, all to keep the citizens protected. Sheriff Wright said he has several goals for 2020 including more community engagement, and developing recruiting and retention programs.

Vice-Chairman Melton thanked the Sheriff for a very professional presentation. He asked the Sheriff about fleet management, and the Sheriff said they currently have twelve vehicles listed on Govdeals, and they are working on a Fleet Management Program.

Commissioner Beiler said the Sheriff is doing an outstanding job, he appreciates the organization, teamwork, and leadership evident at the PCSO. He said he wished the room was packed with citizens to hear about all the things the Sheriff is doing throughout the county.

Commissioner Moore said he appreciated the information in the report, and is grateful the Sheriff has brought the D.A.R.E. program back into the schools.

Commissioner Gasperson said Polk County is fortunate to have a good relationship with other county agencies such as the Board of Education and the Sheriff's office, which is not always the case in other communities. He thanked Donald Hill for pushing to get the new facility, and is glad there is a new first class facility for the Sheriff.

Chairman Yoder said he appreciates the professionalism and good job the Sheriff and his team are doing with the resources they have, since everything has to be within the restraints of the budget.

8. Census Complete Count Committee Update.

Cathy Ruth, Planner gave an update on the Census Complete Count Committee. She said this committee was created to get information about the census out into the community. The committee members are speaking to organizations throughout the County, getting the word out about the census

coming April 1, 2020, and the County website has been updated with a link on the homepage for easy access to census information.

Erin Miller, Regional Census Supervisor explained the need for local census workers to go into their own communities to help their neighbors complete the census. She emphasized that every person counts, and the goal is to reach every citizen in Polk County.

9. Reclassification of Current Maintenance Position.

Manager Pittman explained the County is responsible for maintaining street signs, and we have been contracting the 911 street sign manufacturing and installation out to a gentleman who has decided to retire. He said we called surrounding jurisdictions to see which vendor they use, and most counties have already brought the service in house. After discussion, we are proposing taking a part-time maintenance custodian position and reclassifying it to a full-time positions that would dedicate ten hours a week to street signs.

Vice-Chairman Melton moved to approve the reclassification of the part-time Maintenance position to full-time, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chairman Melton moved to approve the Budget Amendment to fund the new full-time position for the remainder of this fiscal year, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

10. Volunteer Board Application(s)

- A. Applications for Vote - Kirk Bowden Board of Equalization and Review; Moriah Heaney, Economic and Tourism Development Commission; Chauncey Barber, Marshall McGuinn, and Bruce Odel Sunny View Fire Tax Commission.

Commissioner Gasperson moved to appoint Kirk Bowden Board of Equalization and Review; Moriah Heaney Economic and Tourism Development Commission; Chauncey Barber, Marshall McGuinn, and Bruce Odel Sunny View Fire Tax Commission, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

- B. Vote for each of the four Planning Board vacancies At Large, Cooper Gap, Saluda, White Oak. Applications received from - *Lee Barker (Columbus), Edward Daniel (Green Creek), *Alexander Hagerty, Jr. (Columbus), *John Rose (Columbus), Michael Whitt (Columbus) Planning Board. (Names with an * are current members of the Planning Board seeking reappointment.)

Commissioner Gasperson moved to appoint Lee Barker as the at large representative on the Planning Board, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Gasperson moved to appoint Edward Daniel as the Cooper Gap Township representative on the Planning Board, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Gasperson moved to appoint Alexander Hagerty Jr. as the Saluda Township representative on the Planning Board, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Gasperson moved to appoint John Rose as the white Oak Township representative on the Planning Board, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Gasperson asked the Clerk to contact the fifth applicant and let him know other opportunities for him to volunteer and serve if he chooses.

11. Commissioner Comment(s)

The Commissioners thanked everyone for coming and participating in a good informative meeting. They thanked the Sheriff, and Cathy Ruth for their presentations. Commissioner Gasperson said he went to the legislative update sponsored by the Isothermal Planning and Development Commission (IPDC) and he spoke with some of our legislatures who gave him hope the Polk County Occupancy Tax legislation may pass during an upcoming session. He also gave condolences to the family of Mike Frye a Buncombe County Commissioner and public servant who recently passed away.

12. Adjournment

Vice-Chairman Melton moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

Ange High
Clerk to the Board

Myron Yoder
Chairman