

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
March 2, 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 - Vice-Chairman Melton.
3. Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Moore.
4. Approval of Agenda
 - A. Vice-Chairman Melton moved to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Commissioner Moore 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. February 17, 2020 regular meeting minutes.
 - B. February Tax Refund Requests in the amount of \$223.86.
 - C. Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) - Submit for review and comments Community Action Opportunities, Inc. CSBG application, and Community Anti-Poverty Plan.
 - D. Sheriff Department Monthly Activity Report for January 2020.
6. Citizen Comment(s)

There were no citizen comments.
7. Resolution Reconfirming Polk County, North Carolina Will Support and Maintain the Constitution of the United States, Including All Amendments Thereto, as well as the Constitution of North Carolina; and All Laws Which Are Consistent Therewith.

Commissioner Moore said he was approached by several citizens asking him to add this resolution to the agenda, as had other Counties throughout the State. He said the word "sanctuary" was purposefully left out. Chairman Yoder read the

resolution, then asked each Commissioner if they would like to make a comment.

Vice-Chairman Melton said as an owner of guns, he clearly supports the Second Amendment to the Constitution.

Commissioner Beiler thanked everyone for coming to support this resolution, and he said he supports the Second Amendment, he owns guns, and he teaches his children how to use them safely, and appropriately. He also stated he does not like the way the national media demonizes certain weapons such as the AR-15.

Commissioner Gasperson thanked everyone for attending, and said when he is asked about the Second Amendment, he says he supports all of the Constitution. He also said when he, as an elected official, takes his oath of office, he promises to support the Constitution. Commissioner Gasperson reminded the audience that North Carolina is not a Home Rule State, and local governments cannot pass any ordinance that is more or less restrictive than the State or Federal laws. He said he fully supports the Constitution which includes the Second Amendment.

Commissioner Moore asked for everyone in the audience that supported the resolution to raise their hand, and the majority of the crowd did. He thanked them all for coming, and thanked each Commissioner for their comments. He said he also owns guns, and he doesn't want anyone to take them away.

Chairman Yoder said he supports the Constitution, and as long as a lot of good men and women have guns, we won't have to worry about bad men and women with guns. He thanked everyone for coming out, especially the Sheriff, and said it has to do with people, not guns.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the resolution reconfirming that Polk County, North Carolina will support and maintain the Constitution of the United States, including all amendments thereto, as well as the Constitution of North Carolina; and all laws which are consistent therewith, seconded by Vice-Chairman Melton and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Charters of Freedom Time Capsule Ceremony.

Robert Williamson addressed the Commissioners giving a brief historic overview of North Carolina forefathers signing the Constitution. He then discussed the upcoming Charters of Freedom Time Capsule event. He said now is the time to prepare content for the capsule such as letters from the elected officials who participated in the project, as well as information and photos from the construction and dedication. He said it will be a brief ceremony, presenting the time capsule, and giving the combination to the County Manager. He gave the Commissioners a few dates as options for the event, and the consensus of the Board was July 11, 2020 in the afternoon. Mr. Williamson said he will be speaking at the Town of Columbus meeting, and will confirm the date. He also reminded everyone there is still an opportunity to purchase legacy pavers (bricks) for the plaza in front of the Charters monument.

9. Health and Human Services Dogwood Health Trust Grant Award Acceptance and Budget Amendment.

Joshua Kennedy, Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) Director explained the Polk County Public Health Division's, Preparedness program, applied for and received a grant for an immediate need for a mobile trailer, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and supplies to equip our agency and community.

Vice-Chairman Melton moved to accept the Dogwood Trust Grant in the amount of \$17,500.00, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chairman Melton moved to approve the Budget Amendment appropriating the \$17,500.00 grant funds to HHS, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

10. Farmer's Market Policy and Procedures.

Dawn Jordan, Agricultural Economic Development Director presented the revised Farmer's Market policies and procedures for approval. She said the changes are recommendations from the Agricultural Advisory Board, and were made to clarify procedures, and better accommodate the needs of the farmers. She said when the Agricultural Advisory Board determines the vendor fees, if any, she will bring their recommendation back for approval. For each subsequent year, the fees will be approved as part of the budget process. Vice-Chairman Melton moved to approve the revisions to the Farmer's Market policies and procedures, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

11. Cost of Community Services Study.

Dawn Jordan, Agricultural Economic Development Director explained that at the June 18, 2018 Polk County Board of Commissioners meeting the Commissioners passed a motion for creating an updated version of the plan and hiring a consultant. She said as she started to investigate grant funding, the North Carolina Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services recommended changing the scope of the project to the Polk County Cost of Community Services (COCS) which was approved for a \$15,000 grant from the Agricultural Development Farmland Preservation (ADFP) Trust Fund. She said the COCS help people understand the fiscal impacts associated with different types of land use, examining both the tax revenues generated and the costs to local governments of providing services for different land uses. Commissioner Gasperson moved to move forward with the Cost of Community Services project, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

12. Schedule a Public Hearing on Monday, March 16, 2020 to Take Citizen Comments on Amendments to the Polk County Wireless Telecommunication Ordinance.

Cathy Ruth, Planner, said at December 16, 2019, the Polk County Board of Commissioners requested the Planning Board, along with the County Manager to review the Wireless Telecommunication Ordinance addressing height and collocation issues for public safety tower facilities. She gave a presentation, a copy of which is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes which included the revisions and recommended changes from the Planning Board. Attorney Berg had a few minor modifications that will be included in the draft presented at the public hearing. Commissioner Gasperson moved to schedule a public hearing on Monday, March 16, 2020 at 7:00pm to take citizen comments on amendments to the Polk County Wireless Telecommunication Ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

13. Appoint Commissioner as a Public Liaison to the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

Attorney Berg said Carolina Jimenez with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Office of Public Engagement contacted the County offices requesting a County Commissioner speak to her concerning the landslide mapping effort in Polk County. Attorney Berg explained the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources plan to produce a short video as part of Governor Cooper's Hometown Strong Initiative, and they would like a Commissioner to offer their brief perspective on the importance of the landslide mapping program as part of this video. Vice-Chairman Melton moved to appoint Commissioner Gasperson as the public liaison to the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

14. Volunteer Board Application(s)

A. The Commissioners reviewed the Volunteer Board Applications for Michael Whitt, Appearance Commission; Ted Owens, Isothermal Planning and Development Commission (IPDC); Carolyn Baughman, Marci Cannon, Richard Miller, and Elna Owens, Library Board of Trustees.

15. Commissioner Comment(s)

Vice-Chairman Melton thanked everyone for coming, and is happy the resolution was approved. He said he is a proud gun owner, and he supports the right to protect your loved ones and property.

Commissioner Beiler thanked everyone for coming, and said resolutions are only pieces of paper, the real changes can be made tomorrow by getting out and voting.

Commissioner Moore said he agreed, get out and vote. He thanked Manager Pittman for contacting NCDOT after the last meeting regarding a hazardous roadside on NC HWY 108, he thanked DOT for their quick response. He also thanked County Planner Cathy Ruth for all her hard work.

Commissioner Gasperson said he is proud to say all of his family go out and vote, and do so with passion. He said we have this incredible right to vote, and it

is exciting times.

Chairman Yoder said he is proud of this Board standing behind the Constitution. He said sometimes the Board has different opinions , but they always support and look out for each other.

16. Adjournment

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

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

Ange High
Clerk to the Board

Myron Yoder
Chairman