

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Public Hearing & Regular Meeting
June 17, 2019 - 7:00 PM
R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice - Womack Building
Columbus, NC
MINUTES

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

1. Public Hearing - Call to Order - Chairman Melton

A. The purpose of the public hearing was to receive public comments on the proposed 2019/20 budget. The public hearing was properly advertised in the Tryon Daily Bulletin.

2. Citizen Comment(s)

There were no citizen comments at the public hearing.

3. Commissioner Comment(s)

There were no commissioner comments at the public hearing.

4. Adjourn Public Hearing

Vice-Chairman Yoder moved to adjourn the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Johnson and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Regular Meeting - Call to Order - Chairman Melton

6. Invocation - Chairman Melton

7. Pledge of Allegiance - Chairperson Gasperson

8. Approval of Agenda - Motion to approve agenda.

Chairman Melton requested adding the Charter's of Freedom Project to the agenda. Manager Pittman requested adding Columbus Farmer's Market Policies and Procedures to the agenda.

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the agenda with the two additions as requested, seconded by Vice-Chairman Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

9. Consent Agenda - Motion to approve consent agenda.

Commissioner Gasperson moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Johnson and the motion carried unanimously.

A. June 3, 2019 Budget Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes.

- B. Tax Refund Request for Deceased Vehicle Bills in the amount of \$1,810.96

10. Citizen Comment(s)

A. Agenda Items - There was one citizen comment on agenda item 18. FY 2019/20 Polk County Annual Budget.

B. Non-Agenda Items - There were no citizen comments on non-agenda items.

10.A. Charters of Freedom Project

Chairman Melton asked for a video regarding the Charter's of Freedom project to be shown. He said he has been in full support of the project since it was first presented to the Commissioners in August 2018. He explained the Commissioners accepted this gift for Polk County and he is glad to see construction begin at the Veteran's Park in Columbus. Commissioner Gasperson said the dedication ceremony will be in the fall, and he would like it to correlate with the historic event that occurred in Polk County at the Alexander's Ford site on October 5, 1780 which is a very important part of America's history. He said during the dedication ceremony, there will be a time capsule to be opened in 2076. Anyone who attends will have the opportunity to have their name included in the time capsule, and the Charter's of Freedom organization will be selling commemorative bricks as a fundraiser. The Commissioners agreed this is an exciting opportunity to present the founding documents of our country to future generations here in Polk County and they all support the project.

10.B. Columbus Farmer's Market Policies and Procedures

Dawn Jordan, Ag. Economic Development Director, said since her department is now managing the market, they have revised the policies and procedures for the Columbus Farmers Market to include best practices for citizen and vendor safety. Commissioner Gasperson said because of the disruption with the resignation of the prior market manager, no more fees will be collected, and vendors will receive a prorated refund of fees if they already paid for the entire season. Manager Pittman stated it was important to have the basic safety practices put in place immediately, and they will evaluate and amend the entire policy as needed.

Commissioner Gasperson moved to approve the Columbus Farmer's Market policies and procedures, seconded by Vice-Chairman Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

11. Community Action Opportunities (CAO) - Trudy A Logan, Economic Development Department Director, CAO - Motion to approve resolution.

Ms. Logan stated the grant funds are provided by the State to allow her organization to provide emergency assistance, and crisis stabilization for low

income families in Polk County. She said they are communicating with other agencies in Polk County to eliminate duplication of services to bring the most benefit to the citizens. Ms. Logan also said they would welcome a member of the Commission to serve on their Board.

Commissioner Gasperson moved to approve the resolutions supporting Community Action Opportunities, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

12. Foothills Humane Society Contract Review - Manager Pittman.

Manager Pittman said the proposed contract is being presented for review, and the new rate will not begin until the contract is signed by both parties. He explained Foothills Humane Society provides a service to the community by housing and caring for animals brought in through Animal Control. The contract will be voted on at the next Board of Commissioners meeting.

13. Polk County Health Department Revised Fee Schedule

Joshua Kennedy, Consolidated Human Services (CHSA) Director explained after reviewing the fee schedule approved for the new Polk County Health Department on May 20, 2019, there were two fees that were lower than the cost to perform the function, and what the State charges. He asked the Board to approve revising the fee schedule to increase those two test fees to the actual cost. The Commissioners asked if the County would profit from the increase, and Mr. Kennedy said no, it would just eliminate a deficit.

Commissioner Gasperson moved to approve revised fee schedule, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

14. Southern Health Partners Agreement - Captain Jerry Williams - Motion to approve amendment to the health services agreement.

Captain Jerry Williams said this was the annual contract review for the agreement between the Polk County Law Enforcement Center and Southern Health Partners. He said the changes were a 2% increase, and the addition of a clause stating Southern Health Partners past employees may not be solicited for employment by us within the first year of their termination. Captain Williams said he is satisfied with the medical services they are providing, and most inmates seen by them are local inmates.

Vice-Chairman Yoder moved to approve the Southern Health Partners contract, seconded by Commissioner Johnson and the motion carried unanimously.

15. FY 2018/19 Budget Amendments - Sandra Hughes, Finance Director, will present the attached amendments, and any others that may need approval for the FY 2018/19 budget. Motion to approve.

Sandra Hughes, Finance Director presented the Budget Amendments:

BA#101 DSS/CHSA to Capital Reserve in the amount of \$18,859 to transfer reserves previously intended for Polk County Transportation's relocation to DSS back to Capital Reserve to remodel the Polk County Health Department. BA#105 Courts to Capital Reserve in the amount of \$11,726 to transfer amount appropriated from contingency to repair the cupola on the Courthouse. BA#109 CHSA in the amount of \$26,136 to cover shortfall within department. BA#111 Non-Department & Jail to Sheriff in the amount of \$52,435 to transfer estimated additional amount needed for the Sheriff's fuel from the Manager's Discretion fuel budget, and for the Sheriff's utilities from the Jail salary budget. BA#112 Economic Development to 911 Communications in the amount of \$19,540 to transfer unspent budget from Economic Development due to a vacant position to 911 Communications part time salary budget due to several factors (training coverage, turnover, etc). BA#23 Sheriff Addition in the amount of \$17,874 using Sheriff miscellaneous revenue for escorting pipeline trucks to purchase new uniforms.

Vice-Chairman Yoder moved to approve budget amendments as presented, seconded by Commissioner Johnson and the motion carried unanimously.

16. FY 2019/20 Polk County Annual Budget – Budget work sessions were held on May 20, 2019 and June 3, 2019. The budget public hearing was held on June 17, 2019.

Commissioner Gasperson read the following statement.

The primary reasons for my support of the 2019-2020 Budget are:

- 1. This budget will help provide sustainable funding for the Polk After School program.*
- 2. It provides additional critical funding for rising public safety costs.*
- 3. This budget has the funding needed for the newly created Polk County Health Department. I'm convinced that the citizens of our county will see Environmental and other services provided by our own Health Department to be more timely and enhanced when compared to similar services that were being provided by the RPM Health District. The really great thing about this change in Public Health is that it will not be costing additional taxpayer money.*
- 4. And finally I support this Budget because of all who worked diligently to make sure it is the highest and best use of taxpayer money, while maintaining a healthy fund balance. I want to give special thanks to our Finance Director and her staff, our County Manager, the Clerk to the Board, all Department Heads and their staffs, our School Superintendent, his staff and the School Board, the Sheriff and his staff, Fire/Rescue Chiefs and their staffs, Harmon Field Board, County Attorney and my fellow Commissioners.*

Myron said he gets questions from citizens as to why the tax rate is increasing and he said one of the biggest responsibilities as a commissioner is the safety of the citizens. He said public safety and education are top priorities and the tax increase is needed to fund them.

Chairman Melton said he heard a citizen reprimanding the board for taking money away from the school system, and he said this board has never taken money away from school children. He further stated we work diligently to give our kids what they need to keep the school system number one, and the Board is giving the Superintendent what he's asked for and what he needs. Chairman Melton said he is also very proud of what the Sheriff has done and the Board wants to give him what he needs to keep the citizens safe. He thanked the County Manager and Finance Director for working hard on this budget, and said he is proud to be from Polk County.

Budget work sessions were held on May 20, 2019 and June 3, 2019, and the budget public hearing was held on June 17, 2019.

Vice-Chairman Yoder moved to adopt the FY 2019/20 Polk County Annual Budget as presented, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion passed.

Ayes: Beiler, Gasperson, Melton, Yoder

Nays: Johnson

17. Volunteer Board Application for Vote - Motion to appoint Matt Mullet to the Recreation Advisory Board.

Commissioner Gasperson moved to appoint Matt Mullet to the Recreation Advisory Board, seconded by Vice-Chairman Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

A. Volunteer Board Applications for Review - The Commissioners reviewed the 3 applications for the Economic & Tourism Development Commission, 1 application for the Board of Adjustment, and 1 application for the Recreation Advisory Board.

18. Commissioner Comment(s)

The Commissioners thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting. They thanked the staff for all their hard work on the budget, especially Manager Pittman and Finance Director Hughes.

19. Adjournment

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

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

Ange High
Clerk to the Board

Tommy W. Melton
Chairman