

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Regular Meeting  
July 22, 2019 - 7:00 PM  
R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice - Womack Building  
Columbus, NC  
MINUTES

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

1. Call to Order - Chairman Melton.

Chairman Melton read the following statement:

By now I'm sure you've all heard about the unexpected passing of Chief Tennant on Friday, July 19th. Chief was such a pillar in this community, helping so many, and he will be greatly missed. If you are in the audience tonight, and you knew Geoff Tennant, or he touched your life in some way, please stand in memory of this great man, and show love and support to his family.

There was a moment of silence in memory of Chief Tennant.

2. Invocation - Vice-Chairman Yoder.

3. Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Beiler.

4. Approval of Agenda

A. Chairman Melton requested removing Mr. Geoffrey Tennant from the volunteer board applications for vote, due to his unexpected passing.

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

5. Consent Agenda

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

A. July 8, 2019 regular meeting minutes.

B. Schedule a public hearing for proposed new road names for Monday, August 5, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice, Womack Building.

C. Budget Amendment to reduce fund balance appropriation by \$35,000 to remove a self-service checkout kiosk system from the FY 20 capital per Library's request.

D. Public School Building Capital Fund North Carolina Education Lottery - To approve the application to use \$46,800 of lottery funds to pay for the partial roof replacement at Sunny View Elementary School.

6. Citizen Comment(s)

Three citizens spoke in support of St. Luke's Hospital. One citizen complained about Rutherford Electric Membership Co-op (REMC) working along Silver Creek Road. One citizen spoke regarding the increase in occupancy tax collected last year in Polk County, and what it could possibly be used for.

7. St. Luke's Hospital Update

Michelle Fortune, Chief Executive Officer St. Luke's Hospital, gave a presentation updating the Board of Commissioners about the hospital, a copy of which is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes. Mrs. Fortune said St. Luke's Hospital remains locally owned, and funded, although in 2008, they hired Atrium Health to provide certain services. She encouraged citizens to choose St. Luke's Hospital for their medical needs not only for the convenience of its location, but also for the quality of care they will receive.

Vice-Chairman Yoder moved to recess the meeting for five minutes, seconded by Commissioner Johnson and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Recreation Grant Application

Jerry Stensland, Parks & Recreation Director explained Polk County Parks & Recreation intends to apply for a Recreation Trails Program to fund trail construction at Little White Oak Mountain. He said the grant application is due August 2, 2019 and they intend to apply for a \$100,000 grant. The grant requires approval of the governing body as well as a commitment to the matching funds, which is 25% match required, or \$25,000. He said the match would come from the following sources, Polk County Community Foundation Grant - \$20,000 and Polk County Parks and Recreation Donations Fund - \$5,000.

Vice-Chairman Yoder moved to approve the grant application with the required matching funds coming from the Polk County Community Foundation, and the Polk County Parks and Recreation Donation Fund, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

9. Budget Amendment Addition

Joshua Kennedy, Consolidate Health and Human Services Director explained the pass-through funds from the Department of Public Health (DPH) are to improve the school nurse to student ratio in the school district by increasing access to school nursing services and by having a positive impact on improving children's health and their readiness to learn. He said the funds will be used to employ nationally certified school nurse(s), or registered nurse(s) working toward national certification, to work full time in local schools and enhance the local capacity to provide basic health services to students. This is an existing service with Polk County Schools and the DPH, and there are currently three nurses employed through this service. The budget amendment is necessary to add a line of revenue to receive and expend the funds.

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the budget amendment creating a new revenue line for the DPH school nurse funds, seconded by Vice-Chairman Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

10. North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) Voting Delegate

Commissioner Beiler moved to appoint Commissioner Johnson as the NCACC voting delegate, seconded by Vice-Chairman Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

11. Volunteer Board Application(s)

A. Applications for Vote:

Commissioner Johnson moved to appoint Cynthia Fowler to the Fire & Rescue Advisory Committee (FRAC) and Kevin Blackwell and Lee Bradley to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC), seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Applications for Review: 1 application for the Economic & Tourism Development Commission; 1 applicant for the Consolidated Health & Human Services Board; 1 application for the Recreation Advisory Board; 2 applications for the Recycling Advisory Board; 1 application for the Tryon Fire Tax Commission.

The Commissioners reviewed the volunteer board applications.

12. Commissioner Comment(s)

The Commissioners thanked everyone for attending the meeting, especially Mrs. Fortune for giving an update on the hospital. They acknowledged the loss of a very important person in Polk County this past week and said no other citizen has had such an impact on so many. They agreed Chief Tennant will be greatly missed, and his legacy will live on forever, and will hopefully inspire others in the community to give back.

13. Adjournment

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

ATTEST:

POLK COUNTY BOARD  
OF COMMISSIONERS

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Angé High  
Clerk to the Board

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Tommy W. Melton  
Chairman