

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Public Hearing & Regular Meeting
August 5, 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 Gasperson. Also in attendance were County Manager Pittman, County Attorney Berg, Clerk to the Board High, media and citizens.

1. Public Hearing
 - A. Chairman Melton called to order the Public Hearing to discuss new Polk County road names. The purpose of the public hearing was to receive citizen input on new road names requested within Polk County's jurisdiction. The public hearing was properly advertised in the Tryon Daily Bulletin.
 - B. Citizen Comments - There were none.
 - C. Commissioner Comments - There were none.
 - D. Commissioner Gasperson moved to adjourn the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.
2. Call to Order the Regular Meeting - Chairman Melton.
3. Invocation - Commissioner Beiler.
4. Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Gasperson.
5. Approval of Agenda
 - A. County Attorney Berg requested adding Closed Session for attorney client privilege and personnel, and Manager Pittman requested adding the NCACC voting delegate appointment.

Vice-Chairman Yoder moved to approve agenda with requested changes, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.
6. Consent Agenda

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

 - A. July 22, 2019 regular meeting minutes.
 - B. Home and Community Care Block Grant for Older Adults Agreement.
 - C. Tax refund requests through July 31, 2019 in the amount of \$708.16.
7. Citizen Comment(s)

Three citizens spoke regarding the farmer's market, and the new position in the Agricultural Economic Development Department.

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

Chairman Melton said due to Jake Johnson's resignation as Commissioner and his recent appointment to the NC House of Representatives, a new voting delegate must be appointed to represent the Board at the annual NCACC Conference.

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

8. Proposed New Road Names - EQUESTRIAN WAY, COTTONWOOD RIDGE, PINEWOOD TRAIL, MOONSHADOW TRACE, & TURTLE HOLLOW.

Commissioner Beiler moved to approve the new road names as requested, seconded by Vice-Chairman Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

9. Consolidated Human Services Agency Name Change Request.

Joshua Kennedy, Consolidated Health and Human Services Director stated following the Commissioners decision to withdraw from the three county health district, Rutherford, Polk, McDowell (RPM), the Consolidated Human Services Agency (CHSA) board unanimously voted at their May 2019 meeting to recommend changing the official name of the agency to the Polk County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) to reflect the addition of public health as a new and fundamental component of the agency. He further explained this name is the more common naming convention for those counties who have consolidated both Public Health and Social Services, as well as other county functions. He said the board has reaffirmed their recommendation of the name change at their July 2019 board meeting by recommending the name change in the by-laws, as well.

Vice-Chairman Yoder moved to approve changing the name of the Consolidated Human Services Agency (CHSA) to the Polk County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

10. Consolidated Human Services Agency Board By-Law Update.

Joshua Kennedy, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Director said the by-law change is needed to incorporate the newly approved name change, and to include more formal language for committee designees, and these changes are recommended by the CHSA /HHSA board.

Vice-Chairman Yoder moved to approve the by-law changes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

11. Agricultural Economic Development (AED) Department Position Change - Dawn Jordan, AED Director, will present the request.

Dawn Jordan Agricultural Economic Director said her department has had the opportunity to offer service positions to AmeriCorps Service members for the past nine years. However, they are only here for eleven months and when they move on so does the training and investment made in to the AmeriCorps individuals. Mrs. Jordan said for this reason she is requesting one part-time employee instead of the two new AmeriCorps positions included in the budget. She said there will be no added expense to her budget, there will be less travel expense, and the training received by the employee will be retained to better serve the citizens of Polk County.

Vice-Chairman asked why this position could not be used just for the farmers market. Manager Pittman said Mrs. Jordan will be coordinating the farmer's market and this position will support her with the market via social media and on the ground at the market each week.

Commissioner Beiler moved to approve a new part time position to the Agricultural Economic Development Department instead of the two Americorps positions, not to exceed the amount budgeted, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion passed.

Ayes: Beiler, Gasperson, Melton

Nays: Yoder

Commissioner Gasperson moved to approve the budget amendment to move funds within the AED department from professional services to salaries for the new part-time position, not to exceed \$22,756.50, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

12. Surplus Real Property Policy and Procedures.

Attorney Berg requested the Board of Commissioners review the attached Policy and Procedure for the Sale or Disposal of Real Property that meets or exceeds the statutory guidelines. The policy would be for the sale or disposition of all real property owned by the county. She said an advisory ad hoc committee was formed consisting of the County Manager, County Attorney, Finance Director, Clerk to the Board, Tax Administrator and Information Technology Director.

13. Surplus Foreclosed Real Property Disposal.

Attorney Berg requested the Board of Commissioners review Procedure for Declaring Real Property Acquired by Tax Foreclosure as Surplus and to authorize the County Manager to declare as surplus property acquired by the county through tax foreclosure that serves no useful governmental function or is of no use to the county. She said there will be a ten day waiting period for upset bids each time a new bid is received, and the Commissioners would have all final say on acceptance of bids. Commissioner Gasperson questioned if county employees or their relatives are eligible to bid on foreclosed property. Attorney Berg said this policy does not allow for county employees or their relatives to bid. She said that exclusion is not a requirement by law, but was included as board preference, and it may be removed or amended if the board desires.

14. Volunteer Board Application(s)

A. Applications for Vote: Ambrose Mills Economic & Tourism Development Commission; Linley Foster Consolidated Health & Human Services Agency Board; Catherine Bond Recreation Advisory Board; John Brodie, and Edward Goettert Recycling Advisory Board; Hubb Arledge Tryon Fire Tax Commission.

Commissioner Gasperson moved to approve all applicants as presented, seconded by Vice-Chairman Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

B. The Commissioners reviewed the applications of Nancy Hasselbring, Martin Keynton, Stephen King, Brandon Knox, Laurel Pyatt, Charles Rounds, Margo Savage for Animal Cruelty Investigators.

15. Commissioner Comment(s)

The Commissioners thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting. They expressed appreciation for all that committed and shared their opinions. They all agreed Mr. Johnson would be missed as part of the Board, and believe he will excel and do a great job as our State Representative.

A. Commissioner Beiler moved to go into closed session for the purpose of attorney-client privilege and personnel, seconded by Vice-Chairman Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Commissioner Gasperson moved to return to open session, seconded by Vice-Chairman Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Berg stated no action was taken during closed session.

16. Adjournment

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

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

Ange High
Clerk to the Board

Tommy W. Melton
Chairman