

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Public Hearing & Regular Meeting
September 9, 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 Moore. 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 the public hearing to order. The purpose of the public hearing was to take public comment on the FY 2021 NCDOT Section 5311 (ADTAP), 5310, 5339, 5307, and applicable State Funding Community Transportation Grants. The public hearing was properly advertised in the Tryon Daily Bulletin.

Joshua Kennedy Health & Human Services Agency Director explained the grant and introduced Katelyn Early as the new Transportation Manager.

B. Citizen Comments - There were none.

C. Commissioner Comments.

The Commissioners discussed the vital importance of receiving grant funding to ensure the transportation programs are available for the citizens. Commissioner Gasperson expressed gratitude for the critical services the transportation department provides. Vice-Chairman Yoder asked if the local match was included in the budget. Mr. Kennedy explained the grants are applied for a year in advance, and if this grant is approved, the local share will be part of the County's FY21's budget.

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

2. Call to Order the Regular Meeting - Chairman Melton.

3. Invocation - Chairman Melton.

4. Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Moore.

5. Approval of Agenda

A. Commissioner Gasperson moved to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Vice-Chairman Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Consent Agenda

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

- A. Schedule a public hearing for proposed new road names for Monday, September 23, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice, Womack Building.
- B. August 16, 2019 special meeting and August 19, 2019 regular meeting minutes.
- C. Tax refund requests through August 31, 2019 in the amount of \$2,725.07.
- D. Release \$95,705 Public School Capital Fund (Lottery Distribution) for payment on existing debt-QZAB/Tryon Elementary. It was approved by the Board of Education on August 12, 2019.
- E. Amend Project Ordinance adding \$13,000 from capital project fund balance to replace roof at the Waste Water Treatment Plant facility.
- F. Budget Amendment to transfer \$18,859 reserved last year for the remodel at DSS for an additional office for Public Health.
- G. Budget Amendment to appropriate \$11,220 from general fund balance to Public Health for renovations.

7. Citizen Comment(s)

A citizen asked the Commissioners if they support the Rails to Trails project being discussed between Saluda and Tryon. Commissioner Gasperson said this is a moot point because Norfolk & Southern are unwilling to abandon the railway, and as far as the County is concerned, the Commissioners rescinded their resolution of support in 2011. Chairman Melton agreed and said as long as he is on the Board he would not support the initiative. A citizen thanked the Commissioners for their help rectifying an issue she told them about regarding herbicides and REMC.

8. NC Geological Survey - Landslide Map Update.

Richard (Rick) M. Wooten, P.G. Senior Geologist, North Carolina Geological Survey Division of Energy, Minerals and Land Resources Dept. of Environmental Quality gave a presentation, a copy of which is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes. He explained they are working with other organizations to conduct a landslide hazards map. He said the maps for Polk County should be completed in 2020. Chairman Melton said his insurance agent told him there is no company in North Carolina that will issue a policy for landslides. Mr. Wooten said that is also his understanding. Commissioner Gasperson asked Mr. Wooten if the map would classify areas unbuildable due to landslide risk. Mr. Wooten said the maps will show where high, medium, and low hazard areas are located, but would not specifically designate areas as unbuildable. Commissioner Gasperson said the Steep Slope Ordinance that was rescinded was based on an elevation of over 1650 feet, the areas where the landslides occurred during 2018 were below that, will the maps show elevation? Mr. Wooten said the maps will show all areas that may be impacted by land movement.

He said sometimes an area downstream maybe impacted even though that area may not be very steep. He said the maps will be based on factors that cause land movement, such as ground slope, but not elevation. Chairman Melton asked if they would track boulders. Mr. Wooten said they do try to map the boulder deposits when possible. The Commissioners requested Mr. Wooten to come back quarterly to update them on the progress of the mapping project.

9. FY 2021 NCDOT Community Transportation Grants & Resolution.

Joshua Kennedy Health and Human Services Agency Director, and Katelyn Early Transportation Manager presented the completed grant application packets for NCDOT funding for the fiscal year 2021. They said once approved, the grant packets will be sent to NCDOT in order to meet the October 4, 2019 deadline. The high-level details for each application are included in the packet.

Vice-Chairman Yoder moved to adopt the resolution and submit the FY 2021 grant application by the October 4, 2019 deadline, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

10. 2019 Polk County Transportation Safety Systems Plan.

Joshua Kennedy Health and Human Services Agency Director, and Katelyn Early Transportation Manager presented the annual Transportation Safety System Plan (SSP) for review. The SSP reflects the changing needs of Polk County's system programs. Mr. Kennedy explained as a transit system evolves, it must consistently monitor the programs and update the SSP accordingly. He said there were a few changes requested from last year's plan, all of which are listed in the plan.

11. PayTel Contract Addendum.

Captain Jerry Williams said the addendum to the Paytel contract is to change the termination clause from five years to forty-five days. He said he would come back to the Board if they ever decide to terminate.

Commissioner Gasperson moved to approve addendum number 4 to the inmate tel-communications agreement, seconded by Vice-Chairman Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

12. Purchase Order Approval for Carolina Recording Systems (CRS) in the amount of \$113,445.00.

James McGuinn 911 Communications Director presented the purchase order to CRS in the amount of \$113,445 to purchase equipment required by the 911 Board to provide recording capability at both communication centers.

Vice-Chairman Yoder moved to approve the purchase order to CRS in the amount of \$113,445, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.

13. Purchase Order Approval for Kimball Communications Inc. in the amount of \$217,277.88.

James McGuinn 911 Communications Director presented the purchase order to Kimball in the amount of \$217,277.88 to replace consoles in the 911 communications center.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the purchase order to Kimball in the amount of \$217,277.88, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.

14. Census 2020 Update & Complete Count Committee - Cathy Ruth Planner.

Cathy Ruth Planner gave a presentation on the 2020 Census, a copy of which is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes. She said during the 2010 census 27% of Polk County's population did not respond to the census, and this time the Governor has set a goal for 80% of each county's citizens to respond. The Census Bureau is working with each state and have started an initiative for a "Complete Count". They are suggesting the community form a committee to encourage all citizens to respond, and communicate the importance of census. The census numbers determine the amount of federal funding the State and Polk County will receive, and the number of representation in the House, and it is very important to be as accurate as possible.

Commissioner Gasperson moved to appoint Cathy Ruth as Chairperson for the Complete Count Committee, seconded by Vice-Chairman Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

15. Commissioner Volunteer Board Appointments - Manager Pittman.

Vice-Chairman Yoder moved to Motion to approve Commissioner Moore assuming Jake Johnson's appointments on Volunteer Boards, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

16. Schedule Regional Water Authority Work Session for September 24, 2019, 5:30 pm at the Polk County Middle School Media Center - Manager Pittman.

Manager Pittman explained the joint meeting would be with the board members and staff of Broad River Water Authority and Inman Campobello Water District to discuss the water regionalization study report.

Commissioner Moore moved to schedule joint work session with Broad River Water Authority and Inman Campobello Water District, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

17. Charters of Freedom Dedication Ceremony September 17, 2019 1:00 pm at the Veteran's Park in Columbus.

Robert Williamson shared pictures on the progress of the Charters of Freedom project which began in August 2018 with the Commissioners approval to direct the Appearance Commission to recommend a location for the monuments.

Mr. Williamson said the construction is complete at the selected location

of Veteran's Park in Columbus, and a dedication ceremony will be held on Tuesday, September 17th at 1:00pm. The public is invited to celebrate this historic event for all of Polk County.

18. Volunteer Board Application(s)

A. Applications for Vote: Robert Scruggs and William Smith, Tryon Fire Tax Commission.

Commissioner Moore moved to appoint all members as presented, seconded by Vice-Chairman Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

B. The Commissioners reviewed the following applications Cathy Berlin Animal Control Board; Michelle Fortune Economic & Tourism Development Commission; Jonathon Gerst Recreation Advisory Board.

19. Commissioner Comment(s)

Commissioner Gasperson thanked Mr. Williamson for taking the lead on the Charters of Freedom project. He thanked James McGuinn for inviting the Commissioners to the 911 protocol seminar. He said it was very enlightening to learn what the dispatchers are doing and the new software they are working with. Commissioner Moore thanked everyone for coming out and sharing information. Commissioner Beiler thanked Ms. Bond for coming back to a meeting to let them know about a positive outcome the Commissioners and staff had helped her with.

Vice-Chairman Yoder thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and said the construction of the Charters of Freedom was very impressive.

Chairman Melton said he appreciates the Deputy coming to the meeting, and thanked Mr. Williamson and all the volunteers for all their hard work on the Charters of Freedom project.

20. Closed Session

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

B. Commissioner Beiler moved to return to open session, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

21. Adjournment

Commissioner Beiler moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

Ange High
Clerk to the Board

Tommy W. Melton Chairman