

POLK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING
March 21, 2016 – 7:00 P.M.
R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice
Womack Building
Columbus, NC

PRESENT: Chair Holbert, Commissioner Bradley, Commissioner Gage and Commissioner Gasperson. Also in attendance were County Manager Pittman, County Attorney Berg, Clerk to the Board Fehrmann, media and citizens.

1. Call to Order – Chair Holbert called the meeting to order.
2. Invocation – Mr. Myron Yoder gave the invocation.
3. Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Bradley led the pledge.
4. Approval of Agenda – Commissioner Gasperson asked that Agenda Item #9, Acquisition of Property for the Proposed New Jail/Sheriff's Department Facility, Agenda Item #10, Financing Options for the Proposed New Jail/Sheriff's Department Facility, and Agenda Item #11, Possible Tax Increases to Fund the Proposed New Jail/Sheriff's Department Facility, be removed from the agenda. Commissioner Gasperson said he will place these items on the agenda for the April 4, 2016, regular meeting for discussion. Commissioner Gasperson said this will give the full Board an opportunity to participate in the discussions, as a new Commissioner will be appointed to the current Board vacancy at that meeting. Commissioner Gasperson moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Commissioner Gage and the motion carried unanimously.
5. Consent Agenda
 - A) Approval of the March 7, 2016, public hearing and regular meeting minutes.
 - B) Adoption of the Polk County Transportation Department Purchasing Policy Addendum – The addendum is required in order for the policy to be state compliant.
 - C) Economic & Tourism Development Commission Ex-Officio Appointments – Eight recommendations were provided.
 - D) Approval of the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) Membership Changes – To remove Sandra Hughes, Finance Director, as the ex-officio government/government affiliate appointee to the TAB and appoint Robert Williamson, ETDC Director, in the position.

Commissioner Gage moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Bradley and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Citizen Comments – Regarding a recent fire in the county's Spicer's Cove community, Scott Woodworth said it takes time for fire departments to reach homes

- located in remote areas; in order to minimize potential fire damage these homes must be constructed using fire resistant materials and methods.
7. Proclamation Declaring April 2016 Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Month – Lou Parton, Department of Social Services Director, introduced members of the Community Child Fatality Prevention & Protection Team. Michael Crater, EMS Director and Polk County Community Child Fatality Prevention & Protection Team Co-Chair, presented the proclamation. Commissioner Gasperson moved to approve the Proclamation Declaring April 2016 Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Month, seconded by Commissioner Gage and the motion carried unanimously.
 8. 2015/2016 Polk County Audit Contract Proposals – County Manager Pittman presented two proposals - one submitted by current county auditing firm Dixon Hughes Goodman (DHG), and one submitted by Gould Killian. DHG's proposal was approximately \$9,000 higher than Gould Killian's. Finance Director Sandra Hughes said she does not have a preference since both auditing firms are good. Ms. Hughes noted that DHG's proposed year end on-site hours (248) far exceed those of Gould Killian (144), and said DHG provides a more in-depth and thorough audit. Commissioner Gasperson recommended County Manager Pittman contact DHG and negotiate a lower audit fee, and discussion ensued. Commissioner Gasperson moved to postpone awarding the 2015/2016 Polk County audit contract until the April 4, 2016, regular BOC meeting, and further moved to instruct County Manager Pittman to negotiate with DHG on the audit fee, seconded by Commissioner Gage and the motion carried unanimously.
 9. ~~Acquisition of Property for the Proposed New Jail/Sheriff's Department Facility~~ – Commissioner Gasperson asked that this item be placed on the agenda in order for the Board to give guidance and direction to County Manager Pittman regarding the acquisition of property for the proposed new jail/sheriff's department facility. This item was removed from the agenda.
 10. ~~Financing Options for the Proposed New Jail/Sheriff's Department Facility~~ – Commissioner Gasperson asked that this item be placed on the agenda to allow the Board to discuss the full range of financing options available for the proposed new jail/sheriff's department facility. This item was removed from the agenda.
 11. ~~Possible Tax Increases to Fund the Proposed New Jail/Sheriff's Department Facility~~ – Commissioner Gasperson asked that this item be placed on the agenda to allow the Board to discuss the possibility that tax increases will be required to fund the proposed new jail/sheriff's department facility. This item was removed from the agenda.
 12. Manager's Report – 1) County Manager Pittman said, after talking to three firms regarding the appraisal of the Lake Adger/Turner Shoals dam, he has surmised appraisal of this county asset will be a complicated process. County Manager Pittman presented three appraisal options: A) Contract with one firm to ascertain the value. B) Contract with two firms who can collaborate to ascertain the value. C) Contract with two firms to work independently to ascertain two values. Commissioner Gage moved to instruct County Manager Pittman to pursue Option

- #2 and research contracting with two firms who can collaborate to ascertain the value of the Lake Adger/Turner Shoals dam, seconded by Commissioner Bradley and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2) The Womack Building "In God We Trust" slogan initiative has been delayed due to a permitting issue encountered by the U.S. Motto Action Committee (USMAC) in a nearby county. The USMAC firm prefers to schedule its installations regionally, and expects to have the Womack Building installation completed by the end of April 2016.
13. Volunteer Board for Vote – Commissioner Gasperson moved to appoint Ambrose Mills to the Economic & Tourism Development Commission as a social services provider representative, seconded by Commissioner Bradley, but the motion failed 2-2 (Gage and Holbert opposed).
14. Volunteer Boards for Review – Four applications for one Cooper Gap Township/At-Large Planning Board vacancy and one Tryon Township/At-Large Planning Board vacancy were reviewed.
15. Commissioner Comments – The Commissioners thanked everyone for coming out, and asked citizens to keep Tom Pack's family in their prayers.
16. Adjournment – Commissioner Bradley moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Gage and the motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

POLK COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS

Beth Fehrmann
Clerk to the Board

Keith Holbert
Chair