

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

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

1. Temporary Acting Clerk to the Board – Commissioner Bradley moved to appoint Yvette Szuster, the County Manager's Administrative Assistance, as the Temporary Acting Clerk to the Board for the current public hearing and regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner Gage and the motion carried unanimously.
2. Call to Order of the Public Hearing Regarding the Close Out of a 2014 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funded by the NC Department of Commerce Economic Development Program – Vice-Chair Holbert called the public hearing to order. The purpose of the public hearing was to receive public comment regarding the close out of a 2014 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funded by the NC Department of Commerce Economic Development Program. CDBG economic development funds were used to assist the county with the construction of 6,870 lf of a 12" waterline along Pea Ridge and John Shehan roads to the White Oak Development entrance to serve a new hotel and a large equestrian center. As a condition of the grant the company created 54 new jobs, with 60% of the jobs filled by people whose previous income fell at or below Polk County's median income limits. The county expended \$186,387.35 of CDBG funds for the waterline, and \$25,000 for planning and grant administration. Tryon Equestrian, LLC, provided the 25% required match and a financial investment of \$93,750 for this infrastructure project. Remaining CDBG funds will be de-obligated. Jim Edwards of the Isothermal Planning & Development Commission was present to answer questions. The public hearing was properly advertised in the Tryon Daily Bulletin. Information regarding the ordinance was included under Agenda Item #12.
3. Citizen Comments – There were none.
4. Commissioner Comments – Commissioner Gasperson said White Oak Developers/ Tryon Equestrian, LLC, paid for the waterline from the intersection of Hwy. 9 and Sandy Plains Rd. to bring public water to the equestrian center, and the equestrian center's sewer system is connected to the Town of Rutherfordton's sewage treatment system.
5. Adjournment – Commissioner Gage moved to adjourn the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Bradley and the motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chair Holbert announced that Chair Pack recently suffered an accident and

was currently hospitalized.

6. Call to Order of the Regular Meeting – Vice-Chair Holbert called the regular meeting to order.
7. Invocation – Commissioner Gasperson gave the invocation.
8. Pledge of Allegiance – Vice-Chair Holbert led the pledge.
9. Approval of Agenda – County Manager Pittman asked that, in light of the update given by Vice-Chair Holbert on Chair Pack's condition, Agenda Item #16, Manager's Report, be removed from the agenda. Commissioner Gage moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Commissioner Bradley and the motion carried unanimously.

10. Consent Agenda

- A) February 22, 2016, regular meeting minutes.
- B) Tax Department February refund request in the amount of \$5,244.36.
- C) Resolution changing the name of the county transportation services department from the "Polk County Transportation Authority" to the "Polk County Transportation Department".
- D) Conflict of interest policy as required by the state for the Polk County Transportation Department.
- E) Amended Polk County Transportation Department by-laws incorporating the conflict of interest policy.

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

11. Citizen Comments – There were none.
12. Close Out of a 2014 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funded by the NC Department of Commerce Economic Development Program – Commissioner Gage moved to approve closing out the 2014 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funded by the NC Department of Commerce Economic Development Program, seconded by Commissioner Bradley and the motion carried unanimously.
13. Recreation Department Sponsorship Policy – Jerry Stensland, Recreation Director, presented the policy. The policy will provide guidelines for sponsorship opportunities for the department's various sports leagues. Commissioner Bradley moved to approve the Recreation Department Sponsorship Policy, seconded by Commissioner Gage and the motion carried unanimously.
14. FY 2016/17 Budget Calendar – Commissioner Gage moved to approve the budget calendar, seconded by Commissioner Bradley. Commissioner Gasperson moved that the FY 2016/17 budget calendar be amended wherein the County Manager be

instructed to prepare a preliminary budget prior to the first scheduled BOC budget work session on May 16, 2016; further moved that the budget reflect fiscally conservative revenue projections which are reasonable and not aggressive; and further moved that the budget not include the use of the county's fund balance to balance the annual budget. Commissioner Gasperson's motion failed for lack of a second. Commissioner Gasperson said on average \$500,000 of fund balance monies have been used annually to balance the budget over the past three years, resulting in a cumulative fund balance reduction of \$1.5 million. Vice-Chair Holbert said the fund balance is still in good shape. Commissioner Gage said the Commissioners are ultimately responsible for the budget, therefore it is very important for the BOC to hear from all the department heads during the budget process in order for them to fully understand the specific needs of each department. With the original motion and second on the floor, the motion carried 3-1 (Gasperson opposed).

15. Waterline Tap & Participation Fee Waiver – County Manager Pittman clarified that only the waterline participation fee is to be waived - the waterline tap is to be offered at cost, in accord with usual county practices. Commissioner Gage moved to waive the participation fees and to offer the waterline taps at cost to customers on the Hwy. 9 Sunny View waterline extension from Sunny View School to the county line and for customers on the Green Creek waterline extension on Ken Miller Rd.; and further moved the waived participation fees and the offer of the waterline taps at cost be valid only up to the official completion date of each specific waterline construction project, seconded by Commissioner Bradley. Commissioner Gasperson said he could not condone spending the fund balance monies required for these two waterline extensions, and would not vote in favor of the proposal. Commissioner Bradley said while he agrees with Commissioner Gasperson regarding the monies, the participation fee waiver and tap fee reduction will help citizens financially, and increase participation. With a motion and a second on the floor, the motion carried 3-1 (Gasperson opposed).
16. Manager's Report – ~~Update on Chair Pack.~~
17. Planning Board Appointment Correction – On February 22, 2016, Libby Morris was appointed to the Planning Board as a Tryon Township representative - instead of as an at-large member - due to a clerical error. Commissioner Gage moved to rescind the appointment of Libby Morris to the Planning Board as a Tryon Township representative, and to reappoint her as an at-large member, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.
18. North Carolina Department of Transportation Rural Planning Organization/ Transportation Advisory Committee Appointment (RPO/TAC) – Commissioner Gage moved to appoint Vice-Chair Holbert to the RPO/TAC, seconded by Commissioner Bradley and the motion carried unanimously.
19. Volunteer Board for Vote – Commissioner Bradley moved to appoint Sarah Fisher as an Animal Cruelty Investigator, seconded by Commissioner Gage and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Gage moved to appoint Marc Blazar to the Economic & Tourism Development Commission (ETDC) as a hospitality provider representative, seconded by Commissioner Bradley and the motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Bradley moved to appoint Cindy Viehman as a hospitality provider representative to the ETDC, seconded by Commissioner Gage and the motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Gage moved to appoint Christy Houser tourism destination representative to the ETDC, seconded by Commissioner Bradley and the motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Gage moved to appoint Judd Daniel as a retail business representative to the ETDC, seconded by Commissioner Bradley and the motion carried 3-1 (Holbert opposed). Commissioner Gage moved to appoint Steve Modlin as a manufacturing/assembly operations representative to the ETDC, seconded by Commissioner Bradley and the motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Bradley moved to appoint Michael Kleiner as an education/training provider representative to the ETDC, seconded by Commissioner Gage and the motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Gage moved to appoint Kate Barkschat as an education/training provider representative to the ETDC, seconded by Commissioner Bradley and the motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Gage moved to appoint Cassie Silvers as an education/training provider representative to the ETDC, seconded by Commissioner Bradley and the motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Bradley moved to appoint Ken Busch as a sole proprietor/entrepreneur representative to the ETDC, seconded by Commissioner Gage and the motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Gage moved to appoint Ken Strader as a sole proprietor/entrepreneur representative to the ETDC, seconded by Commissioner Bradley and the motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Gage moved to appoint Bob Binns as an agricultural products sales representative to the ETDC, seconded by Commissioner Bradley and the motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Bradley moved to appoint Libbie Johnson as an equestrian organization/ business/service provider representative to the ETDC, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson by the motion failed 2-2 (Gage and Holbert opposed). Commissioner Gage moved to appoint Tracey Daniels as a marketing/sales/promotion/media representative to the ETDC, seconded by Commissioner Bradley and the motion carried 3-1 (Holbert opposed). Commissioner Gage moved to appoint Donald Hoffman as a marketing/sales/promotion/media representative to the ETDC, seconded by Commissioner Bradley and the motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Bradley moved to appoint Robin Dampier as a banking/finance/investment/insurance representative to the ETDC, seconded by Commissioner Gage and the motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Gage moved to appoint Fred Baisden as a Polk County municipality/county government/agency representative, seconded by Commissioner Bradley and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bradley moved to appoint John Blanton to the Green Creek Fire District Tax Commission, seconded by Commissioner Gage and the motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Bradley moved to appoint Bruce Collins to the Green Creek Fire District Tax Commission, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Bradley moved to appoint Paul

Stacy to the Green Creek Fire District Tax Commission, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.

20. Volunteer Board for Review – The Board reviewed one ETDC application for one social services provider representative vacancy.
21. Commissioner Comments – Commissioner Gage and Vice-Chair Holbert thanked everyone for coming out, and asked them to keep Chair Pack and his family in their prayers. Commissioner Gasperson said he would place the following three items on the agenda for the next regular BOC meeting: 1) Give guidance and direction to County Manager Pittman regarding the acquisition of property for the proposed new detention center. 2) Full discussion on financing options for the proposed new detention center. 3) Full discussion on possible tax increases as necessary for the construction of a new detention center. Commissioner Bradley thanked everyone for coming out, and encouraged citizens to contact him with any questions or concerns.
22. Adjournment – Commissioner Gage moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

POLK COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS

Beth Fehrmann
Clerk to the Board

Keith Holbert
Chair