

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Budget Work Session; Two Public Hearings, and Regular Meeting
May 18, 2020 - 7:00 PM
R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice Womack Building Columbus, NC
Columbus, NC
MINUTES

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

1. Budget Work Session

A. Chairman Yoder called to order the Budget Work Session.

B. Discussion.

Sandra Hughes, Finance Director, and Manager Pittman discussed the following changes.

Mrs. Hughes said the Sheriff has requested to consolidate all of his four fuel lines into one line, the amount did not increase. Manager Pittman said he decreased the dam repair line by \$12,800 and increased the part-time salary line in human resources. Vice Chairman Melton asked how much was in the bank right now for dam repairs, and Mrs. Hughes said \$1,200,000. Manager Pittman said David Odom, the County Engineer has been working on the engineering portion of the repairs, and will be bringing a report to the Board at an upcoming meeting.

The consensus of the board was to include the suggested changes into the budget.

C. Vice-Chairman Melton moved to adjourn the budget work session, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Public Hearings

A. Call to Order the first Public Hearing - Chairman Yoder. The purpose of the public hearing was to take public comment on the proposed 2020/21 budget. The public hearing was properly advertised in the Tryon Daily Bulletin.

B. Citizen Comments.

There were no citizen comments.

C. Commissioner Comments.

There were no Commissioner comments.

- D. Vice-Chairman Melton moved to adjourn the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.
- E. Call to Order the second Public Hearing - Chairman Yoder. The purpose of the public hearing was to take public comment on the Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Polk, North Carolina, approving the issuance by the public finance authority of its ACTS Retirement Life Communities, Inc. obligated group, series 2020 bonds in one or more series (the "bonds"), in an amount not to exceed \$60,000,000. The public hearing was advertised properly in the Tryon Daily Bulletin.

Joshua Pasker, Partner, Saul Ewing Arnstein and Lehr LLP and Sue Ahern, Vice President and Controller, Acts Retirement Life Communities, Inc were present to answer questions.

F. Citizen Comments.

There were no citizen comments.

G. Commissioner Comments.

Commissioner Gasperson said he was glad to have ACTS as a part of our community.

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

3. Call to Order the Regular Meeting - Chairman Yoder.

4. Invocation - Vice-Chairman Melton.

5. Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Moore.

6. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Yoder asked to add closed session for the purpose of attorney client privilege and personnel as agenda item 16A, after Commissioner Comments, and to move agenda item 14, Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Polk, North Carolina, approving the issuance by the public finance authority of its ACTS Retirement Life Communities, Inc. obligated group, series 2020 bonds in one or more series (the "bonds"), in an amount not to exceed \$60,000,000 to agenda item 9, moving all consecutive items down one number.

- A. Vice-Chairman Melton moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by

Vice-Chairman Melton and the motion carried unanimously.

- A. April 20, 2020 regular meeting, and May 4, 2020 special meeting minutes.
 - B. Vaya Health Quarterly Report ending March 31, 2020.
 - C. Tax refund requests through April 24, 2020 in the amount of \$234.68.
 - D. FY 2021 Transportation Certifications & Assurances & Special Section 5333(b).
 - E. Budget Amendment to transfer a portion of the budget for Sales Tax School Capital Set-aside to School Department for immediate capital needs in the amount of \$42,584.
 - F. Second Amendment to Broadband Service Agreement with Pangea.
 - G. Delegation Authority for Transportation - County Manager primary, HHSa Director alternate #1, Finance Director, alternate #2.
8. Citizen Comment(s) - Citizens may submit their comments to the Clerk to the Board by email - ahigh@polknc.org, or phone - 828-894-3301 ext. 221, by 5:00 pm May 18, 2020 to be read during the meeting.

Chairman Yoder read the citizen comment received prior to the meeting and a copy is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes.

9. Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Polk, North Carolina, approving the issuance by the public finance authority of its ACTS Retirement Life Communities, Inc. obligated group, series 2020 bonds in one or more series (the "bonds"), in an amount not to exceed \$60,000,000.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.

*This will become effective at 7:00 pm on May 19, 2020 if no further public comments are received, since the public hearing was conducted during a remote meeting.

10. South Mountains Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Bobby Arledge, Emergency Management Director, and Fire Marshal said Polk County first became part of the South Mountains Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2016. He presented the updated plan and said it must be reviewed and a resolution must be approved every four years.

The hazard mitigation plan is the process used by state, local and tribal leaders to understand risks from natural hazards and develop long-term strategies to reduce the impacts of disasters on people, property, and the environment. This plan uses data from previous incidents over the years to help in developing guidance of whether or not areas should be determined as a high, low, or moderate hazard. This looks at ice storms, tornados, severe thunderstorms, flooding, and other natural disasters. Mr. Arledge said the plan includes future projects such as, finishing the landslide mapping project, adding new river gauges to the green river and white oak creek, identifying, and removing large obstructions from rivers to prevent flooding to areas that are not prone to flooding, enhancing emergency radio coverage, enhancing broadband/cellular/fiber and internet access, and acquiring generators for shelter sites, as well as upgrading, and repairing Turner Shoals Dam. He said the plan has been approved by the State and FEMA. Commissioner Moore asked how the plan was funded and Mr. Arledge said it was funded by the State.

Vice-Chairman Melton moved to approve the South Mountains Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

11. PARTF grant application.

Laura Baird, Interim Recreation Director presented the information for the PARTF grant application. She said most of the County match will come from the bargain sale of an additional 140 acres valued at \$331,000 donated value. She explained that last year the Board approved them to apply for the grant to build the trail system. They did not receive the grant, and would like to apply again, this year expanding their plan to not only include a trail system, but make it much more robust by adding an outdoor classroom for the middle school. They will be working with the school system allowing the students and teachers to help design and construct the building. She said there will also be several miles of mountain bike trails constructed. Commissioner Gasperson asked how long will it take for it to be completed, and she said it will be done within three years. Ms. Baird also said there are volunteer groups that have offered to help maintain the trails.

Vice-Chairman Melton moved to approve submitting the PARTF grant application, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve adding the questions and answers of the recreation survey to the master plan, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.

12. Library Policy Updates for Review.

Marcie Dowling, Library Director presented the policies for review. She

explained they were all existing policies except for the bulletin board policy which was created to include child safety guidelines. Mrs. Dowling said all changes were approved by the library leadership team, the library policy committee, and the library board of trustees.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve all the library policies as presented, seconded by Vice-Chairman Melton and the motion carried unanimously.

13. Tower Lease and Access Agreement with Pangea.

Manager Pittman explained the agreement marries the public safety radio with public internet and will be beneficial to everyone. The agreement now includes free internet access to Green Creek and Sunnyview Fire Departments. Vice-Chairman Melton asked if Pangea's Board approved the agreement, and Manager Pittman said they are aware of the changes.

Commissioner Gasperson moved to approve the Tower Lease and Access Agreement with Pangea, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

14. Remote Meeting Policy.

Attorney Berg presented the new remote meeting policy drafted to cover all Polk County's appointed Boards during a declared State of an Emergency. She explained some of the differences from regular meeting rules are if the remote member is disconnected from the meeting, their vote doesn't count as an affirmative, it would count as if they were not participating at all. They would also not be factored into the number for the vote, they would be absent. The policy, if approved will be retroactive to April 20, 2020. Commissioner Moore moved to approve the remote meeting policy, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.

15. Volunteer Board Application(s)

(Cynthia Gibson lives in Columbus and cannot serve on the Saluda Fire Tax District).

Vice-Chairman Melton moved to approve the volunteer board applications as presented, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

- A. Board of Adjustment - Micheal Axelrod (alternate), Betty Hill; Home and Community Care Block Grant Committee - Jane Armstrong; Saluda Fire Tax Commission - Christopher Shane Bradley, Julie Pace, Gerald Pruitt.

16. Commissioner Comment(s)

The Commissioners thanked everyone for a good meeting. Commissioner

Gasperson said Tryon International Equestrian Center is going to allow a competition on their grounds for competitors and their families to attend, no public, but will be streamed for participation beginning May 27. He said he hopes they are consulting with Public Health and Emergency Management to be safe and successful. Chairman Yoder said there are a lot of different messages, be respectful of the different opinions. He appreciates all the hard work everyone is doing to get us closer to an end, and is looking forward to an update on Friday May, 22.

- A. Closed Session - Vice-Chairman Melton moved to go into closed session for the purpose of attorney client privilege and personnel, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Moore moved to return to open session, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.

17. Adjournment

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

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

Ange High
Clerk to the Board

Myron Yoder
Chairman