

POLK COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING  
May 2, 2016 – 7:00 P.M.  
R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice  
Womack Building  
Columbus, NC  
MINUTES

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

1. Call to Order – Chair Gage called the meeting to order.
2. Invocation – Rev. Warren Elliot gave the invocation.
3. Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Bradley led the pledge.
4. Approval of Agenda – Commissioner Gasperson asked that Agenda Item #11, Property Search for the Proposed New Jail/Sheriff Department Facility & Future Courthouse Complex, be removed from the agenda and that “Housing Federal Prisoners in Polk County” be added to the agenda (Agenda Item #5.a.). Chair Gage asked that “Personnel, G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6)” be added to Agenda Item #16, Closed Session. Commissioner Bradley moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.
5. Consent Agenda
  - A) Approval of the amended April 4, 2016, regular meeting minutes - Minutes amended to correct a typographical error.
  - B) Approval of the April 18, 2016, regular meeting minutes.
  - C) Isothermal Planning & Development Commission - To reappoint County Manager Pittman to the commission.
  - D) Polk County QZAB payment for Tryon Elementary - To approve the application approved by the Board of Education on March 14, 2016, to use lottery funds to pay the QZAB loan payment.

Vice-Chair Holbert moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.

- 5.a Housing Federal Prisoners in Polk County – Commissioner Gasperson said many citizens have voiced their concerns regarding the housing of federal prisoners in the proposed new Detention Center/Sheriff's Department facility. Commissioner Gasperson moved that federal prisoners will not be housed in the future Polk County Detention Center/Sheriff's Department facility, seconded by Vice-Chair Holbert. Vice-Chair Holbert clarified the proposed new facility will contain approximately 60 beds, not 100 beds. With a motion and a second on the floor, the motion carried unanimously.

6. Citizen Comments – Cee Cee Wilmanns thanked the Sheriff's Department and county volunteers for all they do for the county, and expressed her appreciation of Polk County's community spirit.
7. Presentation of the County Manager's International City/County Managers Association (ICMA) Certificate – Mr. David Nicholson of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners presented County Manager Marche Pittman with the certificate recognizing Mr. Pittman as an ICMA Credentialed Manager. Mr. Pittman is the first Polk County Manager to have received this certification, and Mr. Nicholson and the Commissioners commended him on this accomplishment.
8. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) Plan for FY 2016/17 – Kim Wilson, JCPC Chair, presented the plan. Commissioner Gasperson moved to accept the JCPC Plan for FY 2016/17, seconded by Commissioner Bradley and the motion carried unanimously.
9. Proposed Replacement of the Historic Courthouse Retaining Wall – Dave Odom of Odom Engineering presented the information on replacing the entire retaining wall surrounding the historic courthouse property, and recommended the Board approve the bid submitted by Jay's Lawn Service & Landscape Company in the amount of \$94,160. Commissioner Owens moved to replace the historic courthouse retaining wall, and to accept the Jay's Lawn Service & Landscape Company bid in the amount of \$94,160, seconded by Vice-Chair Holbert. Mr. Odom confirmed Jay's Lawn Service & Landscape Company agreed to replace the front steps of the historic courthouse at no extra charge. Commissioner Bradley said the project is expensive and the money would be better spent on other, more suitable county projects. Commissioner Gasperson said although the retaining wall needs to be replaced and the proposed the cost is reasonable, the timing is not right; the project should be considered during the budget process in the next one to three years. With a motion and a second on the floor, the motion carried 3-2 (Bradley and Gasperson opposed). Vice-Chair Holbert moved to approve the courthouse retaining wall project budget ordinance in the amount of \$95,000 (\$65,000 from Contingency and \$30,000 from Fuel Contingency) to set up the project and transfer funds from the General Fund to the Capital Project, seconded by Commissioner Owens and the motion carried 3-2 (Bradley and Gasperson opposed).
10. May 16, 2016, Regular Meeting – Commissioner Owens said Isothermal Community College's graduation exercises will be held on May 16, 2016, at 7:00 P.M. and suggested the budget work session and regular meeting scheduled that day be rescheduled. County Manager Pittman recommended department heads requesting budget increases of 5% or more attend the budget work session and, since only four departments fall into that category, he said one budget work session would suffice. Commissioner Owens moved to reschedule the May 16<sup>th</sup> regular meeting for May 23<sup>rd</sup>, and to cancel the May 16<sup>th</sup> budget work session, seconded by Vice-Chair Holbert and the motion carried unanimously.

11. ~~Property Search for the Proposed New Jail/Sheriff Department Facility & Future Courthouse Complex~~ – Commissioner Gasperson asked that this item be placed on the agenda for discussion. This item was removed from the agenda.
12. Manager's Report – Budget work sessions were addressed under Agenda Item #10.
13. Volunteer Board for Vote – Vice-Chair Holbert moved to appoint Amy Norville to the Economic & Tourism Development Commission as a health care/medical/social services provider representative, seconded by Commissioner Owens and the motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Owens moved to reappoint John McDonald, James Sheehan, and Steve Sheehan to the Spring Fire District Tax Commission, seconded by Vice-Chair Holbert and the motion carried unanimously.
14. Volunteer Boards for Review – One application for three Council on Aging vacancies was reviewed. One application for one Harmon Field Board of Supervisors vacancy was reviewed. One application for two Transportation Advisory Board vacancies was reviewed.
15. Commissioner Comments – Commissioner Owens, having recently attended a memorial service for Korean War veterans at Lebanon United Methodist Church in Mill Spring, presented a brief video documentary entitled “Medal of Honor” commemorating Polk County native son and Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Private First Class Bryant H. Womack. Commissioner Gasperson recently toured the existing jail/Sheriff’s Department building with County Manager Pittman and found it to be very clean. Commissioner Gasperson acknowledged that, at forty-one years old, the facility is undeniably functionally obsolescent, and thanked the Maintenance Department employees for doing an exceptional job maintaining and repairing the facility. Commissioner Gasperson said when the facility was initially constructed the lower level was left unfinished, and expressed concern regarding the functionality of the lower level office and storage rooms. Commissioner Bradley thanked everyone for coming out, and encouraged citizens to enjoy the outdoors in our beautiful county. Vice-Chair Holbert thanked everyone for coming out. Chair Gage who, along with Commissioners Owens and Gasperson, also attended the memorial service for Korean War veterans, said the U.S. Army reveres and respects the memory of Private First Class Bryant H. Womack, and we should all be proud to live in Polk County.
16. Closed Session – Commissioner Owens moved to go into closed session for the purpose of acquisition of property, G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5), and personnel, G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6), seconded by Vice-Chair Holbert and the motion carried unanimously.
17. Return to Open Session – Commissioner Owens moved to return to open session, seconded by Commissioner Bradley and the motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Bradley moved to authorize County Manager Pittman to execute an agreement between the County of Polk as the buyer and the Polk County Board of Education as the seller for the purchase of real property located at 70 Locust Street, Columbus, North Carolina, Tax Parcel #C2-E2, ±4.09 acres, in the amount of \$205,000.00, further moved that the closing shall occur on or before October 31,

2016, with a due diligence examination period ending at 11:50 P.M. on October 17, 2016, and further moved to approve a \$500.00 earnest money deposit, seconded by Commissioner Owens and the motion carried unanimously.

18. Adjournment – Commissioner Bradley moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Vice-Chair Holbert and the motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

POLK COUNTY BOARD  
OF COMMISSIONERS

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Beth Fehrmann  
Clerk to the Board

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Michael V. Gage  
Chair