

POLK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC HEARING &
REGULAR MEETING
June 6, 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 of the 2016/17 Budget Public Hearing – Chair Gage called the public hearing to order. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comment on the proposed 2016/17 budget. The public hearing was properly advertised in the Tryon Daily Bulletin. An electronic copy of the budget packet was available for review at www.polknc.org. County Manager Pittman said the budget includes a 2¢ tax increase to be exclusively used for partial payment on the debt service for the proposed Law Enforcement Facility as well as \$300,000 for Lake Adger/Turner Shoals dam maintenance, and noted the budget presented is balanced without the appropriation of fund balance monies.
2. Citizen Comments – There were none.
3. Commissioner Comments – The Commissioners thanked the County Manager and staff for all their hard work on the budget. Commissioner Gasperson said next year's budget will likely be challenging due to the property revaluation currently underway. County Manager Pittman said he is working with Department Heads to keep recurring expenses at a minimum, and is closely monitoring for any increased sales tax revenue.
4. Adjournment – Commissioner Owens moved to adjourn the public hearing, seconded by Vice-Chair Holbert and the motion carried unanimously.
5. Call to Order of the Regular Meeting – Chair Gage called the regular meeting to order.
6. Invocation – Commissioner Gasperson gave the invocation.
7. Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Owens led the pledge.
8. Approval of Agenda – Commissioner Owens asked that “Resolution in Honor of Retiring School Superintendent Bill Miller, Jr.” be added as Agenda Item #10.a. Commissioner Owens moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Commissioner Bradley and the motion carried unanimously.

9. Consent Agenda

- A) Approval of the May 17, 2016, meeting minutes, the May 17, 2016, budget work session minutes, and the May 23, 2016, regular meeting minutes.
- B) Approval of the Tax Department's May refund request in the amount of \$5,740.16.
- C) Declaration of a Transportation Department 2011 Dodge Journey Crossover vehicle as surplus.
- D) Approval of the Consolidated Human Services Agency recommended bylaws.
- E) Approval of the Hartman Consultants, LLC, contract in the amount of \$35,300 for appraisal of Lake Adger/Turner Shoals dam, and authorization for the County Manager to sign the contract.
- F) Approval of Budget Amendment #87, Capital Reserve, \$35,300 – To transfer reserved funds for the Lake Adger/Turner Shoals dam from the Capital Reserve Fund to the General Fund for the proposed contract appraisal of Lake Adger per the BOC.

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

10. Citizen Comments – There were none.

10.a Resolution in Honor of Retiring School Superintendent Bill Miller, Jr. –

Commissioner Owens moved for the Board to direct Clerk to the Board Fehrmann to create a resolution in honor of retiring school superintendent Bill Miller, Jr., and further moved the Board adopt the resolution so it can be presented to Mr. Miller at his retirement reception on June 12, 2016, seconded by Chair Gage and the motion carried unanimously.

11. Proposed Fireworks/Pyrotechnics Permit Process, Permit Application & Permit Fee

– Bobby Arledge, Emergency Management Director/Fire Marshall, presented the information. Vice-Chair Holbert moved to designate the Fire Marshall as the permit issuer, to approve the permit application form, and to approve the \$50 permit fee, seconded by Commissioner Bradley and the motion carried unanimously.

12. Polk Economic Development 2016 Report – Robert Williamson, Economic &

Tourism Development Director, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the comprehensive report, a copy of which is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes. Mr. Williamson said the Economic Development Policy & Strategic Plan adopted August 18, 2014, continues to be relevant; the Economic Development Commission will review the document in January of 2017.

13. Town of Columbus Veteran's Park Shelter Eagle Scout Project Grant Request –

Robert Williamson presented a community project conceived and spearheaded by local Eagle Scout Nathaniel Watkins to make Veteran's Park more usable by constructing a lighted shelter over the stage area. The project, which will cost an estimated \$6,400-\$6,600, has been approved by the Town of Columbus. Commissioner Owens moved to approve contributing \$2,400 to the project using money from the County Manager's discretionary fund, seconded by Chair Gage and the motion carried unanimously.

14. July – December 2016 Regular BOC Meeting Schedule – Vice-Chair Holbert moved to approve the meeting schedule for the remainder of the calendar year, seconded by Commissioner Owens and the motion carried unanimously.
15. Volunteer Boards for Vote – Halcott Green and Frank Monterisi were reappointed to the Board of Adjustment by unanimous vote. Aaron Greene was appointed to an education/training position on the Economic & Tourism Development Commission by unanimous vote.
16. Volunteer Board for Review – One application for three Recycling Advisory Board vacancies was reviewed.
17. Commissioner Comments – Commissioner Bradley said local resident Daniel Shoren, Jr., recently lost his life in a hiking accident at High Falls in Transylvania County, and asked that his family be kept in everyone's thoughts and prayers. Commissioner Holbert said the recent changes to County Manager Pittman's employment contract were made in recognition of Mr. Pittman's recent certification as an International City/County Managers Association Credentialed Manager.
18. Adjournment – Commissioner Owens moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Holbert and the motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

POLK COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS

Beth Fehrmann
Clerk to the Board

Michael V. Gage
Chair