

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
July 20, 2020 - 7:00 PM
R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice Womack Building Columbus, NC
Columbus, NC
MINUTES

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

1. Call to Order - Chairman Yoder.

Chairman Yoder stated Vice-Chairman Melton, Commissioner Beiler, and Attorney Berg, as well as media and citizens are participating in the meeting remotely. He reminded the Commissioners to keep their microphones muted unless speaking, and to verbally state their votes.

2. Invocation - Commissioner Beiler.

Commissioner Moore gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Gasperson.

4. Approval of Agenda

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

5. Consent Agenda

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

A. June 15, 2020 work session and regular meeting minutes.

B. Tax refund requests for July 20, 2020 in the amount of \$2,250.73.

C. Sheriff's activity report for June.

D. Schedule public hearing for new proposed road names for Monday, August 3, 2020 at 7:00 pm in the R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice Womack Building Columbus, NC.

E. Budget Amendment to increase property and liability insurance for the unbudgeted increase for dam coverage from contingency in the amount of

\$47,337.

6. 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 July 20, 2020 to be read during the meeting.

There was one citizen comment requesting the consideration of a noise ordinance in the county due to loud neighbors.

7. Isothermal Community College (ICC) Polk County campus renovation update.

Stephen Matheny, Chief Operating Officer and Vice President of Administration ICC discussed the current renovations at the Polk County campus that include a new roof, and skylight repairs. He stated the project came in under budget, and the remaining funds will be used to replace the front door entrance, enabling a remote lock down system to be consistent with the main campus, and if possible, they will upgrade the existing restroom facilities. He anticipates completion of the project to be the end of August 2020.

Mr. Matheny then shared the conceptual site plan for the Polk County campus' existing building for a proposed addition. He explained the plan includes a new entry, an art courtyard, and would be designed to allow for the needed electrical and storage components of highly demanded programs, such as massage therapy, dental, and art programs. He said the college must demonstrate the demand for the additional space, and at this time it is just a conceptual plan. When the curriculum department determines the space is needed, then they will start pursuing funding for building the new addition, and have a more detailed plan.

8. Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) Survey.

Dominique Boyd, Project Manager gave a presentation explaining the CTP survey and results, a copy of which is incorporated by reference into these minutes. Richard Virgo, Engineer, and John A. (Andy) Baily NCDOT Western Piedmont Planning Engineering Supervisor, and Karyl Fuller, RPO Director Isothermal Planning & Development Commission (IPDC) were also in attendance.

Chairman Yoder thanked them for their hard work on the survey, and thanked Manager Pittman, Planner Ruth, Vice-Chairman Melton, and Commissioner Beiler for serving on the CTP committee. Commissioner Gasperson said he appreciates all the work done on the project, and asked them to consider improving the intersection at Highway 9 and Sandy Plains Road.

9. Solid Waste employee position change part-time to full-time.

Larry Walker, Solid Waste Director, requested approval to reclassify a part-time position to full-time. He said this change will allow there to be two people in areas where heavy equipment is being operated at the landfill. He explained more people are utilizing the solid waste services, especially on Saturdays, and

another person in the field is now necessary for safety concerns.

Commissioner Gasperson moved to approve the reclassification of the Solid Waste position from part to full time, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

10. COVID-19 Update.

Bobby Arledge, Emergency Management Director, told the Board he has been working on getting a reimbursement for the County from FEMA and expects it to be close to \$14,000. He said he is continuing to work with State agencies to get personal protection equipment (PPE) and they have promised to give every county government enough for 20% of their population.

Joshua Kennedy, Health and Human Services Director (HHS), gave a presentation that included the situation report, county partnerships and communications, a copy of which is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes. He thanked the Commissioners for funding the Community Care Paramedic, and thanked all the community partners who have been a vital support to his team. He said the teams goal is to reduce new infections, by washing hands, keeping a safe distance, wearing proper protection, and contact tracing. He reminded everyone that if someone contacts them they will never ask them for their social security number or any banking information. Commissioner Gasperson asked about the proper wearing of a mask, and Mr. Kennedy said over the bridge of the nose and under the chin.

Aaron Greene, School Superintendent, thanked all the community partners, and thanked his staff at the district office for all their support. They want to serve the kids safely, and productively and will have options for parents to choose what they feel is best for their family. He spoke about the extra safety measures they have added, such as more custodial hours, training on cleaning products, more hand washing stations, temperature screening process, and symptom monitoring. He said there are several things they are still trying to figure out, but they are working to get it right, He said the School Board will meet on July 27th to decide exactly what the school day will look like, but they must follow the Governor and the North Carolina Department Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) guidelines and they may change.

Michelle Fortune, St. Luke's Hospital Chief Executive Officer, said she is proud of how our community organizations work together, it's unique, and is best in class. She said many exciting things have been happening at St. Luke's recently. They have hired a full time urologist, a cancer doctor, and another PRN surgeon to cover when Dr. Winkle is off duty. St. Luke's Hospital will serve as the State hub for PPE distribution, it was featured in a national publication *Becker Hospital Review*, and received \$155,000 from the Duke endowment grants to improve access to medicine in western NC and help patients in hard to reach communities. Mrs. Fortune said they are trying to balance care, compassion, and safety, they have used COVID-19 grant funds to purchase PPE, training, retro-fitting the emergency room, and tele-health opportunities. She said they used the Federal grant funds to purchase testing equipment, and encourages citizens to utilize the services of the hospital.

11. Modification of the North Carolina Pandemic Recovery Office Coronavirus

Relief Fund (CRF - CARES) budget to include a mechanism for allocation of funds to towns.

Manager Pittman explained the State is now requiring 25% of the CARES grant funds received by the County to be given to municipalities within our jurisdiction. He said in the packet is a suggested way to allocate their portion based on the sales and use tax per capita method.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the allocation of funds as suggested to the municipalities, and to amend the CFR-CARES budget based on the increased distributions to municipalities, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.

12. NCACC voting delegate appointment and discussion on remote conference attendance.

Manager Pittman said the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Conference (NCACC) will be held remotely this year in August, and a voting delegate and alternate must be appointed.

Commissioner Gasperson moved to approve Commissioner Gasperson as the voting delegate for the 2020 NCACC Conference, and Commissioner Moore as the alternate, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

13. Designate Commissioner appointment to the 911 Communications Advisory Committee - Attorney Berg.

Chairman Yoder said a Commissioner needs to be appointed to serve on the newly created 911 Communication Advisory Committee, and Vice-Chairman Melton has asked to be the designee.

Chairman Yoder moved to appoint Vice-Chairman Melton to serve on the 911 Communication Advisory Committee, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

14. Volunteer Board Application(s)

A. Application for vote - Cathy Brettman, Appearance Commission.

Commissioner Gasperson moved to approve the volunteer board application as presented, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

15. Commissioner Comment(s)

Commissioner Gasperson said the Green Creek Fire Department (GCFD) community meeting had a good turn out, it was a good meeting. There was some controversy, but it's being handled the right way. He gives Jeremy Gregg and the GCFD kudos. Commissioner Moore thanked all the presenters, and

thanked everyone for all their hard work. Commissioner Beiler thanked everyone for the great teamwork. Vice-Chairman Melton thanked everyone for the COVID-19 update and said they are a great team. Chairman Yoder thanked those participating remotely, and said he hopes we get back to normal meetings soon.

16. Adjournment

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

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

Ange High
Clerk to the Board

Myron Yoder
Chairman