

POLK COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING  
August 8, 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 – Pastor Thomas Olson of Trinity Lutheran Church gave the invocation.
3. Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Bradley led the pledge.
4. Approval of Agenda – Commissioner Gasperson asked that “Project Budget Ordinance, Detention & Sheriff Facility” be removed from the consent agenda and added as Agenda Item #7.a. County Manager Pittman asked that “Election of the NCACC Annual Conference Voting Delegate” be added as Agenda Item #11.a., and “Notification of Grant Award” be added to Agenda Item #12, Manager’s Report. Vice-Chair Holbert moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Commissioner Owens and the motion carried unanimously.
5. Consent Agenda
  - A) Approval of the July 18, 2016, regular meeting minutes.
  - B) ~~Project Budget Ordinance, Detention & Sheriff Facility – To increase Architectural Fees \$566,668 to full contract amount, and increase Professional Fees \$25,000 for financial advisor fees to be funded with loan proceeds.~~ This item was moved to Agenda Item #7.a.  
Commissioner Gasperson moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Owens and the motion carried unanimously.
6. Citizen Comments – There were none.
7. Recognition of IT Director Bruce Yelton – The Board recognized and commended Mr. Yelton for successfully completing the Certified Government Chief Information Officers Program through the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s School of Government on June 16, 2016.
- 7.a. Project Budget Ordinance, Detention & Sheriff Facility – To increase Architectural Fees \$566,668 to the full contract amount, and increase Professional Fees \$25,000 for financial advisor fees to be funded with loan proceeds. County Manager Pittman said \$566,668 of the project budget ordinance covers the Phase II and Phase III architectural fees, and the remaining \$25,000 will be spent on retaining a financial advisor to assist the county with the North Carolina Local Government Commission application process. By retaining a financial advisor the

- county will have access to lower interest rates, and the interest rate guarantee period can also be extended by fifteen days. It was the consensus of the Board that an application timeline be presented at the August 22, 2016, regular BOC meeting. Commissioner Gasperson moved to amend the project budget ordinance to \$2,999,950 for the Detention & Sheriff Facility, all to be funded by loan proceeds, seconded by Vice-Chair Holbert and the motion carried unanimously.
8. Backup Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) – Interim 911 Communications Director James McGuinn informed the Board that in order to comply with Senate Bill 797, which was passed in July 2014, all PSAPs (911 call centers) must have a backup plan to insure citizens have access to 911 service at all times. The backup PSAP must have mirror image capability of the primary PSAP in order to receive funding. Polk County's 911 backup call center will be located in the Green Creek fire station, and will be operational by the July 1, 2017, deadline.
  9. District Health Board Appointment – Chair Gage announced his resignation from the Rutherford-Polk-McDowell District Health Board. It was the consensus of the Board to appoint a new representative at the August 22, 2016, regular BOC meeting.
  10. Additional Pavers for Historic Courthouse Sidewalk – Jay Harden of Jay's Lawn Service recommended the Board consider adding additional pavers to the current project in order to improve the aesthetic quality of the walkways and flower beds surrounding the historic courthouse. The additional pavers will allow for a soldier course paver pattern to be laid against the walls, along the curbing, and around the flower beds, allow for a herringbone paver pattern to be laid in between the soldier course, and allow for pavers to be placed around the flower beds on edge to contain the mulch. Mr. Harden said he would not charge the county for the additional labor to install the pavers as he has recommended. Commissioner Gasperson said he did not vote to approve the project initially and would not vote for additional pavers; he would have preferred for the project to have been spread over two or three budget years. Commissioner Bradley said he was not in favor of the project and would not vote for additional pavers. Commissioner Owens moved to approve the additional brick pavers, seconded by Chair Gage and the motion carried 3-2 (Bradley and Gasperson opposed).
  11. Project Budget Ordinance Amendment – Finance Director Sandra Hughes presented the project budget ordinance amendment. Commissioner Owens moved to increase the project in the amount of \$3,515 from contingency for additional brick pavers, seconded by Chair Gage and the motion passed 3-2 (Bradley and Gasperson opposed).
  - 11.a. Election of the NCACC Annual Conference Voting Delegate – Commissioner Owens nominated Commissioner Gasperson as the voting delegate for the 2016 NCACC Annual Conference, seconded by Commissioner Bradley and the motion carried unanimously.
  12. Manager's Report – A) The Smoky Mountain LME/MCO 4<sup>th</sup> quarter finance report for fiscal year 2015/2016 was presented. B) Notification of Grant Award – Broad

River Water Authority has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality for a water regionalization study.

13. Volunteer Boards for Vote – Commissioner Bradley moved to reappoint Carolyn Ashburn to the Appearance Commission, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion failed 2-3 (Gage, Holbert and Owens opposed). Commissioner Owens moved to reappoint Ernestine Kan to the appearance Commission, seconded by Vice-Chair Holbert and the motion carried unanimously. Vice-Chair Holbert moved to reappoint Patricia Dockendorf to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, seconded by Commissioner Owens and the motion carried unanimously. Vice-Chair Holbert moved to reappoint Dianne Poague to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, seconded by Commissioner Owens and the motion carried unanimously
14. Volunteer Boards for Review – Five applications for nine Animal Cruelty Investigator vacancies were reviewed.
15. Commissioner Comments – The Commissioners thanked everyone for coming out.
16. Adjournment – Commissioner Owens moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Bradley 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