

POLK COUNTY  
January 20, 2009  
7:00 PM BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING  
R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice  
Womack Building  
Columbus, N.C.

PRESENT: Chairperson Cindy Walker, Vice-Chairperson Warren Watson, Commissioners Gasperson, McDermott, and Melton. Also in attendance were County Manager Ryan Whitson, County Attorney Tom Hix (arrived later in meeting) and Clerk to the Board Anne Britton.

1. Call to Order – Cindy Walker, Chairperson.
2. Invocation – Pastor Arthur Gibbs, Seventh Day Adventist Church.
3. Pledge of Allegiance - Master Sergeant Nathan Shields.
4. Approval of Regular Board of Commissioner minutes for January 5, 2009. Commissioner McDermott made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Watson and the motion carried unanimously.
5. Approval of Agenda – You may add/delete an item from the agenda at this time. Vice-Chairperson Watson made a motion to switch the order of numbers 1 and 2 under Agenda item #9, seconded by Commissioner Melton and the motion carried unanimously.
6. Tax Appeal Petition - Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Davidson have petitioned the Board regarding structures on their property that had never been picked up for tax purposes. After discussion with the Davidson's, per North Carolina General Statute 105-381. (b), they will be notified "in writing" that no release or refund will be made.
7. Holland Consulting Planners, Inc. – Dale Holland made a monthly presentation on the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Monthly meetings are advertised, and he reported on the specific activities that have been completed, contacts made, percentage of plan completed by task to date and costs incurred. Any additional information in the report will be on file in the meeting packet and the Planning Department.
8. Polk County Community Foundation Grant – Cathy Ruth, Planner, reported on the \$6,000 unrestricted fund grant awarded to Polk County Government to hire a professional planning consultant to prepare a comprehensive plan for Polk County's future.

9. (1) Adult Day Care at New Senior Recreation Facility (Classical School Property) - Vice-Chairperson Watson requested this item be placed on the agenda. Discussion followed on the use of the smaller building at the Classical School property for adult day care. It was reported from the Polk County DSS staff that many of our seniors are home alone and would benefit greatly from adult day care services.

Laura Lynch, Director of the Area on Aging for the region including Polk County, outlined the services of Rutherford Life Services which runs the program in Rutherford County and would run it in Polk County also. Vice-Chairperson Watson felt this is low cost to the County and would improve the quality of life for the seniors, and he supports the project. Lou Parton of DSS felt the central location in the County is important and our numbers of seniors in need are on the rise. Rutherford Life Services provide a home type atmosphere. Pam Doty from The Meeting Place supports the idea but not the building. If the smaller building was taken from her she would lose over 3,000 square feet which would bring the remaining space, including the new addition, to 9,000 square feet, which is less than what they have now in the Jervey Palmer building (11,000 square feet).

(2) Senior Recreation Center Architectural Plans – Ellen Harris, Harris Architects, presented the kitchen and pick-up area renovations. The time line is to approve the architectural plans, go out for bids February 1, and reschedule the next board meeting to February 23 (from February 16) when the bids will be opened. Vice-Chairperson Watson so moved, seconded by Commissioner Melton and the motion was approved unanimously. The PowerPoint presentation of the architectural plans is on file.

10. Altamont Environmental, Inc. – Proposal for Rehabilitation of the Underwood Well at Little Mountain Landfill. Stu Ryman, Altamont Environmental, and Neal Hall, Transfer Station, presented the proposal from Altamont. The well lies 500 feet from the landfill and is not adequately sealed. Lines will be installed to disinfect the well. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve the proposal not to exceed \$8,800, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Watson and the motion carried unanimously.
11. Wellness Coalition Report – Ann Marie Lester, Coordinator of the Polk County Wellness Coalition, will present a summary of accomplishments. Kathy Woodham from St. Luke's Hospital and other committee members were present. Ms. Lester reported to the Board the monthly work of the Coalition who address the health discrepancies and needs of the County. The complete book of accomplishments is on file in the County Manager's office.

12. Economic Development Commission – Dennis Hill, Chairman, Joe Epley former Chairman and Kipp McIntyre, EDC Director updated the Board on key achievements in 2008 and the EDC plan for 2009 – 2011. The PowerPoint presentation is on file in the monthly packet and also in the Economic Development office. Commissioner Melton thanked Joe Epley for his work on both the EDC and the Visioning Committee.
13. Harmon Field Open Air Gym Roof Update – George Alley was present to answer questions on the status of the roof. Chairperson Walker requested this item be placed on the agenda. There were further questions on the status of the Gym and Harmon Field. Chairperson Walker's questions and Mr. Alley's answers are attached. It was the consensus of the Board that they want to be supportive but the town of Tryon needs to take the lead on the financing. Commissioner Melton asked to receive the minutes from the Town's upcoming meeting and it will again be placed on the agenda for the Board of Commissioner's February 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.
14. Library Update – Mark Pumphrey, Director, was present to answer questions. Commissioner Melton requested this item be placed on the agenda. Mr. Pumphrey explained that when the former Board of Commissioners requested all departments set aside 5% of their budget for fuel, he had to use his books and audio visual line items. That was \$15,765 and \$14,000 respectively. Now that fuel costs were down, he would like those items restored. This is a total of \$29,765. Commissioner Melton made a motion to release those funds and put them into books and audiovisual, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Watson and the motion carried unanimously. Additional discussion on staffing issues and extending hours of the library followed. Commissioner Melton instructed the County Manager to include in the 2009/10 budget that we fund 2 additional employees for Mr. Mark Pumphrey to keep the Library open 6 days a week based on hours he has given us. Vice-Chairperson Watson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
15. Facilities Maintenance/Replacement Budgeting for all County Owned Buildings and Equipment - Vice-Chairperson Watson requested this item be placed on the agenda. Mickey Edwards, Maintenance Supervisor, was present. From the lengthy list of facility needs and repairs, Chairperson Walker recommended a subcommittee work with Mr. Whitson and Mr. Edwards to develop a budget to present at the budget work session. Commissioner McDermott stated now is the time to start to work reserve into the budget. Vice-Chairperson Watson also agreed that an assessment of where we are on the old and new buildings is needed. Commissioner Melton made a motion to form a subcommittee as follows: Commissioner Gasperson, Vice-Chairperson Watson, County Manager Whitson and Maintenance Supervisor Mickey Edwards to look at these facilities and

present a report at budget time. This motion was seconded by Vice-Chairperson Watson and the motion carried unanimously.

16. Finance Report – Sandra Hughes, Finance Officer, updated the Board on the financial picture of the County and distributed hard copies of the information. She will report at the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of each month on the narrative, balance sheet and income statement. Budget Amendments – BA #9 DSS \$24,568 to increase the budget for additional State appropriations at 100%. Commissioner McDermott made a motion to approve BA #9, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously. BA #10 Agricultural Economic Development \$5,000 to increase revenue and expense for a grant received from the Polk County Community Foundation. Commissioner Melton made a motion to adopt BA #10, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Watson and the motion carried unanimously.
17. Sheriff’s Department – Purchase of Ford Fusion and declare surplus various vehicles. Mr. Whitson requested this item be placed on the agenda. Commissioner Melton made a motion to purchase a Ford Fusion for the Sheriff to use as a vehicle for one of his officers to serve civil process, using the insurance money from 2 wrecked vehicles of \$12,565, and declare surplus and sell a 1999 Ford Mustang with about 136,000 miles. There was also a (1) Crown Victoria and (2) Chevrolet Caprices from the school system to be declared surplus. Whatever the Mustang does not cover in the cost of the Fusion will be covered by other monies in the Sheriff’s budget. Vice-Chairperson Watson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
18. Department of Social Services Building – Discussion of an architect for a new DSS building. Vice-Chairperson Watson feels it is a good time to set up a subcommittee to set criteria and take applications which also possibly includes mental health. Those named for the subcommittee were Chairperson Walker, Vice-Chairperson Watson, Cecil Cannon, Architect, DSS Director, Sue Rhodes and Lou Parton, Program Coordinator, and County Manager Ryan Whitson. Vice-Chairperson Watson made a motion to form the subcommittee, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Whitson suggested having a work session at the Jervey Palmer building to accept the bid proposals.

19. Adjourn.

ATTEST:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS

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Anne Britton  
Clerk to the Board

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Cindy Walker  
Chairperson