

POLK COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, November 7, 2011, at 7:00pm  
Tryon Elementary School Auditorium  
Tryon, NC  
MINUTES

PRESENT: Chair Gasperson, Vice-Chair McDermott, Commissioner Owens, Commissioner Pack and Commissioner Walker. Also in attendance were County Manager Whitson, County Attorney Egan, Clerk to the Board Fehrmann, staff, media and citizens.

1. Call to Order - Chair Gasperson called the meeting to order.
2. Invocation – Commissioner Pack gave the invocation.
3. Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Owens led the pledge.
4. Approval of Minutes – Commissioner Walker made a motion to approve the October 17, 2011, public hearing and regular BOC meeting minutes, seconded by Commissioner Owens and the motion carried unanimously.
5. Approval of Agenda – Commissioner Owens made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously.
6. Service Award – Chair Gasperson presented Ms. Rhodes, former DSS Director, with a desk clock in recognition of her 33 years of service with Polk County Government.
7. Introduction of New DSS Director – Francis Parker, DSS Board Chair, introduced Ms. Lou Parton as the new DSS Director.
8. Transportation Department Drug & Alcohol Testing Policy Revisions – Jewel Carswell, Transportation Director, was present to answer questions. Vice-Chair McDermott asked Ms. Carswell to verify that the wording of the Federal guidelines in Section K.i. (Page 15) of the revised policy is accurate, and to make any necessary corrections. Commissioner Owens made a motion to approve the revisions, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously.
9. Agricultural Economic Development – Lynn Sprague, Ag Econ. Dev. Director, updated the Board on current and future initiatives, and the information is on file with these minutes.
10. Subdivision Ordinance – Cathy Ruth, Planner, gave the presentation. Vice-Chair McDermott made a motion to set the ordinance public hearing for November 21,

2011, at 3:00pm in the R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice, Womack Building, seconded by Commissioner Walker. Commissioner Pack recommended a subdivision requirement chart/checklist be incorporated into the ordinance for ease of reference.

Citizen comments: Ricky McFalls asked if the subdivision ordinance is actually a zoning document. County Attorney Egan said the ordinance only regulates subdivisions; the ordinance does not create different zoning districts or regulate the use of property. Keith Holbert said 5 acre properties should not fall under the point system, which makes subdividing unnecessarily complex and restrictive.

Commissioner Owens asked that the subdivision ordinance include language which specifically states that the subdivision ordinance applies only to the creation of lots through the subdivision process.

Vice-Chair McDermott made an amended motion to set the ordinance public hearing date for November 21, 2011, at 5:00pm in the R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice, Womack Building, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously.

11. Volunteer Board Policy – Commissioner Owens, who asked that this item be placed on the agenda for review, agreed to consider Commissioner Walker's recommendation that the residency requirement for volunteer board membership be eliminated so that qualified non-resident applicants may be considered for appointment. Commissioner Owens also stressed that volunteer board attendance needs to be consistent.

Citizen comments: Barbara Graham, Council on Aging Chair, agreed that the residency requirement should be eliminated.

12. Budget Amendments – Commissioner Walker made a motion to approve BA #7, DSS, in the amount of \$75,884 – Additional funding from Child Development which increases Day Care Allocation from \$586,174 to \$662,058, seconded by Vice-Chair McDermott and the motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Pack made a motion to approve BA #8, PCTA, in the amount of \$3,000 – To increase revenue and expense for grant funds from Community Care of WNC to transport the low income and non-insured for medical purposes, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously. Vice-Chair McDermott made a motion to approve BA #9, DSS, in the amount of \$82,988 – Additional funding received in Crisis Intervention, BA to increase the budgeted amount from \$33,825 to \$95,593, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously.
13. Manager's Report – a) Vice-Chair McDermott made a motion to approve setting the DSS Director's classification at Grade 31, Step 17, with an annual salary of \$71,221, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously.

- b) Vice-Chair McDermott made a motion to temporarily close the Department of Social Services on December 12<sup>th</sup> in order to move to the new facility, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously. c) County Manager Whitson was instructed to present Western Highlands' request for space at the new DSS facility to the DSS Board, and inform the Commissioners of their recommendation at the December 5<sup>th</sup> regular BOC meeting.
14. Volunteer Board for Vote – Joanne Cahill was appointed to the Recycling Advisory Board by unanimous vote.
15. Volunteer Board for Review – Applications for the Economic & Tourism Development Commission (3 applications, 2 regular & 1 alternate vacancy), Library Board of Trustees (1 application, 2 regular vacancies), Planning Board (1 application, 1 alternate vacancy), and Tryon Fire District Tax Commission (1 application, 1 regular vacancy) were reviewed.
16. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items – Regarding the most recent waterline extension on Hwy. 9 to Peniel Rd, Ricky McFalls asked County Manager Whitson how many people are hooked up to the waterline. The County Manager said he would contact Inman-Campobello Water District and let Mr. McFalls know.
17. Commissioner Comments – Chair Gasperson, Vice-Chair McDermott and Commissioner Pack thanked everyone for coming out. Commissioner Walker read a quote from Erma Bombeck on volunteerism. Commissioner Owens asked County Attorney Egan to research whether or not a waterline extension contract can legally stipulate that a certain percentage of local people be employed to work on the project.
18. Closed Session – Commissioner Owens made a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of Attorney-Client Privilege, G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3), and for Personnel, G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6), seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously.
19. Adjournment – Commissioner Owens made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Pack 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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Ray Gasperson  
Chair