

POLK COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING  
7:00 PM February 15, 2010  
R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice, Womack Building  
Columbus, N.C.

Present: Chairperson Walker, Vice-Chairperson Gasperson, Commissioners McDermott, Melton and Watson. Also in attendance were County Manager Whitson, County Attorney Hix, Altamont Engineer Ryman, and Clerk to the Board Britton.

1. Call to Order/Welcome – Chairperson Walker.
2. Invocation – Commissioner Watson.
3. Pledge of Allegiance – County Manager Whitson.
4. Approval of February 1, 2010, minutes – Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Watson and the motion carried unanimously.
5. Approval of Agenda – Mr. Whitson amended the agenda by adding a Closed Session for Attorney Client Privilege G.S. 138-43 11(a) (1) - Item #16.
6. Recreation Park – Stu Ryman, Altamont Engineering, was present to discuss the erosion problems at the recreation park. Commissioner Watson placed this item on the agenda and questioned Mr. Ryman on the unusable baseball field due to the heavy rains and erosion issues. He also questioned the work done on the erosion issues in 2007. Mr. Ryman explained that Altamont made a proposal with three phases. They were: Phase 1 - to stabilize the erosion problems; Phase 2 - to modify the drainages, and; Phase 3 - to implement stream bank stabilization. At that time, the Board's major concern was to stabilize the erosion problems and approved Phase 1 only. Altamont implemented Phase 1 and Mr. Ryman felt the majority of those features were holding up. Discussion followed on a maintenance plan in order to move forward and make the ball fields manageable. Mr. Ryman agreed to fix the drain at the middle school with rip rap. He also agreed to provide recommendations on a maintenance plan. Chairperson Walker recommended that the County's lack of equipment and maintenance costs should be discussed at budget time.
7. Polk County Soil, Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance and Resolution - Planner Cathy Ruth discussed the ordinance changes and resolution. Before the resolution can be adopted, a public hearing on the amendments to the Soil, Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance must be held. Commissioner Melton made a motion to schedule the public hearing

for March 1, 2010, at 7:00 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Watson and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Interlocal Agreement between Polk County and City of Saluda Regarding Administration of Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance - Planner Cathy Ruth presented the agreement. The City of Saluda is applying to become part of the National Flood Insurance Program. They have satisfied all of the application requirements, but an additional request had been made from the State to include an Interlocal Agreement between Polk County and the City of Saluda. Commissioner Melton made a motion to adopt the Interlocal Agreement, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.
9. Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) Update – Chairperson Walker reported on the informative meeting she attended with Vice-Chairperson Gasperson and Sheriff Hill. This intervention training for law enforcement personnel is proven to de-escalate mentally ill/crisis patients and keep them out of jail, protects citizens, and saves money. The Polk County Sheriff’s Department has one CIT officer. Sheriff Hill will discuss (during budget work session) building this training into his budget.
10. Board Vacancies (Review) – Appearance Commission, 1 application. Tryon Planning & Adjustment alternate, 1 application. These applications were reviewed.
11. Board Vacancies (Vote) – Reappointments for County Manager Ryan Whitson and Vice-Chairperson Ray Gasperson to the Isothermal Planning and Development Commission Board of Directors for a three year term. Recreation Advisory Board, 1 reappointment.

Commissioner McDermott made a motion to approve the reappointments of Mr. Whitson and Vice-Chairperson Gasperson for a three year term with the Isothermal Planning and Development Commission, seconded by Commissioner Watson and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve the reappointment of Deborah Lynch to the Recreation Advisory Board, seconded by Commissioner Watson and the motion carried unanimously.

12. Request for Tax Appeal Hearing - A letter from Marshall McGuinn requesting interest, penalty and solid waste fee be dropped on his deceased parents’ property. John Bridgers, Tax Assessor, reported on the request. He indicated that there were no clerical errors made and the Tax Assessor’s office was never notified of the changes. The hearing was denied.

13. County Manger's Report – Letter from Bob Shepherd, Interim Town Manager from the Town of Columbus, expressing the town's interest in a meeting with the County and the municipalities. The Board instructed Mr. Whitson to inform Mr. Shepherd to move forward and set a meeting, and requested full board participation instead of representatives.
14. Budget Amendments – BA #5 Maintenance \$27,800 for a F-250 4x4 diesel truck from Stott's Ford, including the estimated tag, title and tax costs, as discussed and approved 2.1.10 from Contingency to Maintenance. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve BA #5, seconded by Commissioner Watson and the motion carried unanimously.  
  
BA #16 Agricultural Economic Development \$9,243 to increase revenue and expense for grants received and listed on BA. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve BA #16, seconded by Commissioner McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
15. Citizen Comments on non agenda items - There were none.
16. Closed Session – Commissioner Gasperson made a motion to go into closed session for Attorney Client Privilege G.S. 143.38 11 (a) (1), seconded by Commissioner Watson and the motion carried unanimously.
17. Return to Open Session – There was no action taken.
18. Adjourn – Commissioner McDermott made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Watson and the motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Anne Britton  
Clerk to the Board

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Cindy Walker  
Chairperson