

POLK COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, August 1, 2011, 7:00pm  
R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice, Womack Building  
Columbus, 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 Owens gave the invocation.
3. Pledge of Allegiance – Vice-Chair McDermott led the pledge.
4. Approval of Minutes – Vice-Chair McDermott made a motion to approve the July 11, 2011, regular BOC meeting minutes, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously.
5. Approval of Agenda – Commissioner Owens asked that Agenda Item 8 be moved to Agenda Item 5a; Chair Gasperson asked that the E&TD Director's job description be added to Agenda Item 10. Commissioner Owens made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Vice-Chair McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
- 5a. 2011 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Scattered Site Housing Project – Commissioner Pack made a motion to approve the 2008 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Scattered Site Housing Project, seconded by Commissioner Owens and the motion carried unanimously.
6. Closed Session – Commissioner Pack made a motion to enter into closed session for the purpose of attorney client privilege, N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3), and for the purpose of economic development, N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4), seconded by Commissioner Owens and the motion carried unanimously.
7. Return to Open Session – Commissioner Owens made a motion to return to open session, seconded by Vice-Chair McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
8. Moved to Agenda Item 5a.
9. Economic & Tourism Development Commission Ordinance – Commissioner Owens made a motion to approve the Economic & Tourism Development

Commission Ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Pack and the motion carried unanimously.

10. Economic & Tourism Development Commission Policies & Procedures – Commissioner Pack made a motion to approve the Economic & Tourism Development Commission Policies & Procedures and the Director’s job description, seconded by Commissioner Owens and the motion carried unanimously.
11. Amendment to Bright’s Creek Development Agreement – Commissioner Pack made a motion to approve the amendment to Bright’s Creek Development Agreement, seconded Vice-Chair McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
12. Department of Social Services Furniture Bid Award – Crystal Bostian of ADW Architects recommended that Macthrift Office Furniture of Charlotte, NC, be awarded the furniture bid for the new DSS facility. County Manager Whitson said that in order to save money the County plans to purchase 15 tables, 1 storage cart and 134 chairs directly from Sam’s Club. Vice-Chair McDermott made a motion to award the DSS furniture bid to Macthrift Office Furniture, and to approve the purchase of the furniture from Sam’s Club, seconded by Commissioner Walker. Commissioner Pack said he could not vote to spend \$87,000 on furniture when for the last two or three years the County has not given its employees raises, and has increased their out of pocket expenses for health insurance. With a motion and a second on the floor, the motion carried 3-2 (Owens and Pack opposed).
13. Budget Amendment – Commissioner Owens made a motion to approve BA#1 in the amount of \$10,000 to increase revenue and expense for child support clerk of court fees that will be 100% reimbursed, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously.
14. Manager’s Report – Water Line and Sewer Line Extension Grant to the Town of Columbus. Commissioner Pack made a motion to table this item until more information is gathered, seconded by Commissioner Owens and the motion carried unanimously.
15. Volunteer Boards for Vote – Cathy Berlin, Libbie Johnson and Margo Savage were unanimously appointed as Animal Cruelty Investigators. JoAnn Miksa-Blackwell was appointed as the alternate member to the Economic & Tourism Development Commission by a 4-1 vote, with Chair Gasperson voting for her to be a regular member. Geoffrey Carey was appointed as a regular member to the Economic Development Commission by a 4-1 vote, with Chair Gasperson voting for him to be the alternate member. Dianne Poague and Virginia Walker were unanimously appointed to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. Kirtland Flynn, Robert Scruggs and Bill Smith were unanimously appointed to the Tryon Fire District Tax Commission.

16. Volunteer Boards for Review – One application for the Social Services Board was reviewed.
17. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items – Keith Holbert asked for the recycling program's figures, and County Manager Whitson said the numbers would be finalized by mid-August.
18. Commissioner Comments – Vice-Chair McDermott, in reference to Commissioner Pack's earlier statements, said that to say that the County should not buy decent furniture for the new DSS building until employees get a raise is unreasonable. She said DSS badly needs new furniture, and the furniture cost has come in thousands of cost conscious dollars below the already very responsible budget. Commissioner Pack stated that he said he would not vote for \$87,000 worth of furniture. He said he did not say he would not vote for new furniture; he would just not vote to spend \$87,000 on new furniture. Commissioners Owens and Walker thanked everyone for coming out. Chair Gasperson read a portion of a letter from the U.S. Postal Service regarding the Mill Spring post office in which assurance was given that there is no intention of closing the post office at this time. Five postal carriers have been moved to the Columbus post office but the postal window and post office boxes will be maintained.
19. Adjournment – Commissioner Walker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Owens 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