

POLK COUNTY  
January 5, 2009  
7:00 PM BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING  
R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice  
Womack Building  
Columbus, N.C.

Present: Chairperson Cindy Walker, Co-Chairperson Warren Watson, Commissioners Ray Gasperson, Renee McDermott, and Tommy Melton. County Manager Ryan Whitson, County Attorney Tom Hix, and Clerk to the Board Anne Britton, staff, media and citizens.

1. Call to Order – Cindy Walker, Chairperson.
2. Invocation – Reverend Albert Teague, Southern Baptist Minister.
3. Pledge of Allegiance – Howard Greene, World War II, American Legion.

At this time, Chairperson Walker shared her thoughts on patriotism, remembering her late mother's love of country and the country's symbol, the flag. Ms. Walker described her commitment to patriotism in the form of community service. She thanked everyone for attending the meeting tonight and for practicing their patriotism, and concluded by saying, "It's a new year and a lot of work needs to be done. Let's start!"

4. Approval of Regular Board of Commissioner minutes for December 1, 2009. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
5. Approval of Agenda – County Manager Whitson added under his report #16, a water line update.
6. For Information Only - The Board Retreat has been re-scheduled for Tuesday, January 6, 2009, at 5:00 pm for the department head presentations in the Womack Courtroom, and Saturday, January 10, 2009, starting at 9:00 for the remaining discussions. This meeting will be held in the library at Sunny View Elementary School.
7. For information Only - 2009 Polk County Government Holiday Schedule.
8. Schedule Public Hearing for February 2, 2009, to hear public comment on entering into the installment financing contracts in order to finance the purchase of the Carolina Classical School to be used for the Senior Center. Commissioner

Melton made a motion to schedule the hearing, seconded by Commissioner Watson and the motion carried unanimously.

9. Schedule Tax Appeal Petition Meeting - Commissioner Watson made a motion to schedule the meeting for 7:00pm on January 20, 2009, seconded by Commissioner Melton and the motion carried unanimously.
10. Declare Surplus – 1998 Ford F-150. Commissioner Melton made a motion to declare the 1998 Ford F-150 surplus, seconded by Commissioner Watson and the motion carried unanimously.
11. Tax November and December Refund requests. Melissa Bowlin, Tax Collector, Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve the refunds, seconded by Watson and the motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Watson made a motion to release the deceased vehicle bills, seconded by Commissioner Melton and the motion carried unanimously.
12. Harmon Field Update On Open-Air Gym – George Alley updated the Board on the open-air gym roof leak. Discussion ensued, and it was the consensus of the Board to discuss the issue again at their regular meeting on January 20, 2009. Mr. Alley had met with Kipp McIntyre and Lynn Sprague on topics such as a master plan, a recreation round table, working with Clemson University architectural students, and making the project “green”. At this point they are looking for help from the Town of Tryon and the County on repairing the roof.

Citizen Comments – There were none.

13. Lynn Sprague, Friends of Agriculture Breakfast organizer, reported on the success of the breakfast and other activities (incorporated into these minutes). Mr. Sprague invited the Commissioners to attend the breakfasts as their schedules allowed.
14. Board Vacancies (For Vote) – Travel & Tourism, 2 vacancies, 3 applications, Doris Holbert, Dale Potruski, Stephanie Ott. Doris Holbert (3-2) and Stephanie Ott (5-0) were elected.

Farmland Preservation - 2 reappointments, Doug Harmon and David Slater. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve the reappointments, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.

Planning Board - 1 vacancy 2 applications, Michael Axelrod and Emily Clark. Emily Clark was elected (5-0).

15. Budget Amendment – DSS \$21,069 addition to increase the budget for additional State appropriations. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve the budget

amendment, seconded by Commissioner Watson and the motion carried unanimously.

16. County Manager's Report – (1) Request proposals for Mental Health Maintenance of Effort Funds (MOE) (\$74,991). Commissioner Melton made a motion to advertise for proposals for the MOE funds, seconded by Commissioner Watson and the motion carried unanimously. (2) Blackwood Road water line update. Since the bid for the water line came in significantly lower (\$23,000), each participant will receive a refund of \$1,169.15. (3) Polk County Park Street site subsurface exploration report. Mr. Whitson informed the Board the subsurface was adaptable for development and will hold a foundation. (4) Mr. Whitson also reported that as of December 31, 2008, water is flowing in Green Creek with 50 taps.
17. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items - There were none.
18. Commissioner Comments. (1) Renee McDermott thought it was a good meeting. She appreciated Tryon coming out to discuss the open-air gym and how important it is for the public to attend the meetings. (2) Ray Gasperson hopes something can be worked out for Harmon Field. He also appreciated being able to attend the Institute of Government school, which provided a 3-day class for new Commissioners. (3) Commissioner Melton asked any veterans who would like to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to contact him. (4) Vice-Chairperson Watson hopes the County can help Harmon Field. The Board has a lot to accomplish and he is looking forward to the retreat. He also appreciated the reports by Lynn Sprague and Kipp McIntyre.
19. Closed Session – Acquisition of Property - G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (4) to discuss two acre property off 108.  
Personnel - G.S. 143-318.11(a) (6)
20. Return to Open Session – Commissioner Gasperson made a motion for the County Manager to obtain a 45 day extension on the 2 acre Park Street contract, seconded by Chairperson Walker and the motion carried 3-2 (Watson and McDermott) opposed. Chairperson Walker made a motion that, if the extension is refused, the contract will still go through, seconded by Commissioner McDermott and the motion carried 3-2 (Gasperson and Melton).
21. Adjourn.

ATTEST:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Anne Britton  
Clerk to the Board

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Cindy Walker  
Chair