

JOINT PUBLIC HEARING
WITH TRYON, COLUMBUS AND SALUDA COUNCILS
ON THE POLK COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTION
MULTI-HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN
January 11, 2010 @5:00 pm

PRESENT: Chairperson Walker, Vice-Chairperson Gasperson, Commissioners' McDermott, Melton and Watson. Others in attendance were County Manager Whitson, County Attorney Hix, Emergency Medical Services Director Sandra Halford, Planner Cathy Ruth, and Clerk to the Board, Anne Britton.

1. Call to Order/Welcome – Chairperson Walker opened the Joint Public Hearing and welcomed the municipalities, Columbus, Saluda and Tryon.
2. Public Hearing – Polk County Multi-Jurisdiction Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update - Chairperson Walker announced that the public hearing notice ran in the Tryon Daily Bulletin on December 29, 2009, and January 5, 2010. Sandra Halford presented the draft plan update. To update this plan, Polk County and the three jurisdictions have accomplished the following:
 - Updated the planning group.
 - Evaluated the hazards affecting the area.
 - Profiled these hazards and any additional findings.
 - Reviewed and changed as needed mitigation strategies and goals that address the various hazards that impact the area.
3. Citizen Comments – There were none.
4. Resolution – Ms. Halford will present the resolution approving the draft plan in the regular Board of Commissioners' meeting following this hearing.
5. Adjourn Public Hearing - Commissioner Gasperson made a motion to adjourn the hearing, seconded by Commissioner McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
6. Closed Session - Commissioner Melton made a motion to go into Closed Session for Personnel G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(6) and Pending Litigation G.S. 143-318(a)(1) seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.
7. Closed Session was recessed until after the regular Board meeting.

ATTEST: POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Anne Britton
Clerk to the Board

Cindy Walker
Chairman

@ 7:00 PM – **PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE
SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE OF POLK COUNTY FOLLOWED BY THE REGULAR
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

R. J. Foster Hall of Justice, Womack Building
Columbus, N.C.

PRESENT: Chairperson Walker, Vice-Chairperson Gasperson, Commissioners' McDermott, Melton and Watson. Others in attendance were County Attorney Whitson, County Attorney Hix, and Clerk to the Board Britton, staff, media and citizens.

1. Recessed from Closed Session/Call to Order/Welcome – Chairperson Walker called to order the Polk County Board of Commissioners' meeting.
2. Invocation – James Metcalf, WJFJ.
3. Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Melton.
4. Polk County Multi-Jurisdiction Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan - Chairperson Walker read the resolution which approves the official plan for Polk County for 2010. Commissioner Melton made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Commissioner McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
5. Public Hearing – Chairperson Walker called the hearing on the Ordinance amending the Subdivision Ordinance of Polk County to order. She announced that the notice of the public hearing ran in the Tryon Daily Bulletin on December 29, 2009, and January 5, 2010. Attorney Mike Egan and Planner Cathy Ruth were present to answer questions. Ms. Ruth explained that the requested (mostly administrative) revisions had been made to the ordinance for clarification, and to make the ordinance more efficient. There were no citizen comments.
6. Adjourn Public Hearing – Commissioner Melton made a motion to adjourn the public hearing, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.
7. Approval of Minutes – December 7, 2009, Regular Board of Commissioners' minutes and November 9, 2009, Special Meeting minutes. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve both sets of minutes, seconded by Commissioner McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
8. Approval of Agenda – County Manager Whitson recommended adding the discussion of the barbeque festival to 10a, and (2) budget amendments to Item 16. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Commissioner Melton and the motion carried 4 -1 (McDermott opposed).

9. Ordinance amending the Subdivision Ordinance – You have just held the public hearing. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve this ordinance, seconded by Vice- Chairperson Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.
10. Comprehensive Plan, Polk County 20/20 Vision Plan - Dale Holland, Holland Consulting, was present for the monthly status report and Jim Carson, Chairman of the Comprehensive Plan Committee, presented the final draft of the Comprehensive Plan to the Board. Mr. Holland concluded by saying he felt this draft was a “reasoned, balanced approach to Polk County.” Mr. Carson reported that the Comprehensive Plan Committee unanimously approved the Plan and thanked the committee, the Board of Commissioners, Planner Cathy Ruth and Dale Holland.

Ms. Ruth explained that the next step is to take to the draft Comprehensive Plan to the Planning Board meeting on January 14, 2010. Additional dates set were: February 11th, open house prior to the Planning Board meeting; March 15th, open house prior to the public hearing. The open houses will allow interested citizens an opportunity to review the plan, ask questions of the committee, and further involve the public in the process.

Commissioner Melton made a motion to send the draft of the Comprehensive Plan to the Planning Board for their review, comments and recommendations (not for editing or amendments) and return to the Board of Commissioners’ board meeting March 1, 2010, seconded by Commissioner McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.

The Commissioners’ were very appreciative of the hard work and dedication of the Comprehensive Plan Committee. They thanked the committee members, Holland Consulting, and Planner Cathy Ruth for their excellent product.

Commissioner McDermott made a motion to schedule the public hearing for the Comprehensive Plan for 7:00 pm March 15, 2010, seconded by Commissioner Melton and the motion carried unanimously.

11. Tax Collector - Melissa Bowlin requested the December refund requests for \$1,926.63. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the requests, seconded by Commissioner Melton and the motion carried unanimously.
12. Tax Collection Report of 09 Unpaid Taxes - Melissa Bowlin gave the report. Commissioner Melton made a motion to charge the Tax Collector to collect all taxes by any and all means available, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.
13. County Manager’s Report

- (1) Letter from the Polk County Community Foundation - Mr. Whitson announced that the Polk County Community Foundation awarded Polk County Department of Social Services \$3,000 for heating assistance for people in crisis.
- (2) Update on Division of Occupational Safety and Health's visit to DSS - Mr. Whitson explained that the visit was initiated by an employee complaint. A ceiling tile had fallen and had been replaced improperly. There was fear that the ceiling tile contained asbestos however the report revealed it did not.
- (3) Discussion of the January 25, 2010, board meeting - Mr. Whitson would like to kick off the budget at this meeting discussing 6-8 major point items such as a new DSS building. This will be a challenging budget and he needs guidance from the board.
- (4) Housing Solutions – Isothermal Planning & Development has discussed with the County Manager the need for housing for individuals 55 and older. There is space behind the Recreation Park for 40 plus units. The sewage would have to be upgraded and there is no water capacity. The consensus was to go ahead and look into these possibilities with the Isothermal Planning and Development Commission.
14. Update on Census – Kipp McIntyre, Economic Development Director, made a report on the Bureau of the Census Office Open House Ceremony. Ernie Giannini, the Census Workforce Testing Coordinator for Polk County, updated the Board on the status of hires and where individuals may sign-up.
15. N.C. Gen. Stat. 105-312 (k) Windstream North Carolina, LLC respectfully requested a compromise or adjustment for the penalty imposed on its 2009 assessment for public service corporation property located in Polk County. Discussion followed and it was determined that a remedy for this situation should lie with the State of North Carolina. The consensus of the Board was not to grant a public hearing.
16. Budget Amendments - BA#11 Addition DSS \$3,000 to increase revenue and expense for a grant received from the Polk County Community Foundation for heating assistance for people in crisis. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve the addition, seconded by Commissioner McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.

BA#26 - Between Departments \$7,500 to transfer the budget from Tax Assessor's Capital to Sheriff's Capital which will go towards the purchase of a detective vehicle. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve the transfer, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.

BA#12 - Budget Addition for Contingency \$40,000 to increase revenue and contingency for restitution paid to the County (Jenny Zeiler judgment).

Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve the increase, seconded by Commissioner Watson and the motion carried unanimously.

Project Budget Ordinance for Landrum Road for Approval – Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve the Budget Ordinance, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.

BA#13 - Meeting Place for \$4,200 to increase revenue and expense for a donation from the Council on Aging for the purchase of a utility building. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve the donation, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.

BA#13a - Social Services for \$17,000 to increase funding for Crisis Intervention – total Crisis Budget \$51,373. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve the increase in funding, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.

BA#14 - DSS \$1,093 to increase revenue and expense for a donation from the Sheriff's Office for DSS Crisis Intervention from the account at Macon Bank. This transfer will close the account at Macon Bank. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve the revenue, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.

17. Board Vacancies (Review) – The new Tryon Board of Planning & Adjustment; 1 application, 2 regular and 1 alternate vacancy. This application was reviewed.

18. Board Vacancies (Vote)

- (3) Agricultural Economic and Farmland Preservation – Three members for reappointment. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve the following applications: Willis Holbert, Bruce Edwards, and Evangelena Barber, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.
- Council on Aging - One application. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve the application of Dollie-Brook Reid, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.
- (3) Sunny View Fire Tax Board - Three members for reappointment. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve the following applications: Bruce Odel, Marshall McGuinn, and Linda Aley, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.
- Animal Control Board of Adjustment - One application. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve the application of Jeanne Bowles, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.

- (2) Tourism Advisory Board – Two members for reappointment. Commissioner McDermott made a motion to reappoint Dale Potruski, seconded by Commissioner Watson and the motion carried unanimously. The 2nd reappointment was tabled in order to possibly receive an application with qualifications that pertain to the updated bylaws.
- Tryon Planning and Adjustment Board - One application to be approved by the County. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve John Walters, seconded by Commissioner Melton and the motion carried unanimously.

19. Citizens for Non-Agenda items. There were none.

20. Commissioners' comments. The Commissioners thanked the citizens for attending the meeting.

21. Return to recessed Closed Session.

22. Return to Open Session.

23. County Attorney Hix requested a motion which would authorize him to send a letter to the White Oak development notifying them to pay the balance on the water line in full (\$169,752.50) within ten (10) working days.

24. Commissioner Watson made the motion, seconded by Commissioner McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.

25. Adjourn. Commissioner Melton made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Watson and the motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Anne Britton
Clerk to the Board

Cindy Walker
Chairperson

