

POLK COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC HEARING,  
REGULAR MEETING & WORK SESSION  
Monday, January 23, 2012 at 3:00pm  
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 of the State FY 2013 Community Transportation Grant - Chair Gasperson called the meeting to order. The Community Transportation Program provides assistance to coordinate existing transportation programs operating in Polk County as well as provides transportation options and services for communities within the service area. Jewell Carswell, Transportation Director, was present to answer questions.
2. Citizen Comments – There were no citizen comments.
3. Commissioner Comments – There were no Commissioner comments.
4. Motion to Adjourn – Commissioner Owens moved to adjourn the public hearing, seconded by Vice-Chair McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
5. Call to Order of the Regular Board of Commissioners' Meeting – Chair Gasperson called the meeting to order.
6. Invocation – Commissioner Owens gave the invocation.
7. Pledge of Allegiance – Vice-Chair McDermott led the pledge.
8. Approval of Minutes –Vice-Chair McDermott moved to approve the January 9, 2012, public hearing and regular BOC meeting minutes, seconded by Commissioner Pack and the motion carried unanimously.
9. Approval of Agenda – County Manager Whitson requested that Agenda Item #10.a - Community Development Block Program Public Hearing be added. Commissioner Walker moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Vice-Chair McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.

10. State FY 2013 Community Transportation Program Resolution – Commissioner Owens moved to approve the State FY 2013 Community Transportation Program Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Pack and the motion carried unanimously.
- 10.a Community Development Block Program Public Hearing – Commissioner Owens moved to schedule a public hearing on February 6, 2012, at 7:00pm in order to apply for a grant through the Small Business & Entrepreneurial Assistance Grant Program of the NC Dept of Commerce Community Investment & Assistance, seconded by Vice-Chair McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
11. Mental Health Advisory Board (MHAB) – Kathy Romich, Chair, asked for guidance from the BOC regarding this advisory board. Ms. Romich said a local adult day treatment center would be beneficial in Polk County. It was the consensus of the Commissioners that the MHAB provide the BOC with a quarterly update.
12. November & December Refund Requests – Melissa Bowlin, Tax Collector, presented the requests. Commissioner Owens made a motion to approve the November and December refund requests, seconded by Vice-Chair McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
13. Delinquent Tax Collection – Ms. Bowlin was instructed to report on any volunteer board member whose taxes are delinquent at the February 6, 2012, meeting. Vice-Chair McDermott made a motion to charge Ms. Bowlin with collecting delinquent taxes by any and all means, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously.
14. House Bill 1779 – Ms. Bowlin gave a PowerPoint presentation on the bill, a copy of which is on file with these minutes. The bill will become effective on July 1, 2013, and will create a combined motor vehicle registration and property tax collection system. Ms. Bowlin requested that one full-time employee be hired for the tax collection office during FY 2012-2013 to help with the changeover. Commissioner Owens and County Manager Whitson brought up the subject of creating a tag office within the Tax Collector's office.
15. Request for Waiver of Tax Interest – John Bridgers, Tax Assessor, presented the request on behalf of Patsy Williams. Commissioner Owens moved to grant the request for forgiveness of interest, seconded by Commissioner Pack and the motion carried unanimously.
16. Manager's Report – 1) A contractor has been hired to fix the courthouse cupola and the job should not take more than one day. 2) A structural engineer has come up with a two-phase design to repair/replace the piers at Stearns Gym. Mr. Whitson hopes to bid the job out in the next two months.
17. Volunteer Board for Vote – Josef Weiss was appointed as a regular member to the Library Board of Trustees by unanimous vote; Jeffrey Budai was appointed as a

- regular member to the Recycling Advisory Board by unanimous vote; Chauncey Barber, Marshall McGuinn, and Bruce Odel were appointed as regular members to the Sunny View Fire District Tax Commission by unanimous vote; Lambert Ridings was appointed as a regular member to the Transportation Advisory Board by unanimous vote; Jeffrey Budai was appointed as an alternate member to the Zoning Board of Adjustment by unanimous vote.
18. Volunteer Boards for Review – Applications for the Appearance Commission, Council on Aging and Farmland Preservation boards were reviewed.
  19. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items – There were no comments.
  20. Commissioner Comments – Commissioners thanked everyone for coming out.
  21. Closed Session – Vice-Chair McDermott moved to enter 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).
  22. Budget Work Session – Commissioner Owens moved to return to open session and enter into the BOC work session, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously. No action was taken as a result of the closed session.
    - 1) Budget Schedule – Commissioner Walker moved to approve the budget schedule, seconded by Commissioner Owens and the motion carried unanimously.
    - 2) Sandra Hughes gave a presentation on the reduction in sales tax revenue beginning in the FY 2013-2014 budget year; counties should expect a decrease in State hold harmless funds. The information is on file with these minutes.
    - 3) School Superintendent Bill Miller gave an overview of Polk County Schools' 2012-2013 budget situation. Due to projected budget shortfalls, the school system anticipates it will ask the County for approximately \$100,000 - \$150,000 in FY 2012-2013.
    - 4) County Manager Whitson gave a presentation on the restoration of the annual 2.5% step increase for County employees effective 1/1/13. Commissioner Owens proposed that the 2.5% step increase be effective 7/1/12, followed by another 1.5% step increase effective 1/1/13. Following discussion, the Commissioners asked the County Manager to provide estimates of the effect of each of the proposals on the budget.
    - 5) Sandra Hughes presented the numbers on paying the Senior Center loan off on 10/28/12. Following discussion, the Commissioners asked Ms. Hughes to present the numbers for paying the loan off on 4/28/12 at the February 6, 2012, regular BOC meeting.
    - 6) Future Water Lines – Following discussion, the Commissioners agreed to discuss this item further at the February 6, 2012, regular BOC meeting.

- 7) County Manager Whitson discussed fuel costs as well as the fuel contingency fund. The County Manager said he will need to use fuel contingency funds this year and will be bringing budget amendments to the Board for approval.
- 8) Other/Miscellaneous – Commissioner Pack recommended a tractor be purchased in FY 2012/2013 for the maintenance department for use at the recreation park.

23. Adjournment – Commissioner Owens moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Walker 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