

POLK COUNTY
January 24, 2011
3:00 PM BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
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 – Chair Gasperson gave the invocation.
3. Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Pack led the pledge.
4. Approval of Minutes – Vice-Chair McDermott made a motion to approve the two sets of Regular Board of Commissioners' meeting minutes for December 6, 2010, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously.
5. Approval of Agenda – The following amendments were recommended: Remove Agenda Item #9, Resolution/Contract Providing for Electronic Filing/Listing for Business Personal Property; change Agenda Item #19, Proposed Legislative Goals, from a discussion of proposed legislative goals to a report on priority legislative goals; remove first part of Manager's Report regarding the BOC retreat and replace it with budget calendar review; Agenda Item #14 – Change BA #13 amount from \$3,110.00 to \$20,374.00; add BA #15, \$1,835 to increase revenue and expense for a grant to send 3 people to the "New Partner for Smart Growth" conference in Charlotte from the Polk County Community Foundation; add BA #16, \$10,000 to increase revenue and expense for a sustainable community innovation grant proposal from Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program; add BA #8, \$43,346 to increase Sheriff budget for the purchase of two Crown Vics; Agenda Item #21 – add application from Joe Owen for the Recreation Advisory Board and application from Carl Caudle for the Travel & Tourism Board, and add discussion of volunteer board voting procedures; Agenda Item #25 - add Attorney Client Privilege N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(c) to Closed Session. Commissioner Walker made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Commissioner Pack and the motion carried unanimously.
6. Refund Request – Melissa Bowlin, Tax Collector, presented the November refund request. Commissioner Pack made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Commissioner Owens and the motion carried unanimously.
7. Uncollected Tax Amount for 2010 Tax as of January 13, 2011 – Melissa Bowlin, Tax Collector, gave the report. Commissioner Pack made a motion to charge Ms.

- Bowlin with collecting the delinquent taxes “by any and all means”, seconded by Commissioner Owens and the motion carried unanimously.
8. Release of Penalties Request – John Bridgers, Tax Assessor, presented the request for the release of penalties for Mr. Walter J. Wilson, Tax Parcel P-90-1. The penalties were incurred due to clerical error. Commissioner Owens made a motion to approve the release of penalties request, seconded by Vice-Chair McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
 9. Resolution/Contract Providing for Electronic Filing/Listing for Business Personal Property – This item was removed from the agenda.
 10. St. Luke’s Hospital – Vice-Chair McDermott gave an update on the general status of the hospital. The hospital has been in the black for this year, and hospital administrators are hoping to break ground on a new facility in another three years. Additional services will be added in the near future to include both inpatient and outpatient specialized care services.
 11. Personnel Grade Class Change – To change the Administrative Support Specialist position from Grade 20 to 16. Commissioner Walker made a motion to approve the Personnel Grade Class change, seconded by Commissioner Owens and the motion carried unanimously.
 12. Budget Amendment #7 - To reduce the Travel & Tourism (receptionist) salary and benefits for a lateral transfer as of January 17, 2011, and increase contingency. Commissioner Pack made a motion to approve the budget amendment, seconded by Commissioner Owens and the motion carried unanimously.
 13. Budget Amendment #6 – Discussion ensued regarding this budget amendment to reduce Tax Assessor (property appraiser) salary and benefits as of 1/3/2011 and increase contingency. Commissioners Owens and Pack recommended that the position remain open but unfilled, not eliminated, in order to have an opening for a revaluation employee when the time comes. Commissioner Walker made a motion to approve the budget amendment, seconded by Vice-Chair McDermott, and the motion carried 3-2 (Owens and Pack opposed).
 14. Budget Amendments – BA #31, Non-Department, \$29,563 to transfer amount needed to pay the ESC for benefits paid from Worker’s Comp Insurance budget excess. Commissioner Pack made a motion to approve the budget amendment, seconded by Commissioner Owens and the motion carried unanimously. BA #13, Social Services Department, \$3,110 increase in funding for crisis intervention, changing budget amount from \$59,243 to \$62,353. Commissioner Owens made a motion to approve the budget amendment, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously. BA #5, 911 Communications, \$66,200 to appropriate fund balance to pay for radio consoles for the 911 Center, previously paid by the Capital Project but now an allowable NC911 expenditure. This allows the County to spend the Capital Project money on towers and other infrastructure. Commissioner Owens made a motion to approve the budget amendment, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously.

BA #15, \$1,835 to increase revenue and expense for a grant from the Polk County Community Foundation to send 3 people to the “New Partner for Smart Growth” conference in Charlotte. Commissioner Owens made a motion to approve the budget amendment, seconded by Commissioner Pack and the motion carried unanimously. BA #16, \$10,000, to increase revenue and expense for a sustainable community innovation grant from the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program. Commissioner Owens made a motion to approve the budget amendment, seconded by Vice-Chair McDermott and the motion carried unanimously. BA #8, \$43,346 to increase Sheriff budget for the purchase of two Crown Vics. Discussion ensued and Commissioners Owens and Pack recommended the County go ahead and purchase two more Crown Vics at this time, for a total of four. Vice-Chair McDermott made a motion to approve the budget amendment, and to consider at the February 7, 2011, BOC meeting the purchase of two more Crown Vics, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously.

15. Cooperative Extension Service 4-H Staff Position – John Vining, County Extension Director, requested that the part-time 4-H position be made full-time, and the information is on file with these minutes. John Hall, local 4-H Foundation president, said 4-H programs serve 867 children in Polk County and urged the Commissioners to fund this position through the end of the fiscal year, with funds provided by the 4-H Foundation. Mr. Hall distributed a handout, a copy of which is on file with these minutes. Commissioner Owens made a motion to fund the position using the 4-H Foundation funds through the end of June, 2011, seconded by Commissioner Pack and the motion carried unanimously.
16. Polk County Schools Facilities Study – Polk County School Superintendent Bill Miller, Jr., presented the five-year facilities study and the information is on file with these minutes. Commissioner Owens made a motion to approve the facilities study, seconded by Commissioner Pack and the motion carried unanimously.
17. Waterline Bid Award – To award bid to Clark Ledbetter Grading in the amount of \$144,120 for the waterline extension from Highway 9 to Peniel Rd. Commissioner Walker made a motion to award the bid, and to spend \$1,500 out of the Economic Development budget toward the state permitting process, seconded by Commissioner Pack and the motion carried unanimously.
18. Waterline to Polk Central School – County Engineer Dave Odom and Polk County School Superintendent Bill Miller, Jr., discussed running a water line to the school from the main trunk line in Green Creek. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$656,310.55. Commissioner Owens said he would like to delay seeking bids for the waterline until County Attorney Egan has investigated the legality of Polk County Government doing for Polk County-based business what Governor Perdue has done for state-based business in her Executive Order No. 50. This would allow a local business that was not the lowest bidder to match the low bid of a non-local business, if the contractor’s original bid is within 5%, or \$10,000, of the lowest bid. Commissioner Owens made a motion to instruct County Attorney Egan to

- investigate the legality of Polk County adopting a policy similar to NC Order No. 50, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously.
19. Five Priority Legislative Goals – Commissioner Owens, who recently attended the NCACC Legislative Goals Conference, reported that the five priority goals are: Oppose Shift of State Transportation Responsibilities to Counties, Reinstate ADM and Lottery Funds for School Construction, Ensure Adequate Mental Health Funding, Preserve the Existing Local Revenue Base, and Authorize Local Revenue Options.
 20. Naming of the DSS Building – Commissioner Owens said he would like for Mary Greene’s name to be added to the building because of her 47 years of service to the County in the Health Department, and since she is and has been such an exemplary Polk County citizen. However, Mrs. Greene has declined the offer.
 21. Volunteer Boards For Review – Applications for the following boards were reviewed: Farmland Preservation – 2 regular vacancies, 2 applications; Green Creek Fire District Tax Commission – 4 regular vacancies, 4 applications; Recreation Advisory Board – 2 regular vacancies, 1 application; Tourism Advisory Board – 1 tourism related business vacancy, 2 applications. Chair Gasperson distributed a proposed volunteer board paper ballot to be used when voting on applicants. Commissioner Walker made a motion to amend Polk County Meeting Rule #3 to read: “Votes are to be made by a raise of the hand and by voice, or by paper ballot”, seconded by Commissioner Owens and the motion carried unanimously.
 22. Manager’s Report – County Manager Whitson said the Budget Calendar will be reviewed at the next BOC meeting. County Manager Whitson announced the Medicaid Waiver forum on January 26, 2011, at the Polk County Library from 5:30pm-7:30pm. Commissioner Owens recommended that a consultant be brought to the next BOC meeting in order to explain the complexities of the Medicaid Waiver issue to the Commissioners.
 23. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items - There were none.
 24. Commissioner Comments – Vice-Chair McDermott thanked everyone for coming and thanked the Commissioners for a good meeting. Chair Gasperson and Commissioners Pack and Walker echoed those sentiments. Commissioner Owens thanked everyone for coming, and asked that the following *Hendersonville Times-News* quote by Chair Gasperson regarding election of the Chair be included with these minutes: “The board should not be bound by this tradition,” he said. “It should choose who is best for the county.”
 25. Closed Session - For the purpose of N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6), Personnel, two items, and for Attorney Client Privilege N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(c). Commissioner Walker made a motion to go into closed session, seconded by Vice-Chair McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
 26. Return to Open Session – No action was taken.

27. Adjournment – Vice-Chair McDermott made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

POLK COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS

Beth Fehrmann
Clerk to the Board

Ray Gasperson
Chair