

POLK COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING  
7:00 PM March 1, 2010  
R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice, Womack Building  
Columbus, N.C.

Present: Chairperson Walker, Vice-Chairperson Gasperson, Commissioners McDermott, Melton and Watson. Also in attendance were County Manager Whitson and Clerk to the Board Britton. County Tom Hix was absent.

1. Call to Order/Welcome – Chairperson Walker.
2. Invocation – Commissioner Melton announced before the invocation that County Attorney Hix was hospitalized with a blood clot and to include him in your prayers.
3. Pledge of Allegiance – Chairperson Walker.
4. Approval of February 15, 2010, Minutes – Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
5. Approval of Agenda – Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Melton and the motion carried unanimously.
6. Public Hearing – Polk County Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance. Call to Order – Chairperson Walker. Ms. Walker read the legal notice of the public hearing advertised in the Tryon Daily Bulletin February 17, 24, 2010. Planner Cathy Ruth explained that the Ordinance was adopted June 22, 2009, with a few modifications requested by the Board of Commissioners. Citizen comments followed in support of the ordinance noting specifically the importance of monitoring and local enforcement (moving forward as quickly as possible). The comments were made by 1.) Lisa Krolak, 2.) Kitty Edwards, 3.) Eric Gass and 4.) David Weiss. Commissioner Melton made a motion to close the hearing, seconded by Commissioner McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
7. Polk County Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance – Commissioner Melton made a motion to adopt the amended ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Resolution – A resolution stipulating the terms of administration of the Polk County Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance. You have held the public hearing on the ordinance. As Chairperson Walker stated, all the facts in determining local enforcement keep changing as well as the lists of the existing sites which makes it difficult to determine the cost of the program. The Board is also still waiting for additional information from DENR. All of the Commissioners expressed their concern about the costs of local enforcement. The consensus of the board was to continue working to gather information but to move quickly. Chairperson Walker, Commissioner McDermott and County Planner Ruth will return to the March 15, 2010, board meeting with additional information.
9. Comprehensive Plan – Report and recommendations from the Planning Board. Planner Cathy Ruth returned to the Board with the recommendations from the Planning Board and a small packet of revisions for the plan. The Planning Board recommended to the Board of Commissioners that they adopt the Comprehensive Plan, 20/20 Vision Plan with the recommended changes stated, the vote was 6 ayes and 0 nays. Ms. Ruth announced the 2nd Open House is scheduled for March 15 from 5 – 6:30 prior to the Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing at 7:00. Chairperson Walker recognized the 20/20 Vision Committee for their hard work on the plan as well as Consultant Dale Holland and County Planner Cathy Ruth staff.
10. St. Luke's Hospital – Becky Brodar, St. Luke's Gero-Psych Unit's Community Outreach Leader, reported on the 3-way contracts for Mental Health for Polk County that she and Mr. Whitson had worked very hard to achieve. The 3-way contract is between St. Luke's Hospital, Western Highland Network and NC Department of Health and Human Services. By using a power point presentation, Ms. Brodar explained the need to have individuals in crisis served in their local communities rather than being admitted to state psychiatric hospitals. A copy of the presentation is in the board packet.
11. Schedule Public Hearings – 1) Commissioner Watson made a motion to schedule a public hearing for the Animal Control Ordinance for April 12, 2010 at 7:00 pm, seconded by Commissioner Melton and the motion carried unanimously. 2) Transportation Authority Grant Application – Commissioner Gasperson made a motion to schedule a public hearing for the Transportation Authority Grant for March 15, 2010, at 7:00 pm, seconded by Commissioner Watson and the motion carried unanimously.
12. Information only - Local Emergency Planning Committee – 2009 LEPC Annual Report for your review. No action required.

13. Polk County Emergency Planning Committee Membership – Following EPCRA Section 301(c) and the Polk County Emergency Planning Committee By-Laws, the committee requests that 2 appointments be made and also included the updated membership list and their board applications. These appointments will then be recommended to the North Carolina Emergency Response Commission for appointment to the Polk County Emergency Planning Committee. Penny Storey, Assistant to the Director, was present to answer questions. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve the appointments of Kevin Rogers and Jamie Davidson to the committee, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.
14. Satellite Annexation Legislation – Commissioner McDermott requested this item be placed on the agenda. She expressed her concern over Tryon and Saluda's request for an exemption from current state laws regarding satellite annexations. She further explained that this annexation could be used by a town in cooperation with developers to thwart county regulation and zoning, including the Comprehensive Plan that hopefully will be adopted soon. Tryon Council members Doug Arbogast and Austin Chapman were in attendance and reassured the Board that they were only concerned with Harmon Field. It was the consensus of the Board to authorize County Manager Ryan Whitson and Commissioner McDermott to work with the towns on an agreeable resolution to be presented to the General Assembly. Mr. Whitson will also speak to local representatives Rep. David Guice and Sen. Tom Apodaca who would have to sponsor the bill. Chairperson Walker thanked Mr. Chapman and Mr. Austin for attending the meeting and having dialogue with the County. Other citizen comments were 1.) Katherine Smith, 2.) Lisa Krolak, 3.) David Weiss and 4.) Jim Carson. They all favor the Comprehensive Plan and are concerned about possible development that would not have to meet any standards.
15. Board Vacancies (Review) – Equalization and Review Board 5 vacancies, 9 applications. These applications were reviewed and will be voted on at the March 15, 2010 board meeting.
16. Board Vacancies (Vote) – Appearance Commission, 1 application. Tryon Planning & Adjustment alternate, 1 application. Commissioner McDermott made a motion to approve Burt Baer to the Appearance Commission, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously. Commissioner McDermott made a motion to approve Reggie Drake as an alternate to the Tryon Planning and Adjustment Board, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.
17. County Manger's Report – 1.) Mr. Whitson read the letter addressed to the County Manager and the Board of Commissioners from the Department of

Social Services Board expressing their sincere gratitude for the implementation of a "Milestone Schedule" for the construction of a new Human Services Facility. 2.) Mr. Whitson reported on a successful visit from Yancey County who toured the county offices, met with staff members and had lunch.

18. Budget Amendments – BA #18 17,000 DSS addition to increase revenue and expense for an increase in State funding. Finance Officer Sandra Hughes was present to answer questions. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve BA #18, seconded by Commissioner Watson and the motion carried unanimously.
19. Financial Report – For the month ending January 31, 2010, financials were presented by Finance Officer Sandra Hughes. The narrative, general fund balance sheet and expenditures were distributed in the packet.
20. Citizen Comments on non agenda items - There were none.
21. Commissioners' Comments - The Commissioners thanked Doug Arbogast and Austin Chapman from the Tryon Town Council for attending the meeting and hopes the county and towns will work together,
22. Adjourn - Commissioner Melton made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

---

Anne Britton  
Clerk to the Board

---

Cindy Walker  
Chairperson