

POLK COUNTY
April 6, 2009
7:00 PM BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING
R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice
Womack Building
Columbus, N.C.

PRESENT: Cindy Walker, Chairperson, Warren Watson, Vice-Chairperson, Commissioners Ray Gasperson, Renee McDermott, and Tommy Melton. Also in attendance were County Manager Ryan Whitson, County Attorney Tom Hix and Clerk Anne Britton.

1. Call to Order – Chairperson Cindy Walker.
2. Invocation – Reverend Mary Potter, Associate Minister, Tryon Presbyterian Church.
3. Pledge of Allegiance – Chairperson Walker welcomed US Army Specialist Eric Halford, with the 61st Calvary 101st Airborne Division and son of Sandra Halford, Emergency Medical Services Director and Jerry Halford. Eric is a graduate of Polk County High School and has just returned from deployment in Afghanistan.

Presentation – Cindy Walker, Chairperson, presented Sandra Halford, Director of Emergency Management and Emergency Medical Services, her certificate for successfully achieving the Emergency Management Coordinator Level – I.

4. Approval of Regular Board of Commissioner minutes for March 16, 2009. Vice-Chairperson Watson made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Melton and the motion carried unanimously.
5. Approval of Agenda – County Manager Whitson requested the (2) resolutions #17 and #18 be moved to #8A and B.
6. Schedule Public Hearing for April 20, 2009, for application for stimulus funds for Transportation Authority. Commissioner Melton made a motion to schedule the public hearing, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Watson and the motion carried unanimously.
7. Tax Refund Request – Melissa Bowlin, Tax Collector, presented the March refunds totaling \$8,167.36. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve the requests, seconded by Commissioner Watson and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Resolution – Opposition required to SB 758 which would cause Counties to fund maintenance and improvements of county roads. County Manger read the resolution. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve the resolution of opposition, seconded by commissioner Watson and the motion carried unanimously. This resolution will be sent to the NC legislators and the Governor.
- 8A. Resolution – Litter Sweep. Commissioner McDermott read the resolution. Melinda Young, Director of Travel and Tourism, spoke in support of the Polk County employee participation as did Joe Cooper, Chairperson of the Appearance Committee. Commissioner McDermott made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Watson and the motion carried unanimously.
- 8B. Resolution – Save Local, Buy Local, Foothills First – was read by Commissioner Gasperson. He also made the motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Watson and the motion carried unanimously.
9. USGS Streamgaging Proposal – Bill Hazell, USGS, spoke at the last meeting and prepared a proposal for the Board’s consideration. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve the project, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Watson. Discussion followed on the cost of the project and the state of the economy. There was consensus on the Board in support of the proposal, however, it was tabled until budget discussions. The motion failed 2 – 3 (opposed Walker, Gasperson and McDermott).
10. Ellen Harris, Harris Architects, will report back to the Board on the bid award for the Senior Recreation Facility. Commissioner Gasperson made a motion to direct the County Manager to award the base bid to TNN Construction and the paint alternate. The Commissioners also urged TNN Construction to buy any and all products in North Carolina when possible. This bid award is contingent on the approval of the loan from the Local Government Commission. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-1 (Melton opposed).
11. Libbie Johnson, a member of the Economic Development Commission, reported on the impact of the equestrian community in Polk County. Commissioner Gasperson requested this item be placed on the agenda. Ms. Johnson expressed her views on the need for a hotel in Polk County due to the equestrian activities in the county and the addition of the Green Creek Equestrian Park. Aside from the horse show visitors, a hotel would attract business travelers, people stopping overnight off the interstate en route, workers in town for short term assignments, as well as leisure vacationers who expect modern amenities and prefer a hotel to other options in lodging. Commissioner Melton felt it was important to invite the Bed and Breakfast

owners to the first meeting in May to allow them to express their opinions on a hotel.

Citizen Comments 1) Laura Weiker supports the hotel. 2) Melissa Leroy supports the hotel and believes some of the bed and breakfast owners do also.

12. Isothermal RPO – NCDOT has changed the number of voting seats it has on the RPO (Rural Planning Organization) advisory board, thus requiring a new MOU. The County is asked to adopt this MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) to continue transportation planning in the region. Josh King, Isothermal Planning and Development Commission presented the MOU. Commissioner McDermott made a motion to approve the MOU, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Watson and the motion carried unanimously.
13. Planning Board Written Status Reports – Mountainside and Ridgetop Protection Ordinance and Sedimentation and Erosion Control Ordinance. These ordinances are being reviewed by the Planning Board. John Hansborough, Chair of the Planning Board, updated the Board. Commissioner McDermott made a motion to request an extension of 60 days to allow the Planning Board to continue in the review process of these two ordinances, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously. Commissioner McDermott thanked the Planning Board and staff for working hard toward completing the review.
14. Recommendations for Government Buildings - The Planning Board has reviewed and responded with a letter. They were to consider adding governmental agencies to the Zoning Ordinance and what type of restrictions should be placed on them. Vice-Chairperson Watson asked for more time to review the information, and it was the consensus of the Board to table until that time.
15. Courthouse Celebration – Melinda Young, Travel and Tourism Director, presented the plans for the celebration. Ms. Young announced that Monday, May 18 from 5:00 to 6:45pm will be designated for the celebration. There will be tours of the courthouse, a slideshow, refreshments and the unveiling of the plaque. Beginning at 7:00pm, the regular Board of Commissioners' meeting will be held in the courtroom.
16. Budget Schedule – County Manager Whitson presented the budget schedule. Changes were made as follows: All Department Heads were requested to attend; May 14 meeting was moved to May 5 beginning at 7pm. Vice-Chairperson Watson made the motion to approve the budget schedule as amended, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.

Budget Amendment – BA #16, Agriculture Economic Development, \$2,500 to increase revenue and expenditures for grant funds received. Vice-Chairperson Watson made a motion to approve BA#16, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.

17. Board Vacancies (Review), Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, 2 applications, 5 vacancies - Gerald Siddons and William (Blake) Arledge. These applications were reviewed.
18. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda items. 1) Joyce Kempton reported on her concerns with the 911 system.
19. Commissioner Comments. Commissioner McDermott read a statement generally refuting a recent Tryon Daily Bulletin article entitled *Estimate: Polk County population growth trails well behind state, region*.
20. Adjourn.

ATTEST:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Anne Britton
Clerk to the Board

Cindy Walker
Chairperson