

POLK COUNTY
May 3, 2010
7:00 PM BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

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

Present: Chairperson Walker, Vice-Chairperson Gasperson, Commissioners McDermott, Melton and Watson. Also present were County Manager Whitson and Clerk to the Board Britton. County Attorney Hix and Interim County Attorney Egan were absent.

1. Call to Order/Welcome – Cindy Walker, Chairperson
2. Invocation – Commissioner Tommy Melton
3. Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Watson
4. Approval of Regular Board of Commissioners Minutes for April 26, 2010, and Approval of Special Minutes from April 19, 2010 - Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve the April 26, 2010, minutes, seconded by Commissioner Watson and the motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve the April 19, 2010, special minutes, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.
5. Approval of Agenda – Commissioner McDermott added the Appearance Commission's award presentation and beautification power point to (5a) and Mr. Whitson added Closed Session for personnel G.S. 143-138. 1(a)(6) at the end of the meeting.
- 5a. Appearance Commission – Commission consultant Mark Byington presented a power point on different concepts for landscape improvements to the entranceways of the municipalities and County. He introduced many different types of trees (least costly) for these areas. Commissioner Melton recommended that this presentation be made available to the municipalities to show that leadership and structure is already in place. The power point presentation is on file in the Clerk's office.

Joe Cooper, Chairman, and commission helper Libbie Johnson participated in the "Adopt a Highway" litter sweep. Ms. Johnson was able to involve 28 horse farms in participating in the litter sweep. The Appearance Commission was given a \$500 award for their efforts.
6. Tax Collector Certification – Chairperson Walker presented Melissa Bowlin, Polk

County Tax Collector, with her recently earned Certified Tax Collector certificate from the North Carolina Tax Association. This certificate comes together with all rights, benefits, and privileges.

7. Western Carolina Community Action (WCCA) – Commissioner Watson invited David White, Executive Director, to make a presentation on the Columbus Children’s Center, which is the new Early Head Start program in Polk County. The center serves low income and single-parent families. The center is located at the shopping center off Hwy. 108 and serves 16 Polk County children and 20 families that are home based. The program is for children up to 3 years old. Four Polk County residents have been hired to work in the center. Commissioner Watson serves on the WCCA Board. The complete presentation is on file in the Clerk’s office.
8. Dale Holland, Holland Consulting – Presented the final copy of the 20/20 Vision Comprehensive Plan. Discussion followed regarding creating an Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) by consolidating and organizing all of the land use ordinances into one document, as recommended in the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Holland suggested that to begin the process a steering committee should be formed to create the UDO. Mr. Holland proposed two options to move forward, if the County is interested in continuing to work with his consulting group. Option 1 - Retain Holland Consulting for approximately \$70,000.00 to attend *some but not all* of the meetings, along with Attorney Egan, over the next 2 years. Option 2 – Retain Holland Consulting for approximately \$107,000.00 to attend *all* meetings, along with Attorney Egan, over the next 2 years. Mr. Holland agreed to work with the County at the estimated price by attempting video meetings. Commissioner McDermott made a motion to name the members of the steering committee at the June 7, 2010, Board meeting. The committee will be comprised of (2) Board of Commissioners members, (2) current Planning Board members, and (5) 20/20 Vision Comprehensive Plan committee members (spread throughout the townships), seconded by Vice-Chairperson Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously. Commissioner McDermott and Vice-Chairperson Gasperson were elected to represent the Commissioners on the UDO Steering Committee.
9. Landrum Rd. Waterline Extension Request – Vice-Chairperson Gasperson made a motion to allow Derbyshire Development an 8” waterline on Landrum Road with one fire hydrant. The County will pay \$3,866 to upgrade to a 12” bore and valve to cross under Hwy 9 and the residents will be refunded their participation fees. Commissioner Watson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
10. Juvenile Crime Prevention Commission – Kim Wilson, Chairperson, presented the County Annual Plan for approval. There were no substantive changes from last year. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the plan, seconded by Commissioner McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.

11. Mental Health Advisory Board Bylaws – The adoption of the bylaws will be tabled until the May 17, 2010, Board meeting, following reviewing of both present and past bylaws. Vice-Chairperson Gasperson made a motion to approve the exception of two of the Mental Health Advisory Board members who work in the County but live outside the County, Commissioner McDermott seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
12. Proposed 2010/2011 Annual Budget – Mr. Whitson presented the proposed Budget for 2010/2011. He read his Budget Message to the Board. The first budget work session will be May 10, 2010, at 5 pm.
13. Highway 9 and 108 Main Water Line – Commissioner Gasperson requested this item be placed on the agenda. He asked the Board to consider a 12” waterline approximately 4 miles from the Intersection of Hwy. 9 and Hwy. 14 to Polk Central. The approximate cost of the line is \$650,000. Commissioner Melton recommended having a dialogue with the towns for their input. Discussion turned to what would be the most beneficial backbone waterline through the County from its main line in Green Creek. A joint meeting to discuss shared issues is scheduled for June 8, 2010, with the County, Columbus, Tryon, and Saluda. The meeting will be hosted by Columbus.
14. County Manager’s Report – Mr. Whitson discussed :
 - 1) Columbus Recycling Request - For the Mobile Recycling Unit for one day; request was granted. The County Commissioners will work with the solid waste department and Recycling Board to add a Columbus area location on Thursdays. Discussion then turned to the few employees who work 30 hours (as opposed to 37.5 hours) a week and receive health benefits. It was the consensus of the Board to “grandfather” in those few employees working 30 hours a week and prepare an amendment (by resolution) to the Polk County Personnel Policy requiring all employees receiving health benefits to work 37.5 hours per week.
 - 2) Register of Deeds Cott Systems Contract - Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the Cott Systems contract, seconded by Commissioner Melton and the motion carried unanimously.
 - 3) Costs of Bringing in Fill Dirt to Adult Day Care Facility – According to one proposal the job would require 287 dump truck loads of dirt, resulting in a total cost of \$18,000.00. The Commissioners directed the County Engineer to look for other options.
15. Board Vacancy (Review) – Saluda Fire Tax Commission (1 Vacancy) – Mark Oxtoby. The application was reviewed.

Board Vacancies (Vote) – Library (3 Vacancies) - Reappointment – Amber Keeran; New Applicant – Nancy Gales. Mental Health Advisory Board (10 Vacancies) – Reappointments - Joseph Crowder, Lou Parton, Kathy Romich, Katherine Smith, Carol Swetman; New Applicants – Dianne Brandstadter, Rob Fuller, Lionel Gilbert. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve all applications, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.

16. Citizen Comments on Non Agenda Items – There were none.
17. Closed Session – Personnel 143-138.11 (a)(6). Commissioner Melton made a motion to go into Closed Session, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.
18. Return to Open Session – Anne Britton, Clerk to the Board, Human Resource Officer and Assistant County Manager announced her retirement August 31, 2010. Her memo written to the Board of Commissioners, Tom Hix, County Attorney, and Mike Egan, Interim County Attorney follows:

Effective August 31, 2010, I plan to retire from Polk County Government after 8 years of service.

It has been a pleasure to work as your Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and to serve the citizens of Polk County. I also have great respect for the Polk County Employees, the County Manager and the work you all do.

I look forward to retirement and spending more time with my husband and family.

cc: Leah Justice, Tryon Daily Bulletin

19. Adjourn – Commissioner McDermott made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Melton and the motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST: POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Anne Britton
Clerk to the Board

Cindy Walker
Chairperson