

POLK COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, May 7, 2012, at 7:00pm  
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 Regular Board of Commissioners' Meeting – Chair Gasperson called the meeting to order.
2. Invocation – Commissioner Walker gave the invocation.
3. Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Pack led the pledge.
4. Approval of Minutes – Commissioner Owens moved to approve the April 16, 2012, public hearing and regular meeting minutes, seconded by Vice-Chair McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
5. Approval of Agenda – County Manager Whitson asked to add updates on the Wellness Center, Stearns Gym and the courthouse cupola to Agenda Item #14, Manager's Report. Vice-Chair McDermott moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Commissioner Owens and the motion carried unanimously.
6. Budget Presentation – County Manager Whitson presented the FY 2012/13 budget, and a copy of his budget message is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes. County Manager Whitson said he has reached a compromise with the Sheriff's Department and will add \$30,000 to the Sheriff's salary line item to partially fund a full-time narcotics officer; the Sheriff's Department will pay for the position's fringe benefits out of its existing budget. Sheriff Hill confirmed that he is in agreement with the Sheriff's Department budget as stated by the County Manager, and that the Sheriff's Department will not seek to make any further changes its budget. Commissioner Pack clarified that the FY 2012/13 general fund budget is .42% less than the originally adopted 2011/12 general fund budget.
7. Budget Calendar – The budget calendar was amended wherein the May 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> BOC work sessions were cancelled, the May 16<sup>th</sup> Harmon Field, Fire Departments & Rescue Squad work session was moved to May 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm, and a "TBD if necessary" BOC work session was added for June 5<sup>th</sup>. Vice-Chair McDermott moved to approve the budget calendar as amended, seconded by Commissioner Pack and the motion carried unanimously.
8. Polk County Resolution in Support of Lowering the Compulsory School Age to Six – Commissioner Walker moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Vice-Chair McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.

9. Board of Elections HAVA Funds Resolution – Vice-Chair McDermott moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously.
10. JCPC Annual County Plan & Program Agreements – County Manager Whitson said there is a discrepancy on Page 11, Item #3, Polk County Schools: The Local Cash Match should reflect the \$7,000 County cash match of 20%, bringing the total to \$12,234. Commissioner Owens moved to approve the agreements as amended, seconded by Commissioner Pack and the motion carried unanimously.
11. Taxpayer Refund Request – Melissa Bowlin, Tax Collector, presented Mrs. McEntire-Scott's request. Commissioner Owens moved to approve the refund request, seconded by Vice-Chair McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
12. April Refund Request – Melissa Bowlin presented the request. Commissioner Pack moved to approve the refund request, seconded by Commissioner Owens and the motion carried unanimously.
13. Budget Amendment – Commissioner Walker moved to approve BA #16, Social Services, \$7,200 Special Adoption Funds received for the recruitment and training of adoptive parents, seconded by Vice-Chair McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
14. Manager's Report – A) The Board reached a consensus for County Manager Whitson to advertise for Mental Health RFPs for maintenance of effort funds. B) The Wellness Center recently secured a \$50,000 grant from Western Highlands LME. C) The old flooring at Stearns Gym has been removed and half of the new flooring has been installed; the job should be completed in about two weeks. D) Work will begin on the courthouse cupola next week.
15. Volunteer Board for Review – Three applications for the Mental Health Advisory Board were reviewed.
16. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items – There were no citizen comments.
17. Closed Session – Vice-Chair McDermott moved to go into closed session for the purposes of: A) To consider and take action with respect to the position to be taken by the county in negotiating the price or other material terms of an agreement for the acquisition or lease of real property, G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5); B) For attorney-client privilege, G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3); C) For personnel, G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6), seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously.
18. Return to Open Session – Commissioner Owens moved to return to open session, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously.
19. Appointment of Interim Tax Assessor or Administrator – Commissioner Owens moved to appoint Melissa Bowlin as the interim Tax Administrator, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously.

20. Commissioner Comments – Commissioner Owens said the recent County personnel changes have been positive. Commissioner Pack said there has been a lot of misinformation going around regarding the Marriage Amendment and that, according to a press release by a group of district attorneys and law enforcement officers, passage of the amendment “will have no impact on domestic violence prosecution”. Vice-Chair McDermott said she did not know how that group could predict the impact. All Commissioners thanked everyone for coming out.
21. Adjournment – Commissioner Walker moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Vice-Chair McDermott 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