

POLK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING
Monday, May 16, 2011, 3:00pm
R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice, Womack Building
Columbus, NC
MINUTES

1. Call to Order – Chair Gasperson called the meeting to order.
2. Invocation – Rev. Ralph Kuether gave the invocation.
3. Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Pack led the pledge.
4. Approval of Minutes – Commissioner Owens made a motion to approve the May 2, 2011, regular BOC meeting minutes, the May 9, 2011, BOC work session minutes, and the May 10, 2011, special meeting minutes, seconded by Vice-Chair McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
5. Approval of Agenda – County Manager Whitson asked that Agenda Item #6 be deleted, and that Agenda Item #10 be moved to the #6 position. Commissioner Owens made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously.
6. St. Luke's Hospital Project – Susan McHugh, Chair of St. Luke's Board of Trustees, gave the opening remarks and encouraged the Board to continue its support of the hospital. Ken Shull, St. Luke's Executive Director, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed hospital addition/improvement project and the information is on file with these minutes. The County owns the 14.13 acre parcel of land on which St. Luke's Hospital is located, as well as the hospital building itself. The land was originally purchased by the St. Luke's Auxiliary and donated to the County. St. Luke's Healthcare, Inc., which is managed by Carolinas HealthCare System, is asking the County to donate the property and building to the hospital so that the hospital can secure financing for the proposed project.

Citizen Comments - The following citizens spoke in support St. Luke's Hospital: Deborah Arledge, John Albree, Jean Shumway, Kaye Steele, Ralph Kuether, Paul Sutherland, Betty Chamberlain, Robert Lair, Frank Ortiz, Norm Powers, Eloise Johnson, Andy Haynes, Jim Gross and Jim Barnett.

Vice-Chair McDermott promised that the Board would exercise due diligence in seeking a mutually beneficial solution. Commissioner Owens said the way the situation was handled initially by the hospital has created some bad publicity which will need to be overcome, but he is confident the County and the hospital will be able to work together in the future in a spirit of cooperation. Commissioner Pack

- said everyone wants to keep St. Luke's viable; it is just going to be a matter of hard work to figure out how to make the project happen. Chair Gasperson said St. Luke's is vital to the future of Polk County and he is confident of a satisfactory outcome. County Manager Whitson recommended the Board have a special closed session meeting in mid-July for a video conference with counsel the County has retained regarding this issue.
7. April Refund Request – Commissioner Owens made a motion to approve the April refund request, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously.
 8. Mental Health Month Proclamation – Kathy Romich, Mental Health Advisory Board Chair, read the proclamation. Commissioner Walker made a motion to approve the proclamation, seconded by Commissioner Owens and the motion carried unanimously.
 9. CooperRiis Healing Community Resolution – Jeff Byrd, Managing Director of CooperRiis, read the resolution. CooperRiis Founders Don and Lisbeth Cooper, and Executive Director Virgil Stucker, spoke in support of the healing community. Vice-Chair McDermott made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Owens and the motion carried unanimously.
 10. Security Cameras & Access Controls for the Historic Courthouse – Marche Pittman, Management Information Systems Director, gave the presentation. Commissioner Owens made a motion to approve security cameras and access controls for the historic courthouse, seconded by Vice-Chair McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
 11. Employee Health Care – Vice-Chair McDermott made a motion to approve the employee healthcare deductible increase to \$1,000 effective January 1, 2012, seconded by Commissioner Walker. Commissioner Pack said his budget recommendations include no increase in the employee healthcare deductible, and he asked the Board to consider his recommendations during the budget process before making a final decision.

Citizen Comments: Katharine Smith urged the Commissioners not to raise the deductible amount so high as to create a hardship for County employees.

With a motion and a second on the floor, the motion carried 3-2 (Owens and Pack opposed).
 12. Volunteer Boards for Vote – The following individuals were unanimously appointed to volunteer boards – Kathryn McClain, Council on Aging; Sara Bell, Economic Development Commission; Roulette Gildersleeve, Region C Workforce Development.

13. Volunteer Boards for Review – Application for the following boards were reviewed: Economic Development Commission – 1 application, 2 vacancies (1 regular & 1 alternate); Isothermal Community College Board of Trustees – 1 application, 1 vacancy; Mental Health Advisory Board - 2 applications, 2 vacancies.
14. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items – There were no comments.
15. Commissioner Comments – Commissioners thanked everyone for coming out. Vice-Chair McDermott said she looks forward to finalizing the budget, and hopes the Board will be fiscally responsible in what they do with the budget.
16. Adjournment – Commissioner Owens made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

POLK COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS

Beth Fehrmann
Clerk to the Board

Ray Gasperson
Chair