

POLK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' BUDGET WORK SESSION &
REGULAR MEETING

Monday, June 4, 2012, 6:00pm

Saluda Elementary School

Saluda, 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, and citizens.

1. Call to Order of the Budget Work Session – Chair Gasperson called the work session to order.
2. Ag Economic Development (Farmland Preservation) – The Farmland Preservation Committee decided they were satisfied with their budget and did not need to give a presentation at this time.
3. Proposed FY 2012/2013 Budget Work Session – Chair Gasperson, Vice-Chair McDermott and Commissioner Walker expressed their support of the 1 cent tax increase requested by the Columbus Fire Department. Commissioners Pack and Owens recommended the Columbus and Mill Spring Fire Department's increased financial needs, as well as the Polk County Rescue Squad's, be met by using fund balance monies instead of the requested 1 cent tax increase. Commissioner Pack said money budgeted for capital outlay could be taken out of the available fund balance in order to make a special appropriation to the fire departments and rescue squad, and this option would not burden the citizens with a tax increase. Commissioner Walker expressed concern regarding the sustainability of using fund balance monies for the fire departments. Commissioners agreed that it would be a good idea for all the fire departments to have an annual audit for efficiency and transparency purposes.

Following discussion it was agreed that EMS Director Sandra Halford would attend the June 11, 2012, budget public hearing and answer Commissioners' questions regarding Polk County Rescue Squad's budget request. Chair Gasperson said he would like to wait until next year to consider Mill Spring Fire Department's request for a 1 cent increase, which would give the fire department time to have an audit performed.

Commissioners concurred that the following adjustments be made to the recommended budget:

- 1) Decrease Governing Body \$1,380 (no salary increase for Commissioners) and reduce capital by \$500.

- 2) Decrease Tax Assessor by \$1,285 (\$35 in cell phone and \$1,250 in capital).
- 3) Decrease EMS \$2,000 (utilities).

Commissioner Pack asked that County Manager Whitson research and clarify the following issues:

- 1) Why is there an increase in Cooperative Extension retirement?
 - 2) Is the Economic Development grant budget for matching grants?
 - 3) Why is there an increase in fuel and utility costs in Recreation?
 - 4) Why is \$800 budgeted for the Recreation Complex/Laughter Pond?
 - 5) Which funds have a "Fund Balance Appropriation" budgeted for FY 13 in the ordinance.
 - 6) Why is there a \$1,000 increase for DSS training?
4. Adjourn – Commissioner Walker moved to adjourn the work session, seconded by Vice-Chair McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
 5. Call to Order of the Regular Board of Commissioners' Meeting – Chair Gasperson called the regular meeting to order.
 6. Invocation – Commissioner Pack gave the invocation.
 7. Pledge of Allegiance – Chair Gasperson led the pledge.
 8. Approval of Minutes – Commissioner Owens moved to approve the May 15, 2012, budget work session and May, 21, 2012, regular meeting minutes, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously.
 9. Approval of Agenda – Commissioner Pack moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Owens and the motion carried unanimously.
 10. July–December 2012 Regular BOC Meeting Schedule – Commissioner Owens moved to approve the July-December 2012 regular BOC meeting schedule, as amended during the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously. A copy of the approved schedule is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes.
 11. Manager's Report – A) County Manager Whitson presented the Western Highlands FY 2012 3rd Quarter Monitoring Report. B) County Manager Whitson presented the NC SBI Communications Audit Report. C) Commissioner Owens moved to approve the Fork Creek Road Guardrail Funding Resolution to be sent to Sen. Tom Apodaca's office, seconded by Vice-Chair McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
 12. Volunteer Boards for Vote – Rolfe Wardner was appointed to the Appearance Commission by unanimous vote. Benny Smith was appointed to the Harmon Field Board of Supervisors by unanimous vote. William Ennis was appointed to the Planning Board by a 3-2 vote (McDermott and Walker opposed). Olin Sansbury

was not appointed to the Planning Board by a 2-3 vote (Gasperson, Owens and Pack opposed). Laura Lynch and Adrienne Wallace were appointed to the Recreation Advisory Board by unanimous vote.

13. Volunteer Boards for Review – One application for the Library Board of Trustees was reviewed.
14. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items – There were none.
15. Commissioner Comments – The Commissioners thanked everyone for coming out.
16. Adjournment – Commissioner Owens moved 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