

POLK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING
Monday, June 6, 2011, 7:00pm
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, media and citizens.

1. Call to Order – Chair Gasperson called the meeting to order.
2. Invocation – Chair Gasperson gave the invocation.
3. Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Walker led the pledge.
4. Approval of Minutes – Commissioner Owens made a motion to approve the May 16, 2011, regular BOC meeting minutes, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously.
5. Approval of Agenda – County Manager Whitson added Agenda Item 15a., BA #92. Commissioner Owens requested Agenda Item #11 be removed, as the concession stand issue is being addressed and no action needs to be taken. Commissioner Walker asked that in the future any item placed on the agenda for open session be accompanied by a description of the topic, and she recommended that wording to this effect be incorporated into the BOC's Agenda Items Procedure. Commissioner Owens made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Commissioner Pack and the motion carried unanimously.
6. Beautification Awards – Joe Cooper, Appearance Commission Chair, presented this year's awards to: Andy Millard, 22 Depot Street (Tryon); City of Saluda, West End Parking Lot; Hunting County Homeowner's Association, 4 Hunting County Trail (Tryon); NCDOT, Exit 59 at Interstate 26 (Saluda).
7. Saluda Medical Center Equipment Needs – Commissioner Owens made a motion for the County to give the Saluda Medical Center \$8,939.46 for new EKG equipment, seconded by Vice-Chair McDermott. Erny Williams, Saluda City Administrator, gave a brief description of the equipment. With a motion and a second on the floor, the motion carried unanimously.
8. DSS Telephone System – Marche Pittman, MIS Director, was present to answer questions. Commissioner Walker made a motion to approve the DSS telephone

- system recommended by Mr. Pittman, seconded by Vice-Chair McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
9. Transportation Department Policies & Procedures – Transportation Director Jewell Carswell was present to answer questions regarding the System Safety Program Plan, Passenger Rules & Procedures, and the Passenger No Shows & Cancellation Policy. Commissioner Owens made a motion to approve the policies, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously.
 10. Transportation Department Surplus Vehicles – Jewell Carswell asked that a 2006 Ford lift van and a 2006 Ford minivan be declared surplus. Commissioner Pack made a motion to surplus the items, seconded by Commissioner Owens and the motion carried unanimously.
 11. Recreation Department – This item was removed from the agenda.
 12. 2011 Blue Ridge BBQ Festival Proclamation - Commissioner Walker read the Governor's proclamation, a copy of which is on file with these minutes.
 13. BOC Meeting Schedule – It was determined that the Board would vote on the schedule at the June 20, 2011, regular BOC meeting.
 14. Budget Amendment #97 – Commissioner Walker made a motion to transfer \$110,583 purchase amount and closing costs for the purchase of a building to be upgraded and used for Mental Health by Family Preservation Services, seconded by Vice-Chair McDermott and the motion carried 3-2 (Owens and Pack opposed).
 15. Budget Amendment #23 – Commissioner Walker made a motion to approve BA #23 to increase revenue and expense \$6,700 for additional grant money received for emergency management, seconded by Vice-Chair McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
 - 15a. Budget Amendment #92 – Commissioner Owens made a motion to approve BA #92 to transfer excess budget in salaries to capital to equip three new patrol cars, seconded by Commissioner Pack and the motion carried unanimously.
 16. Manager's Report – County Manager Whitson presented the Western Highlands Area Authority Fiscal Monitoring Report, 2011 FY 3rd Quarter. Commissioner Owens made a motion to approve the report, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously.
 17. Volunteer Boards for Vote – Shay Hahn was appointed to the Isothermal Community College Board of Trustees by unanimous vote. Josh Schactman and Belynda Veser were appointed to the Mental Health Advisory Board by unanimous vote.

18. Volunteer Boards for Review – Applications for the Recreation Advisory Board and the Zoning Board of Adjustment were reviewed.
19. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items – Virginia Walker, Lisa Brown and Joe Owen spoke in support of the Recreation Department. LuAnn Bryan, Parks & Recreation PARTF Program Administrator, distributed a handout regarding the County's recreation park, and a copy is on file with these minutes. Commissioner Pack asked if the scope of work covered under the PARTF grant included the ball fields, because he could not find that they were included. Ms. Bryan said she was not sure but would look into the matter. Sandra Hughes, Finance Director, said she did not believe the PARTF grant included the ball fields. Commissioner Owens urged everyone to work together on recreation issues. One issue he would like to see resolved is the placement of effective signage for the concession stand. Ricky McFalls inquired about the EEOC complaint against EMS and was informed personnel issues could not be discussed. Keith Holbert asked if the Board was committed to supporting the Economic & Tourism Development director in light of the recommendation that money be taken out of the economic development budget.
20. Commissioner Comments – Vice-Chair McDermott asked the County Manager and Clerk to compose a letter on behalf of the BOC and Polk County citizens to our federal representatives and senators, and other appropriate persons, urging them to keep the Mill Spring Post Office a full-service post office. Commissioner Pack said a fund raising effort is currently underway for a state-of-the-art computer for the Saluda Medical Center. He would like the Board to consider helping with this project once the specific dollar amount needed is ascertained. Commissioner Walker reiterated her request for the Agenda Item Procedure to be amended. Commissioner Owens said that a petition is currently being circulated regarding the Mill Spring Post Office and asked Vice-Chair McDermott to wait until the next meeting to address the issue. Chair Gasperson said he and Commissioner Owens found the NCACC Legislative Goals Conference they recently attended in Raleigh very interesting.
21. Adjournment – Commissioner Walker made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Owens and the motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

POLK COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS

Beth Fehrmann
Clerk to the Board

Ray Gasperson
Chair