

POLK COUNTY
June 8, 2009
7:00 PM BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2009/10 PROPOSED BUDGET
R. J. Foster Hall of Justice
Womack Building
Columbus, N.C.

PRESENT: Chairperson Cindy Walker, Vice-Chairperson Warren Watson, Commissioners Gasperson, McDermott, and Melton. Also in attendance were County Manager Ryan Whitson, County Attorney Tom Hix, and Clerk to the Board Anne Britton.

1. Call to Order – Chairperson Cindy Walker.
2. Invocation – Pastor Gary Curtis, Green River Baptist Church.
3. Pledge of Allegiance – Chairperson Cindy Walker.
4. Approval of Regular Board of Commissioner minutes for May 18, 2009. Commissioner Gasperson made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
5. Approval of Agenda – County Manager Whitson deleted 6(b) and 6(c) and added to 6(d) approval of the DENR contract. Vice-Chairperson Watson made a motion to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Commissioner McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
6. Budget Issues: (Motion to approve each item). Mr. Whitson reported on each item.
 - (a) Library books – discussion to increase line item this year of \$5,500 for the purchase of books which would decrease in next year's budget. The budget amendment is approved in Agenda item #14.
 - ~~(b) Supervisory position - DSS.~~
 - ~~(c) Waterline extensions.~~
 - (d) Mobile Recycling - Mark Byington (Polk County Recycling Advisory Board) made a presentation. Mr. Whitson announced a grant from DENR for \$15,000 toward a mobile recycling unit; the county match is \$4,530. Vice-Chairperson Watson made a motion to approve the

matching grant contract, seconded by Commissioner McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Byington reported that the Polk County Recycling Advisory Board has been working to bring to the citizens of Polk County recycling procedures that are convenient and cost effective. This proved to be the portable recycling program. The Center will be scheduled on a regular basis to go to different population centers. They have received two grants for this program - \$15,000 from the State and \$11,000 from the Polk County Community Foundation totaling \$26,000 for this program. Mr. Byington asked that the Commissioners authorize the County Manager to order the equipment needed to start the program. He also requested the Commissioners to direct Neal Hall Director of the Transfer Station to earmark the disposal tax monies solely for the recycling program. This should provide another \$15,000. Vice-Chairperson Watson made a motion to direct Mr. Hall to earmark these monies for recycling, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Whitson will have prices to purchase the needed equipment in July.

- (e) Water - Enterprise Fund. Mr. Whitson and Sandra Hughes, Finance Officer stated it was time to start an Enterprise Fund for the water system. They met with the auditors and they agreed this fund should be set up in next year's budget as a separate fund (which is composed of payables and receivables) for both north and south water departments, beginning July 1. Commissioner McDermott made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.

- 7. Chairperson Walker called to order the Public Hearing for the 2009/2010 proposed budget. The County Manger gave a brief overview on the revenue neutral with the growth rate during a revaluation. He explained how he reached the 52 cents tax rate with 3 cents for the growth rate when he delivered his proposed budget on May 4. After discussion with the Commissioners, and for the good of the tax payer, he has withdrawn the 3 cents growth rate which makes it true revenue neutral. The 3 cents is worth approximately \$755,000. Mr. Whitson reported his changes to the proposed budget which is on file in the Finance Office. These changes lower the budget by \$442,351.

Citizen Comments: 1. Guy Greaves, Lake Adger, supports a paid firefighter for the Mill Spring Fire Department. 2. Paul Wiedman, Tryon, supports the true revenue neutral tax rate. 3. Rickie McFalls on behalf of the Rescue Squad and the Fire Departments supports the growth rate. 4. Don Hofmann suggested using retired successful businessmen to help with the budgeting process. 5. Jerry Hardvall supports the true revenue neutral without the growth rate. 6.

Marty McGuinn (verbatim comments on file.) supports keeping his tax rate at .0875.

The consensus of the Commissioners was that another Work Session was needed. Vice-Chairman Watson made a motion to have a Special Meeting June 15 @6:00 followed by a Work Session. The agenda will include fire department discussions on budgets and tax rates and citizen comments. The work session will include departmental budget discussions. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Melton and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner McDermott made a motion to adjourn the public hearing, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Watson and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Closed Session – Attorney Client Privilege for potential litigation, G. S. 143-318.11 (a) (2). Commissioner Melton made a motion to go into Closed Session, seconded by Commissioner McDermott and motion carried unanimously.
9. Return to Open Session. Commissioner Gasperson made a motion to return to open session, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Watson and the motion carried unanimously. The following action was taken:

Commissioner McDermott made a motion to deny the request for a hearing before the Board of Commissioners made in the April 22, 2009 letter from McQuire, Wood and Bissette, P.A., on behalf of the Bradley Crossing subdivision, seconded by Commissioner Melton and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner McDermott made a motion that the Board of Commissioners requests the Polk County Planning Board to take up at their next meeting, on an expedited basis, consideration of adopting a Polk County ordinance that is parallel to Senate Bill 831 which is before the General Assembly. This is a bill to extend permits affecting real property within the County of Polk because of severe recession and harsh effect on everyone including the developers. This grace period is extended to December 31, 2010. Commissioner Melton seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

10. Waterline Extension Policy. Indicated below are the sections which had been under discussion and were approved. The final approved document is on file in the Clerk's office.
 - #9 - Commissioner McDermott made a motion to approve, seconded by Vice-Chairman Watson and the motion carried unanimously.

- #10(g) – Vice-Chairman Watson’s revision. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Melton and the motion carried 3-2 (McDermott, Walker opposed.)
- #10(h) – Vice-Chairman Watson made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Melton and the motion carried unanimously.
- Form (1) Petition – Commissioner McDermott made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Melton and the motion carried unanimously.
- Schedule of Fees – Vice-Chairman Watson made a motion to approve the fees for existing and proposed lines, seconded by Commissioner Melton and the motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chairman Watson made a motion to approve the Waterline Extension Policy with the approved amendments, seconded by Commissioner Melton and the motion carried unanimously.

11. Travel & Tourism has revised their By-Laws. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve the By-Laws with the revisions, seconded by Vice-Chairman Watson and the motion carried unanimously.

12. Two Resolutions:

Resolution – Assistance for US Merchant Marine Seamen of WWII. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve, seconded by Vice-Chairman Watson and the motion carried unanimously.

Resolution - Of support for the Builder’s Club. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve, seconded by Vice-Chairman Watson and the motion carried unanimously.

13. Tax Collector – May refund request. Commissioner Melton made the motion to approve the request, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.

14. Budget Amendment – BA #19, JCPC \$2,871 to reduce revenues and expenditures for the reduction of State JCPC allocations. Sandra Hughes, Finance Officer, was present to answer questions. Vice-Chairman Watson made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Melton and the motion carried unanimously.

BA #20, Social Service \$33,356 to increase revenue and expense for the increased federal Medicaid participation (FMAP) payment per the DHHS Controller’s Office. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve, seconded by Vice-Chairman Watson and the motion carried unanimously.

BA #122 Library \$5,500 to transfer available funds from capital for the purchase of books in the current year. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve, seconded by Vice-Chairman Watson and the motion carried unanimously.

BA #123, Sheriff \$20,000 to transfer available funds from Sheriff salaries and other legal fees from the Legal Department to the Sheriff contract service line in order to provide the Sheriff with a policy and procedure manual. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve, seconded by Vice-Chairman Watson and the motion carried unanimously.

15. DSS building site location. Commissioner Melton reported that since there was still much discussion on the location of a DSS building, that instead of limiting the selection to three sites, all sites were now available. It was the consensus of the Board that Commissioner Gasperson and Vice-Chairperson Watson will work on site selection, and Chair Cindy Walker will continue to work on the building design once the site is determined.
16. County Manager's Report – Mr. Whitson reported on:
 1. Sale of Real Property - There was no report at this time.
 2. Update on Senior Recreation Center - Ground has been broken for this facility.
 3. Update on Western Highlands Center LME. - Mr. Whitson brought to the attention of the Commissioners that he was very worried about the fund balance for Western Highlands.
 4. Mr. Whitson also informed the Board that the North Carolina State House proposed a 9% budget cut in mental health funding.
 5. Start time for June 22, 2009 board meeting will be @6 pm. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve the time change, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Watson and the motion carried unanimously. It was also suggested that the July 2 regular board meeting be cancelled. The only meeting in July will be July 20. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
 6. 25 Military surplus weapons at the Sheriff's Department have been returned by Sheriff Hill.
17. Board Vacancies – Mental Health Advisory Board, 3 applications, and 5 vacancies. Commissioner McDermott made a motion to approve Katherine

Smith, Janet Whiting, and Craig Williams, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Watson and the motion carried unanimously.

Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee - Ombudsman, 1 application, and 5 vacancies. Vice-Chairperson Watson made a motion to approve Avril Lomas, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.

(For Review) Board Vacancies - Commission on Aging – 7 regular vacancies, 2 applications. Appearance Commission - 1 regular vacancy, 1 application. Economic Development Commission - 1 regular vacancy and 1 alternate vacancy, 2 applications. Zoning Board of Adjustment – 1 regular vacancy, 1 application. Tourism Advisory Board – 1 application.

18. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda items. There were none.
19. Commissioner Comments. Vice-Chairperson Watson was pleased to have passed the Waterline Extension Policy.
20. Closed Session – (3) Personnel G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (5). Attorney Client Privilege for pending litigation G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (2). Commissioner Melton made a motion to go into Closed Session, seconded by Commissioner McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
21. Return to Open Session. There was no action taken.
22. 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
Chair

