

POLK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING
Monday, December 5, 2011, at 7:00pm
R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice, Womack Building
Columbus, NC
MINUTES

PRESENT: Chair Gasperson, Vice-Chair McDermott, Commissioner Owens and Commissioner Walker. Commissioner Pack was absent due to a business obligation. 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 – Father Walter Bryan, Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, gave the invocation.
3. Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Walker led the pledge.
4. Approval of Minutes – Commissioner Owens moved to approve the November 21, 2011, regular BOC and public hearing meeting minutes, seconded by Vice-Chair McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
5. Approval of Agenda – Vice-Chair McDermott made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Owens and the motion carried unanimously.
6. Election of 2012 Chair & Vice-Chair – Commissioner McDermott nominated Commissioner Gasperson as Chair, and Commissioner Owens nominated Commissioner Pack as Chair. Commissioners Gasperson, McDermott and Walker voted for Commissioner Gasperson as Chair, and Commissioner Owens voted for Commissioner Pack as Chair, resulting in Commissioner Gasperson being elected as Chair for a second term. Chair Gasperson nominated Commissioner McDermott as Vice-Chair and Commissioner Owens nominated Commissioner Pack as Vice-Chair. Chair Gasperson, Commissioner McDermott and Commissioner Walker voted for Commissioner McDermott as Vice-Chair, and Commissioner Owens voted for Commissioner Pack as Vice-Chair, resulting in Commissioner McDermott being elected as Vice-Chair for a second term.
7. Meeting Dates & Venues, January–June 2012 – Commissioner Owens moved to set the BOC meeting schedule for the next six months as recommended, noting that the retreat will be held at the DSS facility, seconded by Vice-Chair McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
8. Holiday Schedule – Commissioner Walker moved to set the 2012 Polk County Government holiday schedule as recommended, seconded by Vice-Chair McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.

9. House of Flags Update – Robert Williamson gave the update. The House of Flags opened on 11/11/11, and the upstairs remodeling project will begin in 2012. The House of Flags will work closely with the ETDC to optimize marketing opportunities and tourism exposure. Commissioner Owens moved to approve a resolution honoring Mr. Williamson and his work with the House of Flags, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously.
10. Mental Health Task Force Update – Lionel Gilbert gave the update, and a copy of his presentation is on file with these minutes. Citizen Comments: Kathleen Smith praised the task force for its foresight and vision.
11. PANGEA Internet – Ron Walters, Executive Director, gave an update on PANGEA'S fiber network, customer base, partnerships, as well as its impact on the community. A copy of his presentation is on file with these minutes.
12. Budget Amendment – Vice-Chair McDermott moved to approve BA #3 in the amount of \$3,750 to increase the budget to purchase an oil portrait of Bryant H. Womack to display in the Womack Building, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously.
13. Manager's Report – County Manager Whitson reported that, regarding their request for space at the new DSS facility, Western Highlands will be treated as a visiting resource.
14. Volunteer Boards for Vote – The following individuals were appointed to volunteer boards by unanimous vote: Nancy Hasselbring, Animal Cruelty Investigators; Doug Harmon, Farmland Preservation; Emily Bartlett, Home & Community Care Block Grant Committee; Tracey Daniels, Western Highlands Network.
15. Volunteer Boards for Review – One application for the Council on Aging was reviewed.
16. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items – Ricky McFalls thanked the Board for improving public safety by utilizing the metal detector and law enforcement at BOC meetings. A copy of his full statement is on file with these minutes.
17. Commissioner Comments – The Commissioners thanked everyone for coming out and wished them a happy holiday season.
18. Adjournment – Commissioner Walker moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Owens and the motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

POLK COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS

Beth Fehrmann
Clerk to the Board

Ray Gasperson
Chair