

POLK COUNTY MINUTES
December 7, 2009 @ 7:00 PM
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' ORGANIZATIONAL AND
REGULAR MEETING
R. J. Foster Hall of Justice, Womack Building
Columbus, N.C.

PRESENT: Chairperson Walker, Vice-Chairperson Watson, Commissioners Gasperson, McDermott and Melton. County Manager Whitson and Clerk to the Board Britton were also in attendance. County Attorney Hix was absent.

1. Call to Order/Welcome – Chairperson Walker.
2. Invocation – Pastor Walter Bryan, Good Shepherd Episcopal Church.
3. Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Ray Gasperson. Commissioner Gasperson told a family story of Pearl Harbor Day and introduced his veteran father, and uncle. His father and uncle led the Pledge of Allegiance. I have incorporated the entire story Commissioner Gasperson told into the minutes.
4. Approval of Minutes – Approval of November 16, 2009, Regular Board of Commissioners minutes. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Watson and the motion carried unanimously,
5. 2009/2010 Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Polk County Board of Commissioners - Chairperson Walker called for nominations for the position of Chairperson. Commissioner Melton nominated Vice-Chairperson Watson for Chairman; Commissioner Gasperson nominated Chairperson Walker. Nominations were closed. Chairperson Walker called for the vote – 3 - 2 for Chairperson Walker. Chairperson Walker was re-elected. (Watson and Melton opposed.)

The 2009/2010 Chairperson called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chairperson. Vice-Chairman Watson nominated Commissioner Melton and Commissioner McDermott nominated Commissioner Gasperson. Chairperson Walker called for the vote – 3 - 2 for Commissioner Gasperson. Commissioner Gasperson was elected. (Watson and Melton opposed.)

One year reappointment of Clerk to the Board – Anne Britton. Commissioner Melton made a motion to reappoint Anne Britton as Clerk to the Board, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.

One year reappointment of County Attorney – Tom Hix. Commissioner Melton made a motion to reappoint Tom Hix as County Attorney, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Approval of Agenda - Mr. Whitson requested two additions. 6b. Resolution in response to the Town of Columbus' request for the County to take over their building inspections department, and 16a. Rutherford Life Management Agreement for the Adult Day Care program. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve the amendments to the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Watson and the motion carried unanimously.
7. Gould Killian CPA Group, P.A. – Dan Yelton and Cary Luhn were presented the report on the audit. Mr. Yelton praised the results of the audit. He also praised Sandra Hughes, Finance Officer, and the entire Finance Department for all their assistance. The reports are on file in the County Manager's office.
8. St. Luke's Hospital – Robert Cress, CFO, gave a financial update on the hospital. The PowerPoint is on file in the Clerk's office. He introduced the new CEO, Mr. Ken Schull from Highlands, North Carolina, and thanked the Board of Commissioners for their financial assistance.
9. Polk County Regular Meeting Schedule and Holiday Schedule, 2010 – Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve the meeting schedule and holiday schedule as presented, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously. This schedule of dates may be changed seven days in advance if the Board finds it necessary.
10. Comprehensive Plan Update – County Planner Cathy Ruth discussed the status of the plan and reported that the full draft is on-line at the County website. The plan still needs to be reviewed by the Planning Board and the Board of Commissioners prior to setting up public hearings.
11. Subdivision Ordinance – County Planner Cathy Ruth presented the revisions requested by the Board for approval. The modifications requested by the Board of Commissioners have been completed. Ms. Ruth requested that the Board schedule a public hearing. Commissioner Melton made a motion to schedule a public hearing for January 11, 2010, at 7:00 pm, Commissioner Watson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
12. Schedule Public Hearing – Emergency Services Director Sandra Halford requested a public hearing for the Hazard Mitigation Plan for January 11, 2010, starting at 5:00 pm to include the town councils. Commissioner Melton made a motion to schedule the hearing, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.
13. Non-Binding Letter Of Intent – Between Premier Power Renewable Energy, Inc./ American Solar Integrators and Polk County, NC. There was much discussion on the Letter of Intent and changes that should be made. Commissioner Melton made a motion to table the Letter until County Attorney Hix has an opportunity

to review it. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Watson and the motion carried unanimously.

14. Tax Collection – Melissa Bowlin presented the Taxpayer Notices of Deceased Persons vehicle report and the November Refund Request. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve both reports, seconded by Commissioner Watson and the motion carried unanimously.
15. Watershed III Classification – Dave Odom, County Engineer, updated the Board on the status of the classification. The Environmental Assessment was submitted last week; there were no environmental issues and no cause for concern.
16. Adult Day Health Care Paving Proposals – Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the proposal of Darrel Price Paving for \$18,171 plus \$200 for striping, seconded by Commissioner Melton and the motion carried unanimously.
- 16a. Rutherford Life Services Management Agreement for the Adult Day Care Center
The agreement, which was already signed by Larry Brown of Rutherford Life Services, was reviewed. There were a few small changes made to the agreement by Commissioner McDermott. Commissioner Melton stated he would not support the agreement as he has always supported Community Health Connections at St. Luke's Hospital. Vice-Chairperson Gasperson made a motion to approve the agreement with Rutherford Life Services, seconded by Commissioner Watson and the motion carried 4-1 (Melton opposed).
17. Board Vacancy (Review) – The following vacancies were reviewed: (3) Agricultural Economic and Farmland Preservation members are up for reappointment; Council on Aging (1) application, (3) vacancies; Recycling Advisory Board (1) application (1) vacancy; Sunny View Fire Tax Board (3) reappointments; Animal Control Board of Adjustment (1) application (2) vacancies; Tourism Advisory Board Applications (4) reappointments; BOC must appoint (3) regular and (1) alternate member from the Town of Tryon ETJ to the New Tryon Board of Planning & Adjustment, (1) application.
18. Board Vacancy (Vote) – Animal Control Board of Adjustment, 3 applications, 5 vacancies. Vice-Chairperson Gasperson made a motion to approve Renee Duvall, Molly Harrison, Harriett Spencer and Commissioner Watson, seconded by Commissioner McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
19. Security System Proposals now referred to as "Access Control System" for the Womack Building – Marche Pittman was present to answer questions. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve the low bid from Security Appliance Company for \$4,800, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.

20. Budget Amendments – BA #9 Social Services \$7,373.00 - Increase in funding for Crisis Intervention. BA #10 Social Services \$35,920.00 - Increase in funding for Daycare. BA #19 Transfer between Funds \$13,814.00 - Transfer closing costs for the purchase of Lake Adger from the General Fund (where they were budgeted) to the Water Fund. BA #21 Transfer between Departments \$35,407.00 - Transfer the budget from Community Development to Planning for temporary assistance that will extend until year-end. Finance Officer Sandra Hughes was present to answer questions. Commissioner Melton made a motion to approve BA#s 9, 10, 19 and 21, seconded by Commissioner Watson and the motion carried unanimously.
21. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items - There were none.
22. Commissioners Comments – Commissioner McDermott congratulated Chairperson Walker and the Recycling Advisory Board on their opening successful day of recycling. Vice-Chairperson Gasperson also praised the recycling and looks forward to a good year ahead. Commissioner Watson also thanked the recycling board. Commissioner Melton wished everyone a Merry Christmas. Chairperson Walker was proud of the Board's work this past year and listed some highlights: a water extension policy, purchasing Lake Adger, adopting a mountain and ridgeline ordinance, the new Senior Recreation Center and Adult Day Care, mobile recycling service and school recycling trailers, revising the subdivision ordinance, creating a comprehensive plan, beginning of an affordable housing solution, reducing the county's debt by 30%, and reducing the county's tax rate.
23. Closed Session – G.S. 143-318.11(a) (1) Pending Litigation,
G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (6) Personnel
Commissioner Melton made a motion to go into closed session, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.
24. Return to Open Session – There was no action taken.
25. Adjourn – Commissioner Melton made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Watson and the motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Anne Britton, Clerk

Cindy Walker, Chairperson