POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Public Hearings & Regular Meeting
November 17, 2025 - 5:00 PM
Bryant H. Womack Justice & Administration Building
40 Courthouse Street Columbus, NC 28722
MINUTES

Present: Chairman Yoder, Vice-Chairman Moore, Commissioner Beiler, and Commissioner Hargett. Also in attendance were Manager Pittman, Attorney Berg, Clerk to the Board Freeman, and citizens.

Absent: Commissioner Melton

1. Public Hearing

   A. Call to Order the Public Hearing - the purpose of the public hearing is to receive citizen input on the proposed text amendments to the Polk County Subdivision Ordinance, Section 3.14 to include: However, in cases where an existing lot of record does not meet the required lot size, a combination/recombination will be approved provided it meets or increases the lot size of the non-conforming lot and does not create another non- conforming lot, or other nonconformity. (A copy of the current and proposed draft of the Subdivision Ordinance is available for review online at https://www.polknc.gov/ordinances.php or in the County Manager's office).

   Cathy Ruth, Planning and Economic Development Director, gave a presentation a copy of which is hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference. The current, and proposed draft of the Subdivision Ordinance was available for review online at https://www.polknc.gov/ordinances.php or in the County Manager's office.

   B. Citizen Comments

   There were no citizen comments.

   C. Adjourn Public Hearing

   Vice-Chairman Moore moved to adjourn the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Hargett, and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Public Hearing

   A. Call to Order the Public Hearing - the purpose of the public hearing is to take citizen comments on the proposed road name; Beiler Lane - Private Road - Off of Little Mountain Road - SR 1523. The notice was properly advertised in the Tryon Daily Bulletin.

   B. Citizen Comments

   There were no citizen comments.

   C. Adjourn Public Hearing

   Commissioner Hargett moved to adjourn the public hearing, seconded by Vice-Chairman Moore, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Call to Order the Regular Meeting - Chairman Yoder.

4. Invocation - Commissioner Beiler

5. Pledge of Allegiance - Chairman Yoder

6. Approval of Agenda

   A. Items may be added or removed at this time.

   Manager Pittman requested to remove item 13 from the agenda.

   Vice-Chairman Moore moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Commissioner Beiler, and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Consent Agenda

   A. Approval of October 20, 2025, Public Hearing, and Regular Meeting Minutes.

   B. Resolution Supporting Operation Green Light 2025.

   C. Tax Refund Request(s) for the period ending November 3, 2025.

   D. Schedule a Public Hearing for proposed new road names to be considered on Monday, December 15, 2025 at 5:00 pm in the R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice, Womack Building.

   E. Budget Amendment to increase revenue and expenses for funds allocated to the Public School Building Capital Fund for Helene Recovery Funds.

   F. Grant Manager Pittman signatory authority for the Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) Agreement - Manager Pittman.

   G. Appoint HHSA Director, Robin Elliott to serve on the VAYA Health Regional Board.

   H. Increase the YMCA Project Budget Ordinance for Construction Management at Risk (CMAR) preconstruction planning.

   I. Budget Amendment to move available Emergency Medical Services funds from Full-Time Salary line to Part-Time Salary line.

   Commissioner Beiler moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Vice-Chairman Moore, and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items.

   There were no citizen comments.

9. Regular Agenda Items

   A. Consideration and approval of the proposed Subdivision Ordinance Amendment subsequent to the Public Hearing - Cathy Ruth, Polk County Planning and Economic Development Director.

   Cathy Ruth was present for questions.

   Commissioner Hargett moved to approve the Subdivision Ordinance text amendments, seconded by Commissioner Beiler, and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Consideration and approval of the proposed new road name; Beiler Lane, subsequent to the public hearing - Attorney Berg.

Attorney Berg was present for questions.

Commissioner Hargett moved to approve the proposed new road name, seconded by Vice-Chairman Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Polk County YMCA Update - Ryan Finney, Vice President of Operations, YMCA of Greater Spartanburg, and Michael Baughman, YMCA Development Committee Chair.

Ryan Finney and Michael Baughman provided an update on the Polk County YMCA project. Their presentation, a copy of which is incorporated by reference into these minutes, summarized ongoing coordination between Polk County and the YMCA of Greater Spartanburg, including work with GRO Development, a consulting firm experienced in YMCA capital projects nationwide.

Mr. Finney presented a draft schematic design prepared by GRO, noting that it includes a scalable design approach for developing preliminary budget estimates. He also reported that interviews for architectural and construction management services have been completed, with final contract approval for the selected firms expected in December or January.

Mr. Finney and Mr. Baughman concluded by thanking the Board for the opportunity to provide the update and acknowledged the continued progress of the project as it advances toward the construction phase.

D. Polk County Schools Public School Building Repair and Renovations Fund (PSBRRF) request for co-signer approval.

Vice-Chairman Moore moved to approve the Polk County Schools Public School Building Repair and Renovations Fund (PSBRRF) request for co-signer approval, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

E. Little White Oak Mountain Trails Update - Mickey Edwards, Recreation and Maintenance Director, and Holly Williams, Recreation Coordinator.

Mickey Edwards and Holly Williams gave a presentation, a copy of which is hereby incorporated by reference into the minutes. Ms. Williams explained to the board that the trails have been open to the public since the summer and said that they had a very successful grand opening in June. She said that they have gotten a lot of positive feedback from citizens about the trails.

The Friends of Little White Oak Mountain were invited to offer additional updates. Greg Junge, Founder and President of the organization, informed the Board about the NICA mountain biking team and the Polk County High School Cross Country Team, both of which have been utilizing the trails for practices and races.

F. Resolution and letter requesting reinstatement of the Polk County DMV Office - Vice-Chairman Moore.

Vice-Chairman Moore explained that reinstating a DMV would be beneficial for all of Polk County citizens. Commissioner Beiler read the resolution requesting the reinstatement of the Polk County DMV Office.

Vice-Chairman Moore moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Hargett and the motion carried unanimously.

G. Consideration and approval of the 2026 Board of Commissioners meeting schedule.

Commissioner Hargett moved to approve the 2026 Board of Commissioners meeting schedule, seconded by Vice-Chairman Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

H. State Health Plan Update - Manager Pittman

Manager Pittman gave an update on the State Health Plan that was originally discussed at the October 20, 2025, meeting. He explained that the state has changed the wording which postponed the increase for entities that are a part of the State health Plan for the 2025-26 Fiscal Year. He said that they will plan next fiscal year's budget accordingly.

10. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items.

There was one citizen comment.

11. Volunteer Board Applications

A. Appearance Commission - There are four vacancies and one applicant; Clyde Younkin.

Commissioner Beiler moved to appoint Clyde Younkin to the Appearance Commission, seconded by Commissioner Hargett and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Columbus Fire Department Board of Directors - There are two vacancies and one applicant; John Sauve.

Vice-Chairman Moore moved to appoint John Sauve as a member to the Columbus Fire Department Board of Directors, seconded by Commissioner Beiler, and the motion carried unanimously.

12. Commissioner Comments.

The Commissioners thanked everyone who came to the meeting and wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

13. ~~Closed Session~~ **Removed during item 6.A.**

A. ~~Motion to go into closed session for the purpose of Attorney-Client Privilege.~~

B. ~~Motion to return to open session.~~

14. Adjournment

Vice-Chairman Moore moved to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner Hargett and the motion carried unanimously.

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Kennedy Freeman

Kennedy Freeman
Clerk to the Board

Myron Yoder

Myron Yoder
Chairman