POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Employee Recognition,
Public Hearing & Regular Meeting
January 12, 2026 - 4:00 PM
Bryant H. Womack Justice & Administration Building
40 Courthouse Street Columbus, NC 28722
MINUTES

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

1. Employee Recognition - Tommy Oakman, Human Resources Officer

   Chairman Yoder called a recess at 4:23 pm. The public hearing was called to order at 5:00 pm.

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 names; Lightning Bug Lane - Private Road - Off of Laughter Road - SR 1165, Second Star Drive - Private Road - Off of Maggie Pye Lane, and Luna Lane - Private Road - Off of Overbrook Drive. The notice was properly advertised in the Tryon Daily Bulletin.

   B. Citizen Comments

   There were no citizen comments.

3. Adjourn Public Hearing

   Commissioner Melton moved to adjourn the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Hargett, and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Call to Order the Regular Meeting - Chairman Yoder

5. Invocation - Vice-Chairman Moore.

6. Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Hargett

7. Approval of Agenda

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

   Vice-Chairman Moore requested to add a Planning Board application to item 11.C.

   Commissioner Beiler moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Commissioner Melton and the motion carried unanimously.

8. <u>Consent Agenda</u>

   A. Approval of the December 15, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes.

   B. Schedule a Public Hearing for proposed new road names to be considered on Monday, February 16, 2025, at 5:00 pm in the R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice, Womack Building.

   C. Tax Refund Requests (see attached memorandums).

   D. Budget Amendment in the Amount of $48,000 to Appropriate Solid Waste Fund Balance for the Purchase of a Used Articulating Boom Lift and Repairs to Transfer Station Equipment.

   Commissioner Beiler moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

9. <u>Citizen Comments on Agenda Items.</u>

   There were four citizen comments.

10. <u>Regular Agenda Items</u>

   A. Consideration and approval of the proposed new road names; Lightning Bug Lane, Second Star Drive, and Luna Lane, subsequent to the public hearing - Attorney Berg.

   Attorney Berg was present for questions.

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

   B. Budget Amendment and Approval for the Purchase of a New Excavator - Travis Ballard, Solid Waste Director.

   Mr. Ballard explained that their previous excavator had recently become inoperable and it is an essential piece of equipment for landfill operations. He requested approval to transfer existing funds to the Solid Waste Fund Balance to cover the purchase. He also noted that, because the equipment is already available on the sales floor, it could be delivered by the following Friday.

   Commissioner Beiler moved to approve the purchase and budget amendment for the Solid Waste excavator, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

   C. Ceres Environmental Services, Inc. - Lake Adger Sediment and Debris Removal Land Lease - Manager Pittman.

   John Bumgarner, Ceres Environmental Services, Inc. gave a presentation, a copy of which is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes. He explained that, following completion of post-storm surveys, an estimated 500,000 cubic yards of debris were shown in Lake Adger, with approximately 8,500 cubic yards located at the dam.

He said that all debris will need to be temporarily relocated, so they are requesting a land lease to serve as a temporary off load and staging area during the project.

Commissioner Hargett moved to approve the Ceres Environmental Services, Inc. Lake Adger Sediment and Debris Removal Land Lease, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

D. Turner Shoals Dam and Lake Adger Access Right of Way and Easement Condemnation Resolution and Project Budget Ordinance Amendment - Attorney Berg.

Attorney Berg noted that an access point is needed to protect the dam and ensure the safety of Polk County residents. The proposed access would facilitate the removal of debris as outlined by Mr. Bumgarner and enable ongoing repairs in the future. She indicated that the county evaluated several alternatives, but none proved feasible. Additionally, she emphasized that deed restrictions on the private roadways prohibit property owners from granting the access necessary for the county's requirements. Consequently, condemning the rights-of-way along Green Hills Road and Hawk Ridge Drive is the only viable option. She further stated that upon the Board's approval of the resolution, the county will initiate the condemnation process, thereby enabling the debris removal project and allowing for future inspections, repairs and maintenance.

Commissioner Beiler moved to approve the resolution and project budget ordinance amendment, seconded by Commissioner Hargett, and the motion carried unanimously.

11. <u>Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items.</u>

There were no citizen comments.

12. <u>Volunteer Board Applications</u>

A. Agricultural Advisory Board - There are four vacancies and one applicant; Will Salley.

Vice-Chairman Moore moved to appoint Will Salley to the Agricultural Advisory Board, seconded by Commissioner Beiler, and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Green Creek Fire District Tax Commission - There is one vacancy and one applicant; Robert Ives.

Commissioner Hargett moved to appoint Robert Ives to the Green Creek Fire District Tax Commission, seconded by Commissioner Beiler, and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Planning Board - There are four vacancies and six applicants; Amy Wilmoth (At Large Alternate), Daniel Wells (Saluda), Heather Carswell (White Oak Township), Kimberly Davis, (At Large Alternate), Paul Marion (Saluda Township), **Tabitha Letterman (Cooper's Gap Township)** ***added during item 6.A.,*** and Teresa Morrin (At Large Alternate).

Vice-Chairman Moore moved to appoint Tabitha Letterman to the Planning Board, Coopers Gap Township, seconded by Commissioner Beiler, and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hargett moved to appoint Paul Marion to the Planning Board, Saluda Township, seconded by Commissioner Beiler, and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Beiler moved to appoint Daniel Wells to the Planning Board, At Large position, seconded by Vice-Chairman Moore, and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hargett moved to appoint Heather Carswell to the Planning Board, White Oak Township, seconded by Vice-Chairman Moore, and the motion carried unanimously.

13. Commissioner Comments.

The Commissioners thanked everyone in attendance and encouraged residents to continue applying for volunteer boards.

14. Adjournment

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

Attest:

Kennedy Freeman

Kennedy Freeman
Clerk to the Board

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Myron Yoder

Myron Yoder
Chairman