POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Public Hearing & Regular Meeting
April 20, 2026 - 5:00 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. Public Hearing

   A. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments on one proposed new road name in Polk County; Miss Maude Lane – Private Road – Off of Coxe Road – SR 1326. The notice was properly advertised in the Tryon Daily Bulletin.

   B. Citizen Comments

   There were no citizen comments.

   C. Adjourn Public Hearing

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

2. Call to Order the Regular Meeting - Chairman Yoder

3. Invocation - Commissioner Hargett

4. Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Yoder

5. Approval of Agenda

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

   Chairman Yoder requested to add Commissioner Tommy Melton's recognition to the regular agenda as item 8.A.1.

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

6. Consent Agenda

   A. Approval of March 16, 2026, Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes.

   B. Schedule a Public Hearing for proposed new road names to be considered on Monday, May 18, 2026, at 5:00 pm in the R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice, Womack Building.

C. Budget Amendment to Reallocate Funds Within the Emergency Medical Services Department from Full-Time Salary Lines to Part-Time Salary Lines.

D. Local Water Supply Plan Resolution.

E. Steps to Hope Declaration of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

F. Resolution Approving Settlement Participation for Remaining Opioid Litigation Defendants.

G. Resolution Designating County Manager as Authorized Representative for Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery Projects.

H. Tax Refund in the amount of $249.20.

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

7. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

There were two citizen comments.

8. Regular Agenda Items

A.1. Commissioner Tommy Melton Recognition (added during item 5.A.).

Chairman Yoder said that, as this is Commissioner Melton's final year in office, the Board wished to formally recognize his hard work and dedication to the community. Chairman Yoder then read a resolution, a copy of which is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes.

Commissioner Melton expressed his appreciation, stating that he has valued his time serving as commissioner and thanked everyone for their kindness. He added that he looks forward to completing his remaining eight months in office.

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

A. Consideration and Approval of the proposed new road name subsequent to the public hearing - Attorney, Jana Berg.

Attorney Berg was present for questions.

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

B. GREAT Project Closeout Update - Will Bowen, Senior Manager, Government Affairs.

Mr. Bowen gave a presentation, a copy of which is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes. He explained to the board that the project is 100% complete and has accounted for more than 2,100 broadband activations and 1,700 additional synergy locations. He stated that the project has been considered a success based on its overall completion and connectivity outcomes.

C. Alexander's Ford Park Service Contracts - Manager Pittman.

Manager Pittman explained that the Alexander's Ford Park cleanup project is anticipated to be eligible for reimbursement through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), subject to FEMA approval and compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local procurement and contracting requirements. He stated that the debris removal services contract covers the physical removal and disposal of eligible debris, while the debris monitoring services contract provides for independent monitoring, documentation, and compliance oversight of debris operations.

Manager Pittman further explained that the contracts were procured in accordance with applicable North Carolina public contracting requirements and federal procurement standards for federally funded projects, including the competitive solicitation process and evaluation of responsive and responsible proposers.

I. Longview International Technology Solutions, Inc. (LTS) Contract for Debris Removal Services.

Commissioner Melton moved to award the debris removal services contract for the Alexander's Ford Park cleanup project to Longview International Technology Solutions, Inc. (LTS), as the lowest responsive, responsible proposer, and to authorize the County Manager to negotiate and execute the contract and all related documents, subject to review and approval by the County Attorney as to form and legality, within the approved project budget, and in compliance with all applicable FEMA procurement and reimbursement requirements. The motion further granted the County Manager signatory authority for all related contract documents, change orders, certifications, reimbursement requests, and other necessary project documentation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beiler and carried unanimously.

II. Tetra Tech Contract for Debris Monitoring Services.

Vice-Chairman Moore moved to award the debris monitoring services contract for the Alexander's Ford Park cleanup project to Tetra Tech, as the lowest responsive, responsible proposer, and to authorize the County Manager to negotiate and execute the contract and all related documents, subject to review and approval by the County Attorney as to form and legality, within the approved project budget, and in compliance with all applicable FEMA procurement and reimbursement requirements. The motion further granted the County Manager signatory authority for all related contract documents, change orders, certifications, reimbursement requests, and other necessary project documentation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Melton and carried unanimously.

A. 2026 Martin Starnes & Associates, CPAs. P.A. Contract to Audit Accounts - Sonya Ayers, Finance Director.

Commissioner Melton moved to approve the FY 2026/27 audit contract, seconded by Commissioner Beiler, and the motion carried unanimously.

D. Polk County Community Recreation Facility (YMCA) - Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR), JM Cope, Inc, Contract. (Copies of the contract were available for review in the County Manager's Office.) - Manager Pittman.

Manager Pittman explained that the County completed the qualifications based selection process for the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) in accordance with North Carolina General Statutes, including advertisement of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ), evaluation of submitted statements of qualifications, and interviews with selected firms. Five firms were interviewed and evaluated.

Manager Pittman stated that the contract establishes preconstruction and construction phase services and that a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) amendment will be negotiated at a later date and presented to the Board of Commissioners for approval prior to commencement of construction work beyond the authorized preconstruction phase.

Commissioner Beiler moved to approve the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) contract with JM Cope, Inc., and to authorize the County Manager to execute the agreement and related documents, subject to review and approval by the County Attorney as to form and legality. The motion further granted the County Manager signatory authority for associated project documentation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Melton and carried unanimously.

E. Declaration of April as Volunteer Appreciation Month Proclamation - Vice-Chairman Moore.

Vice-Chairman Moore read the resolution.

Commissioner Hargett moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

F. National Public Safety Telecommunicators Proclamation.

Sheriff Wright read the National Public Safety Telecommunicators Proclamation.

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

G. Proclamation to Declare May 17-23, 2026, as Emergency Medical Services Week.

Michael Crater, Emergency Medical Services Director, read the Proclamation to Declare May 17-23, 2026, as Emergency Medical Services Week.

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

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

There was one citizen comment on non-agenda items.

10. Volunteer Board Applications

    A. Adult Care Advisory Committee and Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee - There are two vacancies and one applicant; Stuart Goldstein.

    Vice-Chairman Moore moved to appoint Stuart Goldstein to the Adult Care Advisory Committee and Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

    B. Library Board of Trustees - There is one vacancy and one applicant; Miles Gold.

    Commissioner Beiler moved to appoint Miles Gold to the Library Board of Trustees, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

    C. Planning Board - There is one vacancy for the Columbus Township and two applicants; Kimberly Daniel, and Teresa "Terri" Morrin.

    Commissioner Hargett nominated Kimberly Daniel.

    Vice-Chairman Moore moved to appoint Kimberly Daniel to the Planning Board, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

11. Commissioner Comments.

    The Commissioners thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished Commissioner Melton a Happy Birthday.

12. Adjournment

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

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Kennedy Freeman

Kennedy E Freeman
Clerk to the Board

Myron Yoder

Myron Yoder
Chairman