POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
June 15, 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 County Manager Pittman, Attorney Berg, Clerk to the Board Freeman, and citizens.

1. Call to Order the Regular Meeting - Chairman Yoder

2. Invocation - Vice-Chairman Moore

3. Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Beiler

4. Approval of Agenda

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

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

5. Consent Agenda

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

   A. Approval of May 18, 2026, Budget Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes, and June 1, 2026, Budget Work Session, Special Meeting, and Public Hearing Minutes

   B. Juvenile Crime and Prevention Council (JCPC) Annual Plan and Budget for FY 2026/2027

   C. Tax Refund Requests

      I. May 2026 Refunds in the amount of $2,792.89

      II. Refund/release request due to illegal tax per NCGS 105-381 in the amount of $224.07

      III. Refund request due to clerical error per NCGS 105-381 in the amount of $3,284.81

   D. Declare two Health and Human Services Vehicles as surplus to be sold via GovDeals auction

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

There were two citizen comments on agenda items.

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

A. Budget Amendments - Finance Director, Sonya Ayers, will present any budget amendments that may need approval for FY 2025/26. (Budget amendments are eligible to be submitted up to and including June 15, 2026.)

Mrs. Ayers presented three budget amendments and a project budget ordinance amendment. She explained that the project budget ordinance amendment was for the Hurricane Helene Disaster Response and Recovery grant and the budget amendments included reallocating previously approved FY26 appropriations to fund employee merit increases, transferring available funds within the EMS Department from Full-Time Salaries to Part-Time Salaries, and moving budget authority for Water Contracted Services from Fund 54 to the General Fund.

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

Vice-Chairman Moore moved to amend the Hurricane Helene Disaster Response and Recovery grant project budget ordinance as presented, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Polk County Budget Ordinance for the Fiscal Year 2026/27 (including any proposed fee changes included in the County Manager's recommended budget) - The Manager's recommended budget was presented on May 11, 2026. A budget work session was held on May 18, 2026, and the budget public hearing was held on June 1, 2026.

Manager Pittman said that all changes that were made throughout the budget process can be found in the budget ordinance. (Copies of the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 budget packet were available for review in the County Manager's Office and on www.polknc.gov.)

There was no other discussion on the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget Ordinance.

Commissioner Melton moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget Ordinance, seconded by Vice-Chairman Moore, and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Polk County Opioid Settlement Update - Polk County Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee (OSAC).

Natalie Trachsel, Assistant HHSA Director and County Representative for OSAC, gave a presentation, a copy of which is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes. She explained that the presentation outlined the proposed strategies OSAC will use to guide planning and determine the allocation of opioid settlement funds.

Commissioner Hargett moved to approve the Opioid Settlement Committee's proposed strategies, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

D. Completing Access to Broadband (CAB) Skyrunner Update - Skyrunner Representative

JJ Boyd, President of Skyrunner Internet, gave a presentation, a copy of which is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes. He reported that the grant was awarded in the summer of 2025, with construction beginning in March 2026. Mr. Boyd stated that wireless internet service was provided to 290 households in March 2026 and that the project is expected to provide internet access to approximately 2,548 households and 132 business locations upon completion.

E. Consideration of the Polk County Recruitment and Retention Schedule extension to end December 31, 2026 - Manager Pittman

Vice-Chairman Moore moved to approve the Recruitment and Retention Schedule Extension, seconded by Commissioner Beiler, and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items.

There were twelve citizen comments on non-agenda items.

9. Volunteer Board Applications

A. Appearance Commission - There are four vacancies and two applicants; Craig Hilton, and Rusty Powell.

Commissioner Hargett moved to appoint Craig Hilton and Rusty Powell to the Appearance Commission, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Board of Adjustment - There are three vacancies and six applicants; Adrienne Reilly, Betty Hill, Craig Hilton, Jayne Collins, Lisa Krolak, and Michael Chaffin.

Vice-Chairman Moore made a motion to nominate and appoint Adrienne Reilly, Betty Hill, and Lisa Krolak, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Foothills Workforce Development Commission - There are two vacancies and one applicant; Craig Hilton

Commissioner Hargett moved to appoint Craig Hilton to the Foothills Workforce Development Commission, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

D. Harmon Field Board of Supervisors - There are two vacancies (two-year term, and four-year term), and five applicants; Jamie Dunn, Kelly LeCompte, Nathan LeCompte, Princess Wilson, and Rick Covil.

Commissioner Beiler nominated and moved to appoint Rick Covil to the two-year term, seconded by Vice-Chairman Moore, and the motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chairman Moore nominated and moved to appoint Jamie Dunn to the four- year term, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

10. Commissioner Comments.

The Commissioners thanked everyone who attended the meeting and for all community input. They encouraged the community to continue attending the meetings.

11. Closed Session

A. Motion to go into Closed Session for the purpose of Attorney-Client Privilege, and Personnel.

Commissioner Hargett moved to go into Closed Session for the purpose of Attorney-Client Privilege, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion to return to open session.

Vice-Chairman Moore moved to return to open session, seconded by Commissioner Beiler, and the motion carried unanimously.

12. Adjournment

Commissioner Beiler moved to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner Hargett, and the motion carried unanimously.

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Kennedy E Freeman
Kennedy E Freeman
Clerk to the Board

Myron Yoder
Chairman