

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Agenda
January 4, 2021 - 7:00 PM
R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice Womack Building Columbus, NC
Columbus, NC
MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Melton, Vice-Chairman Beiler, Commissioner Moore, Commissioner Overholt, and Commissioner Yoder. Also in attendance were County Manager Pittman, Attorney Berg, and Clerk to the Board High. Media and citizens participated remotely.

1. Call to Order - Chairman Melton.

2. Invocation - Commissioner Yoder.

Vice-Chairman Beiler introduced Jason Schlabach, the founder of Door of Hope Ministries, who gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance - Vice-Chairman Beiler.

Commissioner Yoder led the pledge.

4. Chairman and Commissioner Comments.

Chairman Melton said at the last meeting he asked each Commissioner to consider the things they would like to see happen in Polk County during 2021. Each Commissioner was given the opportunity to speak.

Commissioner Yoder said COVID-19 interrupted everyone's life in 2020, and in 2021 he would like to see every student in school everyday. He said the School Board, Superintendent, and all the school's staff are doing a great job to try to figure out a solution to get the students back in school.

Vice-Chairman Beiler said he would also like to get back to normal with the sports programs at the schools and the Recreation Department. He said last year the seasons were canceled or cut short, and it has had an effect on the mental well being of the children.

Commissioner Moore agreed everyone is ready to get back to normal. He said the Christmas parades were a good start as the public could choose if they whether to attend or not.

Commissioner Overholt said kids need structure and programs, it builds character and can effect their education. He said he is here to be a servant to the people. He will be spending his first year educating himself on the big issues in county, with his main goal to represent all of Polk County to the best of his ability.

Chairman Melton said he would like the Commissioners to consider changing the time of the meeting for a trial period through March, it will be on the next meeting agenda for discussion.

5. Approval of Agenda

- A. Commissioner Yoder moved to approve the agenda moving Closed Session after Call to Order, seconded by Vice-Chairman Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.

- A. November 2, 2020 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes
- B. November 16, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes.
- C. November 23, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes.
- D. November 25, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes.
- E. Tax refund requests through December 29, 2020 in the amount of \$5,589.16.
- F. Schedule public hearing for new proposed road names for Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 7:00 pm in the R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice Womack Building Columbus, NC.
- G. Ratify the consensus of Chairman Melton as the North Carolina legislative goals conference alternate voting delegate.
- H. Budget Amendment - Transfer \$16,805 to increase/decrease expenditures for JCPC programs approved by the BOC as a total grant after County Budget was adopted.
- I. Budget Amendment - Addition \$16,704 to increase/correct revenue/expenditures for JCPC programs approved by BOC as a total grant.
- J. Budget Amendment to appropriate fund balance in the amount of \$25,186 to DSS for vehicle replacement.
- K. Budget Amendment to transfer \$25,000 excess budget in Sheriff salaries to Sheriff capital to purchase vehicle equipment.

7. Citizen Comment(s)

There was one citizen comment read by Chairman Melton.

8. COVID-19 vaccine update.

Joshua Kennedy, Health and Human Services Agency Director gave a comprehensive overview of the COVID-19 vaccine process in Polk County. He said the county is shifting from testing to vaccination with the initial vaccine interest survey. He explained the first step was to gather data identifying those who would be want to receive the vaccine in Polk County. Then staff and trained volunteers begin contacting and scheduling appointments dependent upon their eligibility phase. Mr. Kennedy said he is working with State agencies to get the needed supply to meet the demand, but anticipates a shortage due to our high interest. He encouraged citizens with questions to contact the COVID-19 Message, or the County website for information on local vaccination questions.

9. Resolution to Temporarily Extend the Term of Planning Board Members.

Cathy Ruth, Planning Director gave a presentation a copy of which is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes by reference. She explained last year the General Assembly combined the County and City land use statutes, and gave jurisdictions until July 1, 2021 to update local ordinances with the changes. She said the current Planning Board has been working diligently revising each ordinance, and changing members at this point in the process would not be prudent. Mrs. Ruth asked the Board to consider the resolution being presented tonight to expedite the review and revision process of the remaining ordinances to meet the July 1, 2021 deadline mandated by the State. Commissioner Moore asked if the expiring members are willing to continue through June, and Mrs. Ruth said they were.

Attorney Berg read the resolution.

Commissioner Yoder moved to approve the Resolution to Temporarily Extend the Term of Planning Board Members, seconded by Vice-Chairman Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

10. Modification of the North Carolina Pandemic Recovery Office Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) Polk County Plan.

Manager Pittman said when the original plan was adopted, we had a plan as to how we were going to use the funding. Tonight we are presenting the revised plan of how the funds were actually spent. Sandra Hughes, Finance Director said the bottom line of the grant did not change, the amounts spent in some categories were revised.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve CRF Polk County Plan with revisions, seconded by Vice-Chairman Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

11. Review and Amend Commissioner Appointments to Boards.

Chairman Melton said the Clerk to the Board will maintain a list of current appointments, and anyone interested may contact her office. Commissioner Overholt moved to approve the volunteer board appointments, seconded by Commissioner Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

12. Closed Session

Closed Session was moved to the beginning of the meeting after the call to order, due to technical difficulties. When they returned to open session, the invocation was given, and the remainder of the meeting proceeded.

- A. Commissioner Moore moved to go into closed session for the purpose of attorney client privilege seconded by Vice-Chairman Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.
- B. Vice-Chairman Beiler moved to return to open session, seconded by Commissioner Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

13. Adjournment

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

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

Ange High
Clerk to the Board

Tommy W. Melton
Chairman