

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
May 17, 2021 - 5:00 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, County Attorney Berg, Clerk to the Board High, media, and citizens.

1. Call to Order - Chairman Melton.
2. Invocation - Commissioner Moore.
3. Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Yoder.
4. Chairman and Commissioner Comments

Chairman Melton commended County Department Heads, who had items on the agenda. He recognized accomplishments made in their departments and their phenomenal service to the citizens of Polk County.

Commissioner Yoder mentioned the gas shortage. He said local businesses worked with Emergency Management to reserve gas for emergency personnel and communicated daily to ensure they had the fuel they needed.

5. Approval of Agenda - Motion needed to approve or amend the agenda.

Chairman Melton requested to amend the agenda by removing the agenda item, Board of Equalization and Review Appeal Request; then adding two items, Resolution by the Polk County Board of Commissioners; and Budget Calendar Revision.

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

6. Consent Agenda - Motion needed to approve or amend the consent agenda.

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

A. April 19, 2021 regular meeting minutes.

B. Vaya Health Quarterly Report ending March 31, 2021.

C. July - December 2021 Board of Commissioners' meeting schedule.

7. Citizen Comments on Agenda Item

There were no citizen comments on agenda items.

8. Budget Amendment to appropriate fund balance for the additional salary and benefit needs for Elections.

Cliff Marr, Elections Director, came before the Board of Commissioners representing the five-person bipartisan Board of Elections. He explained his budget amendment request is due to employee overtime from the general election. He said in years past, his department was able to absorb the overage, but recent changes in the absentee ballot laws, along with conducting an election during a global pandemic, made it unobtainable this year. He also stated he is expecting reimbursement from the State and other grant opportunities to offset some of his department's increased expenditures. Commissioner Yoder moved to approve the budget amendment to appropriate fund balance in the amount of \$20,474 for the additional salary and benefit needs for Elections, seconded by Vice-Chairman Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

9. Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Polk, North Carolina (This item was added to the agenda.)

Chairman Melton read the following resolution.

Resolution by the Polk County Board of Commissioners Polk County, North Carolina-

WHEREAS: All elected officials have sworn allegiance to the Constitution of the United States of America above all other statutes, administrative rules, and local ordinances;

WHEREAS: Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Assembly, Freedom of religion, Freedom of the right to hold and bear arms, and other freedoms guaranteed by the United States and North Carolina Constitutions are currently under great incursion by Executive Orders in North Carolina and other events occurring in the United States;

WHEREAS: Much of the civil and moral division of the citizens, the irreparable damage to small businesses, and the North Carolina economy is directly impacted by ignoring our Constitutional Rights and the Rule of Law.

WHEREAS: No tribulation should ever cancel our Constitutional Rights in the United States of America;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Polk County Board of Commissioners, support the Constitutional Rights guaranteed by the Charters of Freedom, above all else and without exception, and declare Polk County, North Carolina a Sanctuary County for the Constitution of the United States of America. And further, no public funds, resources, employees, buildings, or offices which are under the control and direction of Polk County should be used in contravention of the mandates of the supreme laws of the land.

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

10. Board of Equalization and Review Appeal Request - Jana Berg, County Attorney. (This item was removed from the agenda.)

11. Schedule a Public Hearing for General Statute 160D Zoning Ordinance Revisions.

Cathy Ruth, Planning Director, requested scheduling a public hearing on Monday, June 21, 2021, at 5:00 pm to take citizen comments on changes to the Polk County Zoning Ordinance as required by General Statute 160D. Mrs. Ruth said there are approximately ten changes to the ordinance being requested. She said included in the agenda packet was the draft ordinance with the changes incorporated, which she will review during the public hearing. Commissioner Yoder moved to schedule the public hearing on Monday, June 21, 2021 at 5:00 pm, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.

12. Reappointment of the County Tax Administrator.

Chairman Melton asked Melissa Bowlin if she would like to speak. She thanked the Commissioners and citizens for the opportunity to serve as the Tax Administrator. She also thanked her staff, who work hard every day, and said the office could not run smoothly without them.

Chairman Melton said the Board of Commissioners appoints the Tax Administrator for a two or four-year appointment. At her last appointment, he stated that he made the motion to appoint Ms. Bowlin for a four-year term, and he intended to do so again.

Chairman Melton moved to reappoint Melissa Bowlin as the Tax Administrator for another four-year term, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

13. Budget Calendar Revision. (This item was added to the agenda.)

Commissioner Moore moved to revise the Budget Calendar to cancel the budget work session scheduled for May 18, 2021, seconded by Vice-Chairman Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

14. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Three citizens spoke during non-agenda citizen comments.

15. Volunteer Board Application(s)

- A. Commissioner Overholt moved to approve Joanna Martinez, Angela Pena, Michelle Saucier, and Nicki Tillotson as members on the Recreation Advisory Board, seconded by Vice-Chairman Beiler and the motion carried unanimously

16. Closed Session

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

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

17. Adjournment

Vice-Chairman Beiler moved to 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