

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Agenda  
August 2, 2021 - 5:00 PM  
R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice Womack Building Columbus, NC  
Columbus, NC  
MINUTES

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

Commissioner Moore was absent.

Absent: Moore

1. Public Hearing
  - A. Chairman Melton called the public hearing to order. The purpose of the public hearing was to take public comments on proposed new road names in Polk County. The public hearing was properly advertised.
  - B. Citizen Comments - There were no citizen comments during the public hearing.
  - C. Vice-Chairman Beiler moved to adjourn the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Yoder and the motion carried unanimously. Absent: Moore.
2. Call to Order the Regular Meeting - Chairman Melton.
3. Invocation - Chairman Melton.
4. Pledge of Allegiance - #IAmSomebody youth camp members and leaders.
5. Chairman and Commissioner Comments.

Commissioner Yoder shared information about an upcoming fundraiser for the Polk County High School football team.
6. Approval of Agenda - Motion needed to approve or amend the agenda.

Commissioner Overholt moved to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Vice-Chairman Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.  
Absent: Moore
7. Consent Agenda - Motion needed to approve or amend the consent agenda.

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

- A. July 19, 2021 regular meeting minutes.
  - B. Tax refund requests through July 31, 2021 in the amount of \$5,266.23.
  - C. Schedule a public hearing to take public comments on the FY 2023 NCDOT Section 5311 (ADTAP), 5310, 5339, 5307, and applicable State Funding Community Transportation Grants for Monday, September 20, 2021 at 5:00 pm in the R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice, Womack Building.
  - D. Polk County Senior Services Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) FY21-22 County Plan.
  - E. Budget Amendment to appropriate Capital Reserve Fund Balance to transfer to the Polk County High School HVAC project for issuance cost of the \$6.2M loan.
  - F. Amend the Project Budget Ordinance for the Polk County High School HVAC Project bringing it to \$6,239,788 (increasing the project \$39,788 with School Capital set-aside money in the Capital Reserve Fund for issuance cost of the loan).
  - G. Declare ten Sheriff vehicles, and one Public Health vehicle surplus to be sold electronically by public auction. Asset details included in packet.
8. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items.
- There were no citizen comments on agenda items.
9. Sheriff Award Presentation - Sheriff Wright.
- Sheriff Wright recognized Brittany Staley, Director of the IAMSOMEBODY camp, and Cindy Wicklund, the Sheriff Departments Community Relations Coordinator, for their dedication and hard work supporting the first collaboration between the Iamsomebody camp and the Sheriff's Office. He said the School Resource Officers, other Sheriff Deputies, and emergency personnel also participated in helping make the week a fun, positive experience for everyone involved and gave a special thank you to area agencies who help make this a memorable experience for the campers.
- Sheriff Wright recognized Luetinent Jeffrey D. Smith for completing the North Carolina Justice Academy School Resource Certificate Program. He said Lt. Smith demonstrated his pledge as a school resource officer by dedicating himself to making the schools safer for our children and the staff that serve them by completing the program with over four hundred required training hours.
10. National Telecommunications and Information Administration's Broadband Infrastructure Program Discussion.

Michael E. Tanck, Director of Government Affairs Charter Communications,

presented information on possible broadband expansion opportunities for Polk County. He said he came to a meeting in February to share that Charter had received federal funding through the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) to bring broadband to 1,350 locations (addresses) in Polk County. He said they must have twenty percent of this project completed by year four and one hundred percent by year six.

Mr. Tanck said there is another opportunity for Polk County to partner with Charter by applying for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Build Broadband Infrastructure grant. He said there is \$288,000,000 available to rural counties. The target counties have populations less than fifty thousand, have low in and out speeds, and have already been awarded federal grants like the RDOF, making Polk County a prime candidate. He said the local jurisdiction must apply; however, there is no financial obligation from Polk County. He said federal funds would pay for the project, and Charter Communications will contribute a minimum of ten percent. Mr. Tanck said if Polk County decides to move forward with the application, they would be seeking an NTIA grant to provide broadband to additional locations (addresses) in Polk County.

He said if Polk County does not receive the NTIA grant, there are other opportunities they will pursue as Charter Communications is committed to bringing broadband to rural communities.

Commissioner Yoder asked about the timing of the application process. Mr. Tanck said the applications are due by August 17, 2021, and there is no date when the awards will be announced. A member of the audience asked if there would be 5G wireless connections. Mr. Tanck said they are hard-line connections; Charter builds fiber to the locations. Commissioner Overholt asked if the sites would be specifically for the unserved areas or would underserved areas be included. Mr. Tanck said the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) views any service less than 25/3 as unserved, which would be the target areas. Commissioner Overholt asked how those areas are determined, and Mr. Tanck said they use the information provided by the United States Census Block and the same methodology used across the country for other projects. They are confident in the research they have obtained.

Manager Pittman asked how many counties Charter is pursuing the NTIA grant, and Mr. Tanck said there are three, Polk, Alexander, and McDowell.

Vice-Chairman Beiler moved to endorse the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Build Broadband Infrastructure grant application, partnering with Charter Communications and allowing the County Manager to apply for any other Broadband opportunities that may come available, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chairman Beiler moved to endorse the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Build Broadband Infrastructure grant application, partnering with Charter Communications and allowing the County Manager to apply for any other Broadband opportunities that may come available, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.

Absent: Moore

11. Family Preservation Lease Agreement.

Attorney Berg presented the resolution authorizing the execution of the lease agreement. She said thirty days of public notice was given by publication, describing the property to be leased, stating the annual lease payments and conditions, and announcing the intent to authorize the lease at tonight's meeting. Commissioner Overholt moved to adopt the Resolution to Authorize the Lease Agreement and give the County Manager the authority to execute, seconded by Commissioner Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

Absent: Moore

12. Proposed Polk County Road Names.

Chairman Melton presented the proposed Polk County road names for consideration, Faye Lane and Isaiah Lane. Commissioner Yoder moved to approve the proposed road names as presented, seconded by Vice-Chairman Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

Absent: Moore

13. Volunteer Board Applications

A. The following applications were received for consideration to serve on various Polk County Volunteer Boards: Nancy Hasselbring, Evalynn Hyra, Nancy Phelps, Charles Rounds, Heather Sanders, and Margo Savage Animal Cruelty Investigators; Denny Crowe and Robert Williamson Appearance Commission; Peggy Franklin Health and Human Services Agency Board; Robert Stragiotti Recreation Advisory Board.

Commissioner Overholt moved to approve the volunteer board applicants as presented, seconded by Commissioner Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

Absent: Moore

14. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items.

There were no citizen comments on non-agenda items.

15. Adjournment

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

Absent: Moore

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS

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Ange High  
Clerk to the Board

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Tommy W. Melton  
Chairman