

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Public Hearing & Regular Meeting
August 3, 2020 - 7:00 PM
R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice Womack Building Columbus, NC
Columbus, NC
MINUTES

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

1. Public Hearing

A. Chairman Yoder called the public hearing to order. The purpose of the public hearing was to take public comments on proposed new road names, Keenan Way, Red Bell Ln, Long Ears Ln, Old Kuykendall Dr, and Lake Pointe Ln, the public hearing was properly advertised in the Tryon Daily Bulletin.

B. Citizen Comments - There were none.

C. Commissioner Comments - There were none.

D. Adjourn Public Hearing.

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

2. Call to Order the Regular Meeting - Chairman Yoder.

3. Invocation - Commissioner Gasperson.

4. Pledge of Allegiance - Vice-Chairman Melton.

5. Approval of Agenda

Manager Pittman said Jamie Davidson has asked to move her agenda item *Polk County Litter Clean Up* to a future meeting.

Commissioner Moore moved to remove the agenda item Polk County Litter Clean Up, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

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

6. Consent Agenda

Vice-Chairman Melton moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by

Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

- A. July 20, 2020 Regular meeting minutes.
- B. Tax refund requests through July 31, 2020 for in the amount of \$797.47.
- C. Home and Community Care Block Grant for Older Adults County Funding Plan July 2020 to June 2021.

7. Citizen Comment(s) - Citizens may submit their comments to the Clerk to the Board by email - ahigh@polknc.org, or phone - 828-894-3301 ext. 221, by 5:00 pm August 3, 2020 to be read during the meeting.

The following citizen comments were submitted and read during the meeting; Joe Cooper, time sensitivity of creating the kudzu eradication committee. Jamie Davidson, Lake Adger dredging project, and time sensitivity of creating the kudzu eradication committee.

Kelley Thomson, False 911 calls being made from her Windstream phone line. Andy Haynes, Rita Landrum, Claudia Law, FK McFarland, and Olivia Pleasants Whiteside sent in comments supporting the Scenic By-way plan re-submission.

8. NC Hwy. 108 Scenic By-way Application Update.

Clay Griffith, Acme Preservation Services, and Dorothy Easley, Chair of the Hwy. 108 Scenic Byway Committee gave a presentation a copy of which is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes. They explained Mr. Kyle Cooper, North Carolina Scenic Byway Coordinator, said the original proposed route on the submitted application did not meet the criteria to become a stand-alone byway. Mr. Cooper recommended the Commissioners consider resubmitting the application with a route that would be an extension to the existing Pacolet River Byway, rather than a new individual byway. Vice-Chairman Melton read the minutes from the February 4, 2019 meeting: *Chairman Melton suggested an alternate route for the proposed scenic byway to begin on NC 108 Hwy at the Columbus Town Limits proceeding to Harmon Field Road, and connecting with the existing scenic byway on US Hwy. There was no further discussion. Chairman Melton moved to approve the County Manager to retain the low bidding consultant, contingent upon donation exceeding the amount of the contract for phase 1 of the scenic byway plan, using the alternate route as suggested, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.*

Vice-Chairman Melton said he is concerned that the Scenic Byway Committee submitted a alternate route other than the one approved by the Board at the February meeting. Ms. Easley said the committee altered the route to try to strengthen the loop, by increasing the historical, and natural scenic appeal for visitors, to improve the possibility of the route being approved by meeting scenic byway criteria. Vice-Chairman Melton asked each Commissioner to state their position on which route they would like included in the application if they choose to resubmit. They all agreed they would choose a straight route

starting at the bridge in Lynn on Highway 108, right on Harmon Field Road, then connecting to the existing Pacolet River Byway at Hwy 176. They asked Mr. Griffith if that route would meet the length requirements, and he said he will remeasure, but he believes it is over the minimum length of one mile.

Vice-Chairman Melton moved to resubmit the study list application extending the existing Pacolet River Byway with the route suggested by the Commissioners (loop - the bridge in Lynn on Highway 108, right on Harmon Field Road, then connecting to the existing Pacolet River Byway at Hwy 176), seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

9. Position Reclassification and Budget Amendment.

Joshua Kennedy, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Director explained the request is to temporarily reclassify a part-time position to full-time to provide needed COVID-19 support at Public Health. He said he is not requesting any new funding, he is asking for approval to reallocate existing funds from the contracted services line which will not be used due to COVID-19's impact on planned activities at the Senior Center this year.

Vice-Chairman Melton moved to approve the budget amendment moving \$33,636 from Senior Services, and an additional \$5,471 from Department of Health Funds for a total of \$39,107, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve reclassifying the part-time regular breast feeding counselor position to a full-time temporary position to support the COVID-19 response team at Public Health for the remainder of fiscal year 20/21 (August 3, 2020 - June 30, 2021), seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

10. General Statute 160D Land Use Ordinance Update Timeline.

Cathy Ruth, Planning Director, shared with the Commissioners the schedule, and process the Planning Board will be using to review and update the County ordinances as required by the regulations in General Statute 160D. She invited the Commissioners to attend the Planning Board meetings, and said the approval and adoption of all the changes must be completed by July 2021. Mrs. Ruth expressed her gratitude and appreciation for the many volunteers who serve on the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment.

11. 2020 Census Update.

Cathy Ruth, Planning Director, gave a presentation, a copy of which is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes. In order to increase the number of participants, the county has received a grant from Dogwood Trust to help fund ways to try to increase the total response rate before the deadline, which is usually around the end of October. She said Dogwood will give the County \$1,000 for each percentage we increase, and right now approximately 54% of Polk County residents have completed their census.

12. Proposed New Road Names.

Subsequent to the public hearing, the commissioners reviewed the list of proposed new road names. KEENAN WAY (Private road – off SC RED RADFORD RD) Township: Green Creek RED BELL LN– (Private road - off SR1361 Blackwood Rd.) Township: Green Creek LONG EARS LN– (Private road – off SR1361 Blackwood Rd.) Township: Green Creek OLD KUYKENDALL DR– (Private road – off SR1137 Houston Rd.) Township: Columbus LAKE POINTE LN – (PVT Rd – off PVT RD South Cove Rd. off SR1140 Garrett Rd.) Township: White Oak-Mill Spring.

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

13. Volunteer Board Application(s)

- A. Applications for Vote: Nancy Hasselbring, Martin Keynton, Stephen King, Brandon Knox, Nancy Phelps, Laurel Pyatt, Charles Rounds, Margo Savage Animal Cruelty Investigators.

Vice-Chairman Melton moved to appoint all applicants as presented, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

14. Commissioner Comment(s)

The Commissioners thanked everyone for participating in the meeting. They recognized the tremendously difficult decisions the school board, and faculty have had to make, and expressed great pride in the Polk County School system and their leadership. They understand the concerns of all involved, teachers, parents, children, and encourage everyone to be patient with each other. They acknowledged Joshua Kennedy, Health and Human Services Agency Director, the Public Health staff, and the Emergency Medical workers who have been conducting the COVID-19 testing throughout the community. They have all been working diligently, serving the citizens of Polk County in a professional, efficient manner, and the Commissioners appreciate their hard work. Commissioner Gasperson said he has someone he would like to come to the next meeting to discuss a broadband initiative. Manager Pittman said he has been in touch with a representative from Charter Communications regarding broadband issues, and he would see if he was also available to come to the meeting.

15. Closed Session

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

16. Adjournment

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

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

Ange High
Clerk to the Board

Myron Yoder
Chairman