

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
May 18, 2020 - 7:00 PM
R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice Womack Building Columbus, NC
Columbus, NC
MINUTES

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

1. Closed Session

A. Attorney Client Privilege - Mill Spring Fire Department.

Manager Pittman explained the District Attorney will not be prosecuting the Mill Spring Fire Department on any charges. He also said the Office of State Fire Marshal has postponed their inspection scheduled for May 5, 2020 due to COVID-19. Manager Pittman said Bobby Arledge, Polk County Fire Marshal, told him he believes the Mill Spring Fire Department will have a good chance of being in compliance at their next inspection.

B. Attorney Client Privilege/Personnel - 911 Communications discussion.

Chairman Yoder said the Sheriff received an anonymous complaint about the management of the 911 Communications center.

On Friday, May 15, 2020, the Sheriff contacted Vice-Chairman Melton, who contacted Chairman Yoder, who contacted Manager Pittman. When Manager Pittman was contacted he was presented with investigation information on his employees that had already been conducted, without his knowledge. The Sheriff was requesting to take over management of the 911 Communications Center.

Attorney Berg read the complaint which included allegations of sexual misconduct, and possible nepotism between Bobby Arledge and his ex-wife Martha Blanton.

The Board discussed the personnel policy and definitions such as nepotism. Attorney Berg said the Personnel Policy is modified when labor laws change or can be amended whenever changes need to be made.

The Consensus of the Board was to have Attorney Berg perform an investigation regarding allegations of unacceptable personal conduct. She will

interview each employee who made an allegation against another employee and will report the information back to the Board.

They would also like the Sheriff to present a 911 Communication Management Proposal to the Board on June 1, 2020 for consideration and the Board will vote at the June 15, 2020 meeting.

C. Approve and seal the February 17, 2020 Closed Session minutes.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve and seal the February 17, 2020 closed session minutes, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

Ange High
Clerk to the Board

Myron Yoder
Chairman