

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Budget Work Session, Budget Public Hearing, and Regular Meeting
June 3, 2024 - 5:00 PM
R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice - Womack Building
Columbus, NC
MINUTES

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

1. Budget Work Session

A. Call to Order the Budget Work Session - Chairman Yoder.

B. Budget Discussion

Manager Pittman stated there have been no changes.

C. Adjourn Budget Work Session

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

2. Public Hearing on the Proposed Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget

A. Call to Order the Public Hearing - Chairman Yoder. The purpose of the hearing was to receive public comment on the proposed FY 2024/25 budget. The public hearing was properly advertised. A copy of the County Manager's recommended budget for FY 24/25 was available for review on the County website, www.polknc.org, and in the County Manager's Office located at 40 Courthouse St., Columbus, NC.

B. Citizen Comments.

There were none.

C. Adjourn Public Hearing.

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

3. Call to Order the Regular Meeting - Chairman Yoder

4. Invocation - Chairman Yoder

5. Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Beiler

6. Approval of Agenda



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Polk, NC
Sheila Whitmire Register of Deeds

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- A. Items may be added or removed at this time.

Attorney Berg requested to add an Agreement for Operation of Farmers Market Between Polk County, City of Saluda and the Polk County Board of Education as agenda item 9.

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

7. Consent Agenda - Motion to approve the Consent Agenda

- A. July 2024 - December 2024 Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting Schedule and Resolution.

- B. Approval of the May 20, 2024 Budget Work Session Minutes.

- C. Approval of the May 20, 2024 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes.

- D. Tax Refund Request in the amount of \$1,139.38.

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

8. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

There were none.

9. Agreement for Operation of Farmers Market between Polk County, City of Saluda, and Polk County Board of Education - Attorney Berg.

Attorney Berg presented the agreement allowing the County to operate the Saluda Farmers Market at the Saluda School Park. She said the City of Saluda and the Polk County Board of Education have already reviewed and approved the proposed agreement.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the agreement and grant the County Manager signatory authority, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.

10. Board of Elections - Cliff Marr, Director.

Cliff Marr, Elections Director spoke on behalf of the bipartisan Polk County Election Board requesting approval of a budget amendment to cover run-off elections expenses.

Commissioner Overholt moved to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$19,521, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

11. Recruitment and Retention Resolution Extension - Manager Pittman.

Manager Pittman requested the approval of the extension to the Recruitment and Retention Resolution. He said there has been tremendous progress over the last six months but these incentives are needed for continued improvement.

Vice-Chairman Melton moved to approve the Recruitment and Retention Resolution Extension, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

12. To receive information on the proposed St. Luke's Sublease of County Lease to Fletcher Hospital, Incorporated, for the hospital premises which is the subject of an existing Lease Agreement between Polk County and St. Luke's Hospital - Bill Miller, Chairman St. Luke's Board of Trustees.

Bill Miller, Chairman of the St. Luke's Hospital Board of Trustees, addressed the Board of Commissioners with several trustee board members in the audience. He presented the latest proposed phase of evolution for St. Luke's Hospital, providing a brief history of the hospital's partnership with Atrium Health since 2008, which has been successful despite Atrium Health having no financial responsibility. Four years ago, Atrium Health announced their withdrawal from rural hospital partnerships, prompting the Board of Trustees to seek new partners, ultimately selecting Advent Health, a faith-based, community-oriented organization focused on patient care over profit. Mr. Miller said they will be requesting the Board of Commissioners to consider allowing the sublease of the hospital's land lease with Polk County, which would enable Advent Health to take over operations and financial responsibility while retaining all current employees and doctors. The existing Board of Trustees and the St. Luke's Foundation would remain in existence, with a new board for day-to-day operations composed of two Board of Trustee members, two Polk County members, and five appointees from Advent Health.

The Board of Commissioners will receive the proposed St. Luke's Sublease of County Lease and exhibits thereto and shall consider making a Declaration of Intent to approve the St. Luke's Sublease of County Lease to Fletcher Hospital, Incorporated at a Special Meeting on Wednesday, June 5th @ 4:00 PM in the R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice, Womack Building, 40 Courthouse St., Columbus, NC.

13. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items

There was one comment on non-agenda items.

14. Volunteer Board Applications

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

- A. Applications for Consideration: Denny Crowe, Brian McCrodden, Debra Torrence- Appearance Commission; Lourdes Gutierrez, Cindy Viehman – Economic Tourism Development Commission; Aaron Greene, Dr. Linda Greensfelder, Dr. John Kornmayer, Dr. Penelope Padgett, Dr. Belynda

Veser - Health & Human Services Agency; Dee O'Brien - Recreation
Advisory Board.

15. Commissioner Comments

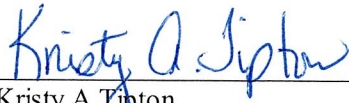
The Commissioners collectively thanked those in attendance.

16. Adjournment

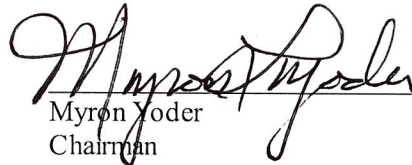
Vice-Chairman Melton moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Beiler
and the motion carried unanimously.

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS



Kristy A Tipton
Clerk to the Board



Myron Yoder
Chairman