

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Budget Work Session
May 20, 2024 - 1:00 PM
R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice - Womack Building
Columbus, NC
MINUTES

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



Doc ID: 005023010003 Type: CRP
Recorded: 03/12/2025 at 04:04:08 PM
Fee Amt: \$0.00 Page 1 of 3
Polk, NC
Sheila Whitmire Register of Deeds

1. Call to Order - Chairman Yoder.
2. Other Departments or Agencies.

BK **490** PG **1767-1769**

- A. Harmon Field Board of Supervisors - Jim Fatland, Tryon Town Manager.

Jim Fatland, Tryon Town Manager, said all information pertaining to Harmon Field goes through the Harmon Field Board of Supervisors first and then to the Tryon Town Council. He shared plans for the future of Harmon Field including a grant received to rennovate the open air gym to include a catering kitchen and a photography lab. He said once complete Dominion Energy has offered to fund a dedication ceremony and an invitation to Commissioners for the event would be forthcoming. He then introduced Brad Gordon, Harmon Field Superintendent. Mr. Gordon shared the recent improvements made to Harmon Field property. Mr. Fatland then requested a .01 cent tax increase and said the plan is to seek another .01 cent next budget year. His goal is to use tax revenue for operations and maintenance, to use fees from renting the facilities for major maintenance projects, and to seek grants for capital improvements.

- B. Fire and Rescue Advisory Committee (FRAC) - Bobby Arledge, Emergency Management Director.

Bobby Arledge, Emergency Management Director presented the recommendations made by the FRAC Committee which include 0.015 increase for Columbus Fire Department, 0.01 increase for Green Creek Fire Department, 0.01 increase for Saluda Fire Department. and 0.01 increase for Tryon Fire Department. The FRAC Committee felt the 0.0221 increase requested by Mill Spring Fire Department, after a 0.03 increase last year, was not justified as they had not lowered their ISO rating. Therefore, they recommend denying that request. Sunny View Fire Department did not request an increase.

3. Requested Fee Changes and Rate Increases (Tab #8)

- A. Solid Waste - Travis Ballard, Solid Waste Director.

Travis Ballard, Solid Waste Director, went over the proposed fee increases/ rate changes. He said these increases are due to the increased hauling fees for Republic Services.

B. Environmental Health - Josh Kennedy, HHSA Director.

Josh Kennedy, HHSA Director said Environmental Health is proposing a tiered fee schedule which will keep the fees more economical for smaller homes. There were also increases for lab fees for water testing.

C. Transportation - Josh Kennedy, HHSA Director.

Mr. Kennedy said changes in transportation fees are to recoup some of the costs for fuel, tires, and maintenance while still keeping the costs low for the consumers. The Board gave their consensus for the increase to revenue and expenses for Public Health as detailed by Sandra Hughes, Finance Director.

D. Planning and Zoning - Cathy Ruth, Planning/Economic Development Director.

Cathy Ruth, Planning and Economic Development Director, presented the proposed fee changes for her department. She explained that the primary objective of these changes is to standardize the fee structure and ensure that the fees accurately reflect the amount of work required to issue permits.

4. Departments Over 10%

A. MIS - 26%, Server Upgrade / VMWare

Manager Pittman said this is an increase that will re-occur every four years in line with the County replacement policy for devices.

B. Jail - 18%, Position / Medical

Manager Pittman said the current medical contractor will no longer service Polk County and the new contractor comes at a \$100,000 increase. The new contract will have a nurse on site 7 days a week as opposed to the current 5 days a week schedule, and will also have a new mental health aspect to the contract.

C. 911 - 11%, Position / Software Platform

Manager Pittman said this increase is for a new full time position due to an increase in calls and there is an increase to the maintenance agreement with Kimbrell Communications for the new radio system.

D. ICC - 11% Additional part-time staff

Margaret Annunziata, ICC President, said there is expanded programming, increased classes, and increased enrollment which has led to a need for more staffing.

E. Non-Dept - 30%, Insurance / FHS (to be moved to AC if contract approved)

Manager Pittman said liability insurance has increased along with health insurance costs for staff. The increase in the amount paid to Foothills Humane Society is also reflected here.

F. DSS - 14%, Personnel changes approved FY24

Manager Pittman said this increase is due to additional personnel approved in the last budget year.

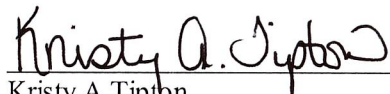
5. Adjournment

Commissioner Moore moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

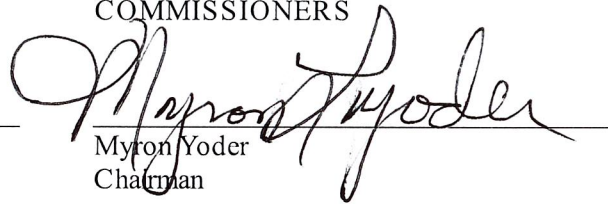
Absent: Melton, Overholt

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS



Kristy A Tipton
Clerk to the Board



Myron Yoder
Chairman