POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Public Hearing & Regular Meeting
November 18, 2024 - 5:00 PM
Bryant H. Womack Justice & Administration Building
40 Courthouse Street
Columbus, NC 28722
MINUTES

Present: Chair Yoder, Vice-Chair 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. Public Hearing

   A. Call to Order the Public Hearing - Chair Yoder. The purpose of the public hearing was to receive citizen input on the FY2025 NCDOT Section 5310 Operations Grant Application for the Polk County Transit Authority. The public hearing was properly advertised in the Tryon Daily Bulletin. Bill Crisp, PCTA Manager, was present. A complete copy of the grant application was available for review upon request.

   B. Citizen Comments

   There were none.

   C. Adjourn Public Hearing

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

2. Call to Order the Regular Meeting – Chair Yoder.

Doc ID: 005023090005 Type: CRP
Recorded: 03/12/2025 at 04:10:53 PM
Fee Amt: $0.00 Page 1 of 5
Polk, NC
Sheila Whitmire Register of Deeds
BK 490 PG 1795-1799

3. Invocation – Chair Yoder.

4. Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Overholt.

5. Approval of Agenda

   A. Manager Pittman requested amending the agenda to include a Budget Amendment for up to $250,000 for the Autumn Lane bridge under item 8.B.

   Vice-Chair Melton moved to amend the agenda as requested, seconded by Commissioner Moore, and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Consent Agenda

   A. Approval of the October 21, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes.

B. Schedule a Public Hearing for proposed new road names to be considered on Monday, January 13, 2025, at 5:00 pm in the R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice, Womack Building.

C. Sheriff Department Monthly Activity Report for October 2024.

D. Tax Refund Request in the amount of $772.99.

E. Builders Inventory Application Approval, Tax Department.

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

7. <u>Citizen Comments on Agenda Items.</u>

There were no public comments.

8. <u>Regular Agenda Items</u>

A. <u>FY 2025 PCTA Grants & Resolution – To consider the 5310 Operations Transit Grant approval after the public hearing</u>.

Bill Crisp, PCTA Manager, presented the grant information and resolution.

Vice-Chair Melton moved to approve the FY 2025 5310 Operations Transit grant application and resolution, seconded by Commissioner Overholt, and the motion carried unanimously.

B. <u>Hurricane Helene Storm Recovery Update</u> –

Bobby Arledge, Emergency Management Director, updated the commissioners on debris removal. He said he has received over six hundred requests from citizens for debris removal, and the Army Corps of Engineers contractors are working to remove all the roadside debris. He said they will start removing storm debris from the waterways once the roadside debris is completed.

He addressed the Board regarding the urgent situation involving the bridge on Autumn Lane that was added to the agenda. He said the bridge was the sole access for fifteen homes, and the residents are currently walking in and out due to its unsafe condition from Hurricane Helene's damage. He emphasized that emergency vehicles cannot access these homes, posing significant safety concerns. He said he is awaiting further information from contractors regarding the repair cost and FEMA regarding whether it will be a reimbursable expense.

County Manager Pittman requested the Board consider a budget amendment not to exceed $250,000 for the repair of the Autumn Lane bridge. Mr. Arledge said he is currently seeking quotes and believes the cost will be under the requested amount.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve a budget amendment not exceeding $250,000, seconded by Commissioner Overholt, and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Lake Adger Dam Project Update - Dave Odom, Odom Engineering.

Mr. Odom reported that following Hurricane Helene, he inspected the dam site and reviewed the damage virtually with GEI Consultants. He noted that the structure appeared to have held up well, although some erosion was observed at the base. Mr. Odom further stated that Geoff Kruger from GEI Consultants would be on-site this week to inspect the dam's damage formally.

Regarding the Turner Shoals Dam project, Mr. Odom said the county did not receive any bids during the May 9, 2024, solicitation. He said they then met with NCDEQ Dam Safety Division to discuss alternatives to the required design factors that increased the cost significantly. NCDEQ recommended delaying further action until after their August 2024 annual meeting, where dam safety guidelines would be discussed. During that meeting, NCDEQ approved changes that could lower design flood loading requirements.

Mr. Odom said the reduced design factors will make the project more feasible and attractive to potential bidders. However, the changes necessitate revisions to the design plans, which will increase GEI's contract by $80,000 but are expected to reduce construction costs by several million dollars. Once the revised plans are completed and approved by NCDEQ, the bidding process will commence again.

Vice-chair Melton moved to approve change order 1 for engineering services for the Turner Shoals Dam project, increasing GEI's contract by $80,000, seconded by Commissioner Overholt, and the motion carried unanimously.

D. Polk County Schools - Director of Operations, Brandon Schweitzer.

Dr. Schweitzer presented the pre-Helene capital investments for approval, and the transfer request from the sales tax set-aside fund.

1. Public School Building Repair and Renovations Fund, NC Education Lottery totaling $93,976.
2. Public School Building Capital Fund, NC Education Lottery, totaling $153,948.
3. Request a transfer of $67,007 from the County's Capital Reserve Account to reimburse Polk County Schools for capital expenses paid this year.

Commissioner Overholt moved to approve the $93,976 PSBRRF request, seconded by Commissioner Beiler, and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Overholt moved to approve the $153,948 PSBCF request, seconded by Commissioner Moore, and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Beiler moved to approve the transfer and budget amendment for $67,007, seconded by Commissioner Moore, and the motion carried unanimously.

E. Uniform Schedule of Values, Standards, and Rules for the 2025 County-Wide Revaluation – Melissa O'Loughlin, Tax Administrator.

Mrs. O'Loughlin requested the adoption of the schedule of values in preparation for the January 1, 2025 revaluation. She said the public hearing to receive public comment on the submission of the proposed uniform schedule of values, standards, and rules to be used in appraising real property in Polk County at its true value and present-use value was held on October 7, 2024. She also stated that the revaluation will reflect the property value as of January 1, 2025. She encouraged anyone whose property was damaged by Hurricane Helene to contact the Tax Department or go to the Polk County website to report their damage.

Commissioner Moore moved to adopt the Uniform Schedule of Values, Standards, and Rules for the 2025 County-Wide Revaluation, seconded by Commissioner Overholt, and the motion carried unanimously.

F. Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program (StRAP) Grant Extension - Kelly Gay, Soil & Water Director.

Ms. Gay presented the grant extension request for the first StRAP grant we received and said that Polk County was recently approved to receive an additional StRAP grant for $85,714.

Commissioner Beiler moved to approve the grant extension for StRAP 1 and to accept the funding for StRAP 2, seconded by Commissioner Overholt, and the motion carried unanimously.

G. US Cellular Tower, Lease Approval - Manager Pittman.

Manager Pittman presented the information to lease land at the Transfer Station for a cell tower.

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

9. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items.

There were two public comments.

10. Adjournment

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

Attest:

Kristy Tipton / CH

Kristy Tipton
Clerk to the Board

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Myron Yoder

Myron Yoder
Chair