POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular & Organizational Meeting
December 2, 2024 - 5:00 PM
Bryant H. Womack Justice & Administration Building
40 Courthouse Street
Columbus, NC 28722
MINUTES

Regular Meeting - Present: Chair Yoder, Commissioner Beiler, Commissioner Moore, and Commissioner Overholt. Also in attendance were County Manager Pittman, County Attorney Berg, Acting Clerk to the Board High, media, and citizens.
Absent: Vice-Chair Melton.

1. Call to Order - Chairman Yoder.

   Commissioner Beiler moved to appoint Angé High as the temporary acting Clerk, seconded by Commissioner Overholt, and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Invocation - Chairman Yoder.

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3. Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Beiler.

4. Approval of Agenda

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

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

5. Consent Agenda

   A. Vaya Health Quarterly Financial Report for the period ending September 30, 2024.

   B. Annual Examination and approval of Public Official Bonds as required by § 58-72-20. (Bonds were available for review in the County Manager's Office).

   Commissioner Overholt moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Moore, and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items – There was one public comment.

7. Regular Agenda Items

   A. Polk County 2024 Annual Financial Report - Kang Moua, Martin Starnes & Associates PA, presented the annual financial information and said there were no findings in the audit. A copy of the presentation is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes.

B. <u>County Employee Compensatory Time Discussion & Budget Amendment</u>— Manager Pittman requested a budget amendment to appropriate fund balance to pay out accrued compensatory time as of November 25, 2024, in an amount not to exceed $173,000.

Commissioner Beiler moved to appropriate fund balance for a comp-time payout not to exceed $173,000, seconded by Commissioner Moore, and the motion carried unanimously.

C. <u>Recruitment and Retention Resolution Extension</u> - Manager Pittman requested an extension to the resolution through June 30, 2025.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the extension of the Recruitment and Retention Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Beiler, and the motion carried unanimously.

D. <u>Hurricane Helene Storm Recovery Update - Bridge Construction Contract Discussion/Approval - Agreement for Professional Services with Rostan Solutions, LLC –</u> Bobby Arledge, Emergency Management Director, gave a debris removal update. He said crews continue to pick up debris from roadways throughout the County, and FEMA and the Army Corps of Engineers have begun assessing waterway debris. He said Green River Cove, one of the hardest hit areas, is over 50% completed. He thanked Arleace Green, the public affairs specialist with the US Small Business Administration, for sharing the low-interest loan information for homeowners, businesses, and non-profits during citizen comments. He said the FEMA Survivor Assistance Team has also been making site visits and has already made over 9,900 contacts with homeowners, faith-based organizations, community groups, and businesses throughout the county to ensure everyone knows all the assistance options available to them.

Mr. Arledge said repairing a private bridge would typically not be a county issue, but it has become a public safety issue with fifteen homes being unreachable. He said he received estimates for the repairs on the Autumn Lane bridge, and the lowest bidder was the Wright Brothers, at $158,550. He said they would also complete the work within one week.

Manager Pittman said FEMA cannot guarantee reimbursement; however, they are confident it will be. He said that he would recommend approving the low-bidder contract due to the emergent circumstances.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the $158,500 contract with Wright Brothers to repair the Autumn Lane bridge and give the County Manager signatory authority, seconded by Commissioner Overholt, and the motion carried unanimously.

Manager Pittman said our Council of Government (COG) Foothills Regional Commission requested proposals for consultants to assist their members with all the extra work and details a natural disaster brings to a community. He said they selected three firms, and Rostan was one of them. He said this is a reimbursable expense, but the exact amount is unknown as it is based on expenditures.

He requested approval of a professional services agreement with Rostan Solutions to assist with FEMA and other grant reimbursements, as this is very complex and something Polk County has never endured before.

Commissioner Beiler moved to approve the professional services agreement with Rostan Solutions, and give the County Manager signatory authority, seconded by Commissioner Overholt, and the motion carried unanimously.

Representative Jake Johnson was in attendance. He provided a brief update on state allocations, FEMA coordination, and regulatory changes for Hurricane Helene's recovery.

E. Recognition of Outgoing Commissioner Overholt

Commissioner Overholt said it had been his honor to serve the citizens over the past four years and his pleasure to work with this Board, County Manager, Attorney, and staff.

Chair Yoder and the Commissioners presented Commissioner Overholt with a plaque commemorating his four years of service to the citizens of Polk County.

8. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items - There were two public comments.

9. Volunteer Board Applications

   A. One Application for Consideration - Dianne Davis, Agricultural Advisory Board.

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

10. Commissioner Comments—The Commissioners thanked everyone for attending the meeting. They again expressed their appreciation for Commissioner Overholt and wished him well in his future endeavors.

11. Five Minute Recess – Chair Yoder called a five minute recess.

12. Incoming Board Swearing In Ceremony

    B. Oath of Office – County Commissioners. North Carolina State Representative Jake Johnson administered the oaths of office for Paul "Little" Beiler and Myron Yoder. North Carolina District Court Judge Abe Hudson administered the oath of office for Jennifer Hargett.

13. Five-Minute Recess - The Board continued the meeting after the newly elected commissioners were sworn in.

    Organizational Meeting - Present: Commissioner Yoder, Commissioner Beiler, Commissioner Moore, and Commissioner Hargett. Also in attendance were County Manager Pittman, County Attorney Berg, Clerk to the Board High, media, and citizens. Absent: Vice-Chair Melton.

14. Call to Order of the Organizational Meeting – Attorney Berg

    A. Election of Chair - Attorney Berg.
    Ms. Berg opened the floor for nominations for Chair of the Board. Commissioner Moore nominated Commissioner Yoder. Ms. Berg asked if there were any more nominations. Having none, she closed nominations. Commissioner Beiler gave Commissioner Yoder a second to serve as Chair, and the vote was unanimous.

    B. Election of Vice-Chair - Attorney Berg.
    Ms. Berg opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chair of the Board. Commissioner Beiler nominated Commissioner Moore. Ms. Berg asked if there were more nominations, and Commissioner Hargett nominated Commissioner Beiler. Ms. Berg asked for a second to one of the nominations, and Chair Yoder gave a second for Commissioner Moore to serve as Vice-Chair, and the vote was unanimous.

15. Organizational Agenda Items – Chair Yoder led the discussion of each item.

    A. Polk County Code of Ethics.
    Vice-Chair Moore moved to approve the code of ethics as presented, seconded by Commissioner Beiler, and the motion carried unanimously.

    B. Meeting Procedures and Rules of Debate.
    Commissioner Beiler moved to approve the meeting procedures and rules of debate as presented, seconded by Vice-Chair Moore, and the motion carried unanimously.

    C. Commissioner Appointments to Boards.
    Vice–Chair Moore moved to approve the Commissioner Board appointments as presented, seconded by Commissioner Hargett, and the motion carried unanimously.

D. Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting Schedule January 2025 through December 2025 and Resolution.

Commissioner Beiler moved to approve the 2025 Board of Commissioners' meeting schedule and resolution, seconded by Commissioner Hargett, and the motion carried unanimously.

16. Commissioner Comments - The Board again thanked everyone in attendance for coming to the meeting. They welcomed the new Board members and said they look forward to serving all the citizens of the county.

17. Adjournment – Vice-Chair Moore moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Beiler, and the motion carried unanimously.

Attest:	POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Angé High	Myron Yoder
Angé High Acting Clerk to the Board	Myron Yoder Chair