POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
January 17, 2023 - 5:00 PM
R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice - Womack Building Columbus, NC
Columbus, NC
MINUTES

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

1. Call to Order - Chairman Melton.

2. Invocation - Commissioner Beiler.

3. Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Overholt.

4. Approval of Agenda.

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

   Attorney Berg requested that Cooperative Extension Personnel - Scott Wellborn be added to the agenda to follow agenda item 7. Commissioner Moore requested that item E from the Consent Agenda be moved to the regular agenda to follow item 12.
   Vice-Chairman Yoder moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Consent Agenda - Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

   A. Approval of December 19, 2022 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes.

   B. Tax refund requests for December, 2022 in the amount of $1,131.84.

   C. Tax refund requests through January 10, 2023 in the amount of $530.13.

   D. Sheriffs Department Monthly Activity Report for October, November, and December 2022.

   E. Budget Amendment in the amount of $41,687 to transfer two current year part time positions to two full time positions and increase additional benefit needs with school shared position funds. (These positions were approved at the 12.19.2022 BOC Meeting.)

   Commissioner Moore moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Vice-Chairman Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items.

There was one citizen comment on Agenda Items.

7. Cooperative Extension 4-H Assistant - Scott Wellborn, Director.

Scott Wellborn, Director stated that the 4-H program is very popular and they are having to turn children away and are in need of additional help. He said the 4-H/Youth Foundation has agreed to fund a part-time position for the rest of this Fiscal year and next, at no cost to the county, to see how the position overall affects the program.

Commissioner Overholt moved to approve the regular part-time temporary grant-funded position, seconded by Vice-Chairman Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Approval of Budget Amendment in the amount of $150,000 to appropriate fund balance to transfer to the Capital Project Fund for the renovation of the Elections Building and to approve the Project Budget Ordinance.

Commissioner Moore requested this item be moved from the Consent Agenda for discussion. He asked Ange' High, the Projects, Services, and Public Information Director, if the $150,000 would be enough to complete the renovation project. Mrs. High stated this is the initial request to get the project started with the priority of getting the Board of Election offices moved into the interior section of the building. She said there might be future funding requests to complete other areas of the building for county use and for any unanticipated issues that may arise.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the Budget Amendment in the amount of $150,000 to appropriate fund balance to transfer to the Capital Project Fund and to approve the Project Budget Ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

9. Recommendation for 2025 Revaluation Contract - Melissa O'Loughlin, Tax Administrator.

Melissa O'Laughlin, Tax Administrator, presented the information. She recommended renewing the contract with Wampler - Eanes Appraisal Group, which has completed the past two revaluations, 2017 and 2021. She said Wampler - Eanes has previous experience and knowledge from working in Polk County. They are familiar with county staff, are professional with the citizens, and there have been no appeals during the past two revaluations. She said if approved, the 2025 revaluation process would begin in July 2023.

Commissioner Beiler moved to approve the contract with Wampler-Eanes Appraisal Group that will not exceed $278,525, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

10. Health and Human Services (HHSA) request to convert two part-time regular positions to one full-time temporary position - Josh Kennedy, HHSA Director.

Mr. Kennedy requested approval to convert two existing part-time regular positions in the center center to one full-time regular temporary social work position. He explained the request is due to the increase in adult services protective cases, increased guardianship cases, and due to the monitoring of long term care facilities. He stated that no new county dollars would be needed this year or going forward.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the budget amendment to transfer $23,155 for the removal of two current part-time positions and to add one new full-time temporary position., seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.

11. LUCAS Chest Compression System Update - Bobby Arledge, Emergency Management Director.

Mr. Arledge said that the ten LUCAS Devices were received in October, and since that time the devices have been used a total of eight times, and one of those times the patient was successfully resuscitated. He went on to say that during the most recent chiefs' meeting, they all expressed their thanks to the Commissioners for supplying them with these devices.

12. Polk County Public Libraries Policy Update - Marcie Dowling, Director.

Marcie Dowling gave a presentation of the updates to the Library over the past year, a copy of which is hereby incorporated into these minutes. She also presented the Circulation Policy and the Gifts and Donations Policy which both have some minor updates which have already been approved by the Library Board, and are now seeking the Commissioner's approval.

Commissioner Overholt moved to approve the policies, seconded by Vice-Chairman Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

13. Appropriate fund balance in the amount of $791,859 for the purchase of property located at 2881 East Hwy 108 - Manager Pittman.

Attorney Berg requested approval of a budget amendment for $791,859 to purchase the property located at 2881 Hwy 108 East. She said some of the Health and Human Services Agency offices and the Forestry Services office would be relocating to this property, and there is the potential for other future uses.

Vice-Chairman Yoder moved to approve the Budget Amendment in the amount of $791,859, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

14. Lease Agreement for Hwy 108 Property - Attorney Berg.

Attorney Berg asked for approval of a Hold Over Lease between Polk County and Jay Harden, Jay's Landscaping. The lease is to allow Mr. Harden additional time to relocate equipment that is currently being parked at the Hwy 108 property.

Commissioner Overholt moved to approve lease agreement, seconded by Vice-Chairman Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

15. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items.

There was one citizen comment on Non-Agenda Items.

16. Volunteer Board Application(s)

A. Applications for Consideration:

Board of Adjustment - Libby Morris.
Commissioner Overholt moved to appoint Libby Morris to the Board of Adjustment, seconded by Commissioner Moore, and the motion carried unanimously.

Sunny View Fire District Tax Commission - Chauncey Barber, Marshall McGuinn, Harold Bruce Odel.
Commissioner Moore moved to appoint the applicants as presented to the Sunny View Fire District Tax Commission, seconded by Commissioner Overholt, and the motion carried unanimously.

Planning Board - Warren Watson (Tryon Township); Libby Morris and Ray Gasperson (Green Creek Township); Don Hoffman and Chris Jones (Columbus Township) Anyone not appointed to their township vacancy (Alternate At-Large).
Commissioner Beiler moved to appoint Warren Watson as the Tryon Township representative; Libby Morris as the Green Creek Township representative; Don Hoffman as the Columbus Township representative; and Chris Jones as the Alternate at-large representative for the Planning Board, seconded by Vice-Chairman Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

17. Chairman and Commissioner Comment(s)

The Commissioners each expressed their condolences to the family of Leah Justice who passed away last week. They then thanked the citizens for attending the meeting.

18. Closed Session

A. Motion to go into closed session for the purpose of attorney client privilege.

Commissioner Moore moved to go into Closed Session for the purpose of attorney-client privilege, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion to return to open session.

Commissioner Overholt moved to return to open session, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Yoder moved to approve and participate in the recent national opioid settlement proposals with CVS, Walgreens, Walmart, Teva and Allergan as advised by Attorney Berg, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.

19. Adjournment

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

Attest:

Kristy A. Tipton

Kristy A Tipton
Clerk to the Board

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tommy W. Melton

Tommy W. Melton
Chairman