POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
March 20, 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, and Commissioner Overholt. Also in attendance were Manager Pittman, Attorney Berg, Clerk to the Board Tipton, media, and citizens. Commissioner Moore was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Beiler and Foothills Academy Students.

1. Public Hearing

   A. Call the Public Hearing to Order - Chairman Melton. The purpose of the public hearing was to take public comment on the proposed Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP). The public hearing was properly advertised in the Tryon Daily Bulletin.

   Alan Toney, Foothills Regional Commission introduced Domonique Boyd and John (Andy) Bailey, NCDOT. Mr. Boyd and Mr. Bailey jointly presented the Comprehensive Transportation Plan presentation. A copy of the presentation is hereby incorporated into these minutes for reference.

   B. Citizen Comments.

   There were sixteen citizen comments during the Public Hearing.

   C. Commissioner Comments.

   The Commissioners discussed the pros and cons of the proposed CTP Plan and sought clarification from Mr. Toney. The Commissioners all agreed the new process giving them authority to approve or deny projects from moving forward, makes them much more comfortable with the plan, as there are parts of the plan that they do not agree with.

   D. Adjourn Public Hearing.

   Commissioner Overholt moved to adjourn the Public Hearing, seconded by Vice-Chairman Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.
   Absent: Moore

2. Call to Order - Chairman Melton.

3. Invocation - Vice-Chairman Yoder.

4. Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Beiler and Foothills Academy Students.

5. Approval of Agenda

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

   Commissioner Overholt moved to amend the agenda to allow the Foothills Academy Students to lead the Pledge of Allegiance prior to the Public Hearing, seconded by Vice-Chairman Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.
   Absent: Moore

6. Consent Agenda - Motion to approve Consent Agenda.

   A. Approval of March 6, 2023 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes.

   B. Tax Refund Requests totaling $517.94.

   C. Sheriffs Department Monthly Activity Report for February 2023.

   D. Declare IT equipment as surplus to be sold electronically through Govdeals.

   E. Amend the Polk County High School HVAC Project Budget Ordinance in the amount of $1,840 due to the contract being over the loan amount. (Overage paid with sales tax refunded from the project.)

   Commissioner Beiler moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Vice-Chairman Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.
   Absent: Moore

7. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items.

   There were three comments on agenda items.

8. St. Luke's Hospital Update - Michelle Fortune, Chief Executive Officer.

   Chairman Melton asked that this item be added to the agenda. Ms. Fortune gave a presentation detailing the updates at St. Luke's Hospital over the past year and the importance/impact of having St. Luke's Hospital in our county.

9. Resolution in support of a Workforce Facility and Update - Margaret H. Annunziata, Ed.D. President, Isothermal Community College

   Ms. Annunziata updated the Board on Isothermal Community College (ICC), and announced the ICC Polk Center is now officially being recognized as the ICC Polk Campus. she then presented the Workforce Facility Resolution for consideration.

   Commissioner Overholt moved to adopt the Resolution is support of a Workforce Facility, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

Absent: Moore

10. Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Retiring K-9 Officer, Jumper - Jeff Ramsey, Chief Deputy.

Sheriff Wright said that Officer Thomas is relocating and requested to purchase K-9 Jumper due to the bond they had formed over the past several years. He presented the resolution and purchase agreement for consideration.

Vice-Chairman Yoder moved to adopt the Resolution Authorizing the sale of K-9 Jumper, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.
Absent: Moore

Commissioner Overholt moved to approve the purchase agreement, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.
Absent: Moore

11. Foothills Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) - Alan Toney II, Foothills Regional Commission Community & Economic Development Director, Domonique Boyd, Project Manager NCDOT Transportation Planning Division and John A. (Andy) Bailey, Supervisor NCDOT Transportation Planning Division. (Information can be found attached to the Public Hearing Item.)

Commissioner Overholt said he would like to see a separate set of state requirements for rural roads. He explained you cannot remove a portion of the project from the CTP, its all or nothing. These proposed updates may not be brought forth for approval for many years, but he wanted to state publicly on the record, that maintenance is a priority. Vice-Chairman Yoder said the process to widen or modernize a road, must come before the Board for approval before it goes any further. He said this is a new process giving the Board of Commissioners control of projects before they go to the RPO for consideration. He said he too prioritizes maintenance.

Commissioner Overholt moved to affirm the 2017 Vision Plan and adopt the Comprehensive Transportation Plan, seconded by Vice-Chairman Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.
Absent: Moore

12. Temporary Construction Easement Agreement between Polk County, Jasmine LLC and Route 74 LLC - Attorney Berg.

Attorney Berg explained this easement was in place prior to being acquired by Polk County and is for a temporary construction easement which will expire on December 31, 2024.

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

13. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items.

There was one citizen comment on non-agenda items.
Absent: Moore

14. Volunteer Board Application(s)

A. Applications for Consideration: Fred Baisden - Isothermal Planning and Development Commission. David Scherping - Isothermal Community College Board of Trustees. John Joseph (JJ) Sauve - Fire Rescue Advisory Committee. Sanjay Patel, Ronnie Smith - Columbus Fire Department Tax Commission.

Commissioner Beiler moved to approve the applicants as presented, seconded by Vice-Chairman Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.
Absent: Moore

15. Chairman and Commissioner Comments.

The Commissioners thanked the public for attending.
Absent: Moore

16. Adjournment

Commissioner Beiler moved to adourn, seconded by Vice-Chairman Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.
Absent: Moore

Attest:

Kristy A. Tipton

Kristy A Tipton
Clerk to the Board

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tommy W. Melton

Tommy W. Melton
Chairman