

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Budget Work Session, Budget Public Hearing, and Regular Meeting
June 5, 2023 - 5:00 PM
R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice - Womack Building
Columbus, NC
MINUTES

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

1. Budget Work Session

A. Call to Order the Budget Work Session - Chairman Melton.

Chairman Melton called the Budget Work Session to order.

B. Budget Discussion

Bobby Arledge, Emergency Management Director, presented the answers to questions that the Commissioners had requested further clarification regarding Columbus's Fire Department budget request. After discussion, the consensus of the Board was to change the proposed budget increase to .0075 for the Columbus Fire Department.

C. Adjourn Budget Work Session

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

2. Public Hearing on the Proposed Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget.

A. Call to Order the Public Hearing - Chairman Melton. The purpose of the hearing was to receive public comment on the proposed FY 2023/24 budget. The public hearing was properly advertised. A copy of the County Manager's recommended budget for FY 23/24 was available for review on the County website, www.polknc.org, or in the County Manager's Office located at 40 Courthouse St., Columbus.

B. Citizen Comments.

There was one citizen comment in reference to Columbus Fire Department budget request.

There was a five minute recess prior to the Regular Meeting.

C. Adjourn Public Hearing.

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

Absent: Overholt

3. Call to Order the Regular Meeting - Chairman Melton.

4. Invocation - Vice-Chairman Yoder.

5. Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Beiler.

6. Approval of Agenda

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

Vice-Chairman Yoder moved to add Resolution in Opposition to House Bill 66 (=72), Board of Education Election as agenda item 6B, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

Absent: Overholt

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

Absent: Overholt

B. Resolution in Opposition to House Bill 66 (=72), Board of Education Elections

Chairman Melton read the proposed Resolution opposing a partisan school board election method in Polk County.

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

Absent: Overholt

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

A. July 2023 - December 2023 Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting Schedule and Resolution.

B. Approval of May 15, 2023 Budget Work Session Minutes.

C. Approval of May 15, 2023 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes.

D. Request to schedule Work Session on July 24, 2023 at 5:00 pm for proposed zoning ordinance amendments.

E. Tax Refund Request in the amount of \$10,459.89.

F. Annual NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Grant Submission Pre-Application for FY 2025.

G. Approval of two Budget Amendments - DSS \$70,000 decrease excess budget from group health insurance to purchase two vehicles; Grant Fund

- Bulldog \$75,000 reimbursement to County to return to Dept. of Commerce for Bulldog grant.

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

Absent: Overholt

8. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items.

There were none.

9. Recognition of Governor's Volunteer Service Award Recipients - Ronette Dill, Polk County Schools Grants & Services Coordinator.

Ronnette Dill served as Polk County's coordinator for the 2023 Governor's Volunteer Service Award. The award was created in the Office of the Governor in 1979 and honors people who have shown concern and compassion for their neighbors by making a significant contribution to their community through volunteer service. In May, the North Carolina Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service announced the 2023 Governor's Volunteer Service Award recipients and three of them were from Polk County. Those recipients were Sofia Lilly, nominated by Cathey C. Stoney; Don Dicey, nominated by Pam Torlina; and Dr. Warren J. Carson, nominated by Dr. Joseph Fox. Dr. Carson was chosen to also receive the Governor's Medallion Award for volunteerism and was recognized in a special ceremony in Raleigh on May 18th. All recipients and those who nominated them were present and recognized.

10. Polk County Veterans Services - Gina Cashion, Veterans Services Officer.

Gina Cashion, Veterans Affairs Officer said there will be a Veterans Benefits Live, VA in My Town event on June 16th at Polk County High School from 9 am to 2 pm. Any Veteran or survivor interested in filing a claim for VA disability compensation - to include the new Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act benefits - survivor's pension, Veteran Readiness, and Employment services, or needing assistance with an existing VA claim is encouraged to attend. Representatives from the Winston-Salem VA Regional Office will meet face-to-face with Veterans and survivors to address questions and concerns.

Attendees can file a claim for compensation, pension, or other VA-related benefits, submit evidence, and speak to a VA claims processor about existing claims all on the same day.

In addition to information on the VA disability claims process, experts will be on hand from the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to assist with VA healthcare eligibility and enrollment, and VHA clinicians will be available to conduct onsite Toxic Exposure Screenings. Vet Center counselors will be onsite to assist with bereavement, military sexual trauma, substance abuse, and mental health screening.

11. Resolution in support of a Housing Study for Polk County - Cathy Ruth, Planning/Economic Development Director and Alan Toney, Community &

Economic Development Director, Foothills Regional Commission.

Alan Toney, Community & Economic Development Director, Foothills Regional Commission said one of the issues Western North Carolina has faced over the last few years is a true housing crisis. He presented a proposed resolution for approval to conduct a housing study by the Foothills Regional Council of Government. This study, funded by The Dogwood Trust, will project the long-term need pertaining to housing, based on historical growth trends.

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

Absent: Overholt

12. Interlocal Agreement between City of Saluda and Polk County for Fire Safety Services - Bobby Arledge, Emergency Management Director.

Mr. Arledge said the Interlocal Agreement is to allow Polk County to conduct fire inspections within the City of Saluda for a fee of \$50 per inspection. A similar agreement from the Town of Columbus will be forthcoming. The City of Saluda has already approved the agreement. Polk County and the Town of Tryon finalized their agreement in April.

Commissioner Beiler moved to approve the interlocal agreement with Saluda as presented, seconded by Vice-Chairman Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

Absent: Overholt

13. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items.

There was one citizen comment on non-agenda items.

14. Volunteer Board Application(s)

A. Applications for Consideration: D. Marche Pittman, Isothermal Community College Board of Trustees. Rick Delfosse - Columbus Fire District Tax Commission.

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

Absent: Overholt

15. Chairman and Commissioner Comments.

The Commissioners collectively thanked the public for attending the meeting, all staff involved in the budget process, as well as a special thanks to all public safety personnel.

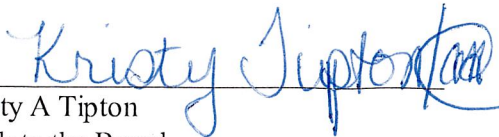
16. Adjournment

Commissioner Moore moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Vice-Chairman Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

Absent: Overholt

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS



Kristy A Tipton
Clerk to the Board



Tommy W. Melton
Chairman



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