POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Agenda
February 21, 2022 - 5:00 PM
R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice - Womack Building Columbus, NC
Columbus, NC
MINUTES

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

1. Call to Order - Chairman Melton.

2. Invocation - Commissioner Yoder

3. Pledge of Allegiance - Vice-Chairman Beiler

4. Approval of Agenda

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

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

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

   A. February 7, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

   B. Formal approval of fiscal year 2022 audit contract with Martin Starnes and Associates, proposal accepted at the March 15, 2021 Polk County Board of Commissioners meeting.

   C. Declare five Sheriff Department vehicles as surplus to be sold electronically through Govdeals.

   D. Declare office chairs and metal detectors as surplus to be sold electronically through Govdeals.

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

6. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items.

   There were four citizen comments on agenda items.

7. North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), Hwy 9 and Landrum Rd Intersection Update - Steve Williams, NCDOT Division Planning Engineer.

Steve Williams, Division Engineer with NCDOT led the discussion. Mr. Williams presented the Board with the NCDOT plan for Hwy 9 and Landrum Road Intersection which includes adding rumble strips, replacing the current yellow caution lights with flashing red lights, and making the intersection a four-way stop. He reported that the work is set two begin in approximately two weeks. He also presented the Foothills Regional conceptual design of a roundabout for this location, depending upon funding and project scoring.

8. Green River Sand and Gravel Project Discussion - Warren Eadus, President Quible & Associates, PC.

Warren Eadus, President at Quible & Associates reported to the Board they are ready to move forward and have written a draft contract with a ten-year term. He explained the Board has the option to change the term. But, an increase in the term may bring forth more bids. After discussion and recommendations from both Manager Pittman and Attorney Berg, the consensus of the Board is to proceed with a ten-year contract with yearly reviews. At the end of the first ten-year period, the County and the awarded contractor will have the opportunity to renew and or renegotiate the contract for an additional ten years.

9. Cooperative Extension Construction Project - Scott Welborn, County Extension Director.

Scott Welborn, County Extension Director reported to the Board the need to add additional space to their current building due to the success of their 4H program and also the need for constructing a barn for their livestock program. He stated that the 4H Foundation will invest and fully fund the projects and will present the information at the next Commissioners Meeting.

10. Resolution to Modify the Polk County Economic Tourism Development Commission (ETDC) - Cathy Ruth, Planning and Economic Development Director.

Cathy Ruth, County Planner presented the Board with a draft resolution to modify the current ETDC Resolution. The change will align the board with statutory requirements and will now have nine regular voting members.

Commissioner Yoder moved to adopt the modified Polk County Economic Tourism Development Commission Resolution, seconded by Vice-Chairman Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

11. Sheriff Department Budget Amendment to increase Capital and Uniform Budget for equipment and uniform needs - Jeff Ramsey, Chief Deputy

Jeff Ramsey, Chief Deputy requested approval of a Budget Amendment to increase capital using salaries to cover the cost of equipment and uniform needs.
Chairman confirmed that no new funding was being awarded.
Commissioner Moore moved to approve the Budget Amendment in the amount of $75,000, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried

12. Annual Revisions to Human Resource Policy - Tommy Oakman, Human Resource Officer.

Tommy Oakman, Human Resource Officer presented his annual review with recommended amendments to the Human Resource Policy. He stated there was one additional change to the draft provided in Section 2.15.3.3 (A) Special Circumstance Appreciation Bonus. The wording in the last sentence was changed to say, *The lump sum payment is made as regular pay.*

Commissioner Overholt moved to approve the revisions to the Human Resource Policy as amended, seconded by Commissioner Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

13. Employee Special Circumstance Appreciation Bonus - Manager Pittman.

Manager Pittman requested that the county fund a one-time bonus for all of the employees in the amount of one thousand dollars ($1,000) for full-time and five hundred dollars ($500) for part-time regular employees. During the past two years, the county employees have faced difficult times and handled all of those situations with professionalism and grace. He said that in a world where employees are hard to find, this one-time bonus will go a long way to demonstrate our appreciation to them. He went on to say it is important to point out that neither he nor the Commissioners will be receiving this bonus.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the Budget Amendment that appropriated fund balance in the amount of $249,161, seconded by Vice-Chairman Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

14. Amendments based on the final rule for the American Rescue Plan - Sandra Hughes, Finance Director.

Sandara Hughes, Finance Director presented the Board with information on the American Rescue Plan. She said The Final Rule which was released in January 2022, will go into effect on April 1, 2022, and the county can choose to take advantage of the Final Rule's new flexibilities and simplifications now, ahead of the effective date. She explained The Final Rule now gives local governments the ability to use the standard allowance (not to exceed $10M) of "lost revenue" growth as an option, (even without an actual loss) which allows Polk County to spend the funds for general government services, which includes salaries and benefits, freeing other county funds (budgeted funds) for planned one-time use that fall under State requirements, not Federal. She went on to say that choosing this option allows us to have greater flexibility and maximize the benefit of these one-time monies while also minimizing the compliance burden with the least restrictions. She said the County Auditors, the County Attorney, the NCACC, and the School of Government were consulted and agreed with this course of action making this the highest and best use of these funds. Commissioner Moore asked Mrs. Hughes to clarify that this is an acceptable option approved by the State and other agencies, and she stated unanimously.

that is correct.

Commissioner Yoder moved to appropriate General Fund Balance for personnel and equipment previously funded using American Rescue Plan funds, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion .

Commissioner Moore moved to appropriate General Fund Balance for the 911 Project Grant match, seconded by Vice-Chairman Beiler and the motion .

Vice-Chairman Beiler moved to amend the 911 Project Budget Ordinance to use General Funds versus using American Rescue Plan funds, seconded by Commissioner Yoder and the motion .

Commissioner Overholt moved to re-appropriate American Rescue Plan funds back to 7/1/2021 detail, seconded by Vice-Chairman Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

15. Budget Calendar for fiscal year 2022/2023 - Sandra Hughes, Finance Director.

Manager Pittman presented the proposed Budget Calendar for the 2022/2023 fiscal year.

Commissioner Overholt moved to approve the Budget Calendar for the 2022/2023 fiscal year, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

16. Volunteer Board Application(s)

A. The following applications were received for consideration to serve on a Polk County Volunteer Board: Economic Tourism Development Commission - Marc Blazar, Tracey Daniels, Moriah Dean, Michelle Fortune, Michael Kleiner, Paul Marion, Ambrose Mills, Steve Modlin, Cindy Viehman.

Commissioner Yoder moved to appoint Steve Modlin, Tracey Daniels, and Marc Blazar to a three-year term; Paul Marion, Cindy Viehman, and Michelle Fortune to a two-year term; and Moriah Dean, Michael Kleiner, and Ambrose Mills to a one year term on the Economic Tourism Advisory Board, seconded by Vice-Chairman Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

17. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items.

There were none.

18. Chairman and Commissioner Comments.

The Commissioner thanked everyone for coming out, the presenters, and the discussions on agenda items.

19. Adjournment

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

Attest: POLK COUNTY BOARD OF

COMMISSIONERS

Kristy A. Tipton

Kristy A Tipton
Clerk to the Board

Tommy W. Melton

Tommy W. Melton
Chairman