

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Agenda
March 7, 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 - Vice-Chairman Beiler
3. Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Overholt
4. Approval of Agenda

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

Vice-Chairman Beiler moved to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Commissioner Yoder and the motion .

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

A. February 21, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

B. Law Enforcement Facility Generator Project approved January 20, 2022 - budget amendment appropriating additional fund balance in the amount of \$71,758 due to increased cost of material.

C. Tax refund requests through February 28, 2022 in the amount of \$367.80.

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

6. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items.

There was one citizen comment on agenda items.

7. Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) Grant Program Discussion - Michael E. Tanck, Director of Government Affairs for Charter Communications

Michael E. Tanck, Director of Government Affairs for Charter Communications, presented the Board with an opportunity for partnership applying for the North Carolina GREAT Grant Program. If awarded, this partnership would bring fiber to up to 3,500 more homes and businesses in the unserved areas of Polk

County. In addition, the GREAT grant would expand the 1,350 locations already a part of the Rural Development Opportunity Fund (RDOF), making the total of 4850 potential unserved sites to receive broadband in Polk County. Mr. Tanck explained the GREAT grant is awarded based on a scoring matrix. He said if Polk County considered a \$250,000 match using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, they would receive an additional nine points and leverage a multi-million dollar broadband infrastructure investment in Polk County. Vice-Chairman Beiler asked for information on timing for both the RDOF and GREAT projects. Last year, Mr. Tanck said that when they were awarded the RDOF, the agreement included six years to complete, and the GREAT grant gives a two-year build-out window. He said Charter would complete both projects simultaneously, and the RDOF schedule would be moved up to be completed in the same two years as the GREAT. Vice-Chairman Beiler asked when we would know if we received the GREAT grant, and Mr. Tanck said he would expect award announcements to be given by July 2022. Manager Pittman said Polk County would entertain opportunities from other providers, if presented, with the primary goal of reaching the maximum number of unserved areas with broadband in Polk County.

Vice-Chairman Beiler moved to partner with Charter and move forward with the GREAT Grant process, seconded by Commissioner Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Cooperative Extension/4H Construction Project - Scott Welborn, County Extension Director.

Scott Welborn, County Extension Director presented the Board with two bids for the construction project to be funded by donations. He stated they would like to use Tryon Builders as they were the lowest bidders and they can do both the addition and the barn project simultaneously.

Commissioner Moore moved to accept the 4H donation in the amount of \$311,412, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Yoder moved to award the contract to Tryon Builders and approve the Project Budget Ordinance in the amount of \$311,412, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.

9. Sofia Lily NC Farm Bureau Achievement Award - Dawn Jordan, Agriculture Economic Development Director

Dawn Jordan, Agriculture Economic Development Director announced to the Board that Polk County farmer, Sofia Lily was the North Carolina Farm Bureau Achievement Award winner for 2022. She said the achievement recognizes farmers between 18 and 35 years of age who are involved in NCFB's Young Farmers and Ranchers Program and whose farm practices are judged to be the most outstanding in production efficiency, innovation, improvement, and environmental stewardship. She will move on to the national competition to vie for American Farm Bureau Federations' Achievement Award, which will be awarded during that organization's annual meeting January 6-11, 2023, in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

10. Sheriff Department Personnel Discussion - Sheriff Wright

Sheriff Wright requested that three part-time as-needed positions be changed to three part-time regular (19 hours or less) positions.

Vice-Chairman Beiler moved to modify three part-time as needed positions to three part-time regular (19 hours or less) positions effective this date, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.

11. North Carolina Department of Public Safety (NCDPS) Grant - Manager Pittman

Manager Pittman reported the Sheriff's Office received a directed grant from the state in the amount of \$84,269.66. He said these funds are to be used for expenses incurred by the offices from enforcing the law of this state and carrying out other duties set by law.

Commissioner Yoder moved to accept the NCDPS GRant in the amount of \$84, 269.66, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

12. Polk County Animal Control Ordinance Amendments - Patti Lovelace, Animal Control Officer

Patti Lovelace, Animal Control Officer presented the proposed changes to the Polk County Animal Control Ordinance to the Board. She also presented a new for approval to help in administering the appeals process.

Commissioner Overholt moved to approve the new form and the amendments to the Animal Control Ordinance, seconded by Vice-Chairman Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

13. EMS Updates - Michael Crater, EMS Director - Chairman Melton requested this item be added to the agenda.

Michael Crater, EMS Director gave an update on the EMS department explaining how his department has used grant funds (CARES and Fire House Subs) and donations to purchase equipment. A demonstration was given on using a new power lift stretcher that was purchased using these cost-saving measures resulting in fewer taxpayer dollars being spent.

14. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items.

There were none.

15. Chairman and Commissioner Comments.

The Commissioners thanked the presenters and also the public for attending the meeting.

16. Closed Session

A. Commissioner Moore moved to go into closed session for the purposes of attorney-client privilege and property acquisition, seconded by Vice-

Chairman Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

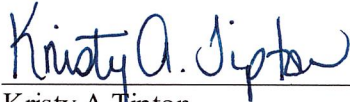
- B. Commissioner Yoder moved to return to open session, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.

17. Adjournment

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

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS



Kristy A Tipton
Clerk to the Board



Tommy W. Melton
Chairman