

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

1. Call to Order - Chairman Melton.
2. Invocation - Commissioner Overholt
3. Pledge of Allegiance - Chairman Melton
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 carried unanimously.

Absent: Moore

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

A. March 7, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes.

B. Sheriff Department Monthly Activity Report for February 2022.

C. Appoint Tommy Melton to the Polk County Regional Water Commission.

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

Absent: Moore

6. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items.

There were none.

7. R. Andrew Murray, District Attorney - This item was added at the request of Chairman Melton.

District Attorney Murray was present to formally introduce himself to the Board. He gave an overview of his education, military service, and career and how it led him to his current role as District Attorney. He expressed the need for a new courthouse in the future. He stated that the current courthouse does not provide adequate security or space for attorneys and clients, creating a difficult work

environment.

8. Legislative Updates - Representative Jake Johnson.

Representative Johnson gave a brief update on the state budget that was passed and how that money has been allocated. The Commissioners thanked him for his accessibility, hard work, and dedication to Polk County.

9. Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) Grant Program Discussion - Sarah Hardin, Vice President State Government Affairs, Windstream.

Sarah Hardin, Vice President of Government Affairs with Windstream, presented an opportunity for partnership. Windstream's GREAT grant application would bring more reliable broadband service to up to 700 more locations in the unserved areas of the county.

Commissioner Overholt moved to partner with Windstream up to \$50,000 and move forward with the GREAT Grant process, seconded by Commissioner Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

Absent: Moore

10. Polk County Farmers Market Update - Dawn Jordan, Agriculture Economic Development Director.

Dawn Jordan, Agriculture Economic Development Director reported to the Board that there are currently year-round Farmer's Markets in two locations in the County. She said they received a grant from the Polk County Community Foundation (PCCF) for a Saluda Market Manager and a new events coordinator to work with both markets. She thanked the PCCF for their support through the grant.

11. Proclamation to declare April 2022 as Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Month - Kim Wilson, Senior Program Manager Polk County Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services.

Kim Wilson, Senior Program Manager, Polk County Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services, reported to the Board that there were 356 reports made to Polk County Child Protective Services in 2021 and that there are currently 47 children in foster care. She requested that the Board proclaim April 2022 as Child Abuse and Neglect Awareness month to promote and bring awareness to the need to work together to improve the quality of life for all children and families.

Commissioner Yoder moved to adopt the proclamation, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.

Absent: Moore

12. 2021 Annual Sheriff's Report (The full report is available for review in the County Mangers office or www.polknc.org) - Sheriff Wright.

Sheriff Wright presented the Board with the Sheriff Department 2021 Annual Report, a copy of which is hereby incorporated into these minutes. The Sheriff reviewed the findings in the report and went on to thank all of the Sheriff's Department staff for their hard work and dedication. The Commissioners thanked the Sheriff and his staff for all they do and commended the department on their visibility in the County.

13. Polk County Schools Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund Grant Application - Aaron Greene, Superintendent Polk County Schools.

Aaron Greene, Polk County Schools Superintendent, briefed the Board on the Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund Grant that they have applied for to help fund the cost of building an addition to Tryon Elementary School. The addition is to move the Pre-k department to the main campus. Since the application was due on March 15, 2022, which was prior to the next regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners meeting, it was the consensus of the Commissioners to have the Chairman sign the grant application and to ratify it at this meeting.

Commissioner Overholt moved to ratify the signature of Chairman Melton on the application, seconded by Vice-Chairman Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

Absent: Moore

14. Volunteer Board Application(s)

A. The following applications were received for consideration to serve on a Polk County Volunteer Board: Equalization and Review Board - Kirk Bowden. Library Board of Trustees Recommendations - Cathleen Cullen, Summer Flynn, Jackson Rainer and Maryann Sloan.

Commissioner Yoder moved to appoint the applicants as presented, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.

Absent: Moore

15. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items.

There were none.

16. Chairman and Commissioner Comments.

The Commissioners thanked all of the presenters and the citizens that attended the meeting with special thanks to Sheriff Wright and Superintendent Greene.

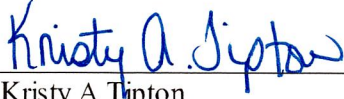
17. Adjournment

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

Absent: Moore

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS



Kristy A Tipton
Clerk to the Board



Tommy W. Melton
Chairman