

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Budget Work Session; Budget Public Hearing; and Regular Meeting
June 6, 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. Budget Work Session

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

B. Budget Discussion

Manager Pittman stated two changes are being requested to the recommended budget presented on May 9, 2022. First, an \$8,000 increase for MIS contract labor to assist with tax parcel mapping. The second is an additional \$92,130 to fund a new School Resource Officer position and other capital security upgrades for the schools as needed.

Superintendent Aaron Greene addressed the Board. He said the School Board does not openly discuss vulnerabilities or safety plans in detail. Yet, he wanted the public to know they are constantly working on safety and security improvements for the schools in the district. He said the SRO program is invaluable, and he thanked the Sheriff and SRO officers for their work not only to provide safety but for building relationships with the children. He said the additional SRO position would allow each school to have a full-time officer present if approved and stated the School Board would continue to apply for grant funding for the SRO program.

Sheriff Wright said it is an honor to work with the school system. He thanked the Board for their consideration in funding the new SRO position.

The Commissioners collectively expressed their gratitude to the Sheriff's Department, the SROs, and the Schools for working together on this critical issue for the community.

C. Commissioner Moore moved to adjourn the Budget Work Session, seconded by Commissioner Yoder and the motion carried unanimously

2. Public Hearing on the Proposed Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget.

A. Call to Order the Public Hearing - Chairman Melton. The purpose of the hearing is to receive public comment on the proposed FY 2022/23 budget. The public hearing was properly advertised. A copy of the County Manager's recommended budget for FY 22/23 is available for review on the County website, www.polknc.org, or in the County Manager's Office

located at 40 Courthouse St., Columbus.

County Manager Pittman thanked all the departments for working hard to make this an effective budget process. He said the only changes to the budget were discussed during the prior work session to increase MIS contracted labor and add a new SRO position and school capital safety needs.

B. Citizen Comments.

There were no citizen comments.

Commissioner Comments – Commissioner Yoder said Polk County has the 16th lowest tax rate out of 100 counties in the state and emphasized this budget does not include a tax increase.

Vice-Chairman Beiler said although the budget does not include a tax rate increase for County operations, some local fire departments have requested an increase for their fire tax.

Chairman Melton re-opened the floor for citizen comments, and at this time, two citizens spoke.

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

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

4. Invocation - Commissioner Overholt

5. Pledge of Allegiance - Chairman Melton

6. Approval of Agenda

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

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

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

A. Approval of May 16, 2022 Budget Work Session Minutes and May 16, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes.

B. Annual NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Grant Submission Pre-Application for FY 2024.

C. Budget Amendment to distribute additional funds as needed for increase in cost of health insurance as appropriated on 12/6/2021.

D. Tax refund requests through May 31, 2022 in the amount of \$787.39

Commissioner Yoder moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items.

There were none.

9. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) County Fund Plan for FY 2022/23 including membership - John J. Sauve', Chairman JCPC

John Sauve', Chairman of the JCPC presented a brief overview of the committee and the work they performed throughout the past year and he presented the Board with JCPC Annual Plan for FY 2022-2023, which includes the County Funding Plan and a proposed membership list for approval.

Vice-Chairman Beiler moved to approve the County Funding Plan and the members as presented, seconded by Commissioner Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

10. Soil and Water Stream Debris Removal Grant - Kelly Gay, Director Soil and Water

Kelly Gay, Director of Soil and Water, told the Board that Polk County had been awarded a Soil and Water Stream Debris Removal Grant for \$400,052 to clear debris from streams and other waterways. She said this is an excellent opportunity to address and decrease the impacts of flooding and erosion. Ms. Gay explained the State had given a tight timeline, and any areas to be considered to use the grant funds must be reported to them in detail by July 6, 2022. She said she is working with staff and engineers to designate potential sites, and she encouraged the public to contact her before July 6th with photographs of any areas they would like to be considered. Manager Pittman said sites would be prioritized based on a scoring matrix, and since this is a reimbursable grant, a grant project budget ordinance needs to be created.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the Grant Project Budget Ordinance in the amount of \$400,052, seconded by Commissioner Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

11. Community Health Assessment (CHA) Update - Josh Kennedy, Director Health and Human Services Agency

Josh Kennedy, HHSA Director presented the 2021 Community Health Assessment. The CHA showed an increase in the number of suicides, unintentional injuries resulting in death, and the lack of prenatal care. Using the combined information of the assessment, there were three key findings listed as health priorities for Polk County. They are Mental Health, Substance Misuse, and Prenatal Care. The presentation in its entirety is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes.

12. Polk County Recruitment and Retention Resolution Extension - Manager

Pittman.

Manager Pittman requested the extension of the Recruitment and Retention Resolution due to recruitment efforts not being as effective as hoped.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the extension of the Recruitment and Retention Resolution, seconded by Vice-Chairman Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

13. Volunteer Board Application(s)

- A. The following applications were received for consideration to serve on a Polk County Volunteer Board: Health and Human Services Agency Board Recommendations - Rick Covil, Chris Davis, Dr. George Kim, and Ellen Thomas.

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

14. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items.

15. Chairman and Commissioner Comments.

The Commssioners all thanked the citizens in attendance and the presenters. They specifically thanked Superintendent Greene, Sheriff Wright and the Finance Department for their hard work.

16. Closed Session

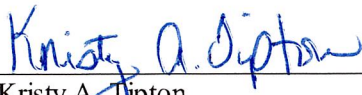
- A. Commissioner Yoder moved to go into closed session for the purposes of attorney client privilege, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously
- B. Commissioner Moore motioned to return to open session, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

17. Adjournment

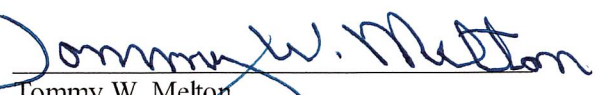
Vice-Chairman Beiler moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS



Kristy A. Tipton
Clerk to the Board



Tommy W. Melton
Chairman