

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
June 20, 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 - Chairman Melton
3. Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Moore
4. Approval of Agenda
 - A. Items may be added or removed at this time.

Vice-Chair Beiler requested removing Item 11, the Meals on Wheels Program to be discussed at a later date.
Commissioner Moore moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.
5. Consent Agenda - Motion to approve the Consent Agenda
 - A. Approval of June 6, 2022 Budget Work Session, Public Hearing, and Regular Meeting Minutes.
 - B. July 2022 - December 2022 Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting Schedule and Resolution.
 - C. Tax refund requests through June 14, 2022 in the amount of \$1,536.62
 - D. Budget Amendment in the amount of \$257,950 to finalize dredging of Lake Adger grant funded project from NC DEQ which required no County funding or match.
 - E. Budget Amendment in the amount of \$30,386 to transfer funding for approved over-time pay for 911 Communications.
 - F. Polk County EMS cancellation of uncollectible deceased patients debt in the amount of \$77,124.68 from Fiscal Years 2012 through 2021.
 - G. Schedule a public hearing for proposed new road name to be considered

on Monday, July 18, 2022 at 5:00 pm in the R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice.

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

6. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items.

There were none.

7. Polk County Budget Ordinance for the Fiscal Year 2022/23 – Budget work sessions were held on May 16, 2022, and June 6, 2022. The budget public hearing was held on June 6, 2022.

Vice-Chairman Beiler moved to adopt the tax levy and the Polk County Budget Ordinance for the Fiscal Year 2022/23, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Isothermal Community College Updates - Margaret H. Annunziata, Ed. D. President, Isothermal Community College

President Margaret Annunziata gave a presentation to the Board regarding the economic impact of Isothermal Community College, a copy of which is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes.

9. North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), Future Hwy 9 Project - Andrew Buchanan, Asst. Division Proposal Engineer NCDOT

Andrew Buchanan, NCDOT Engineer presented the proposed plans for a future project beginning in the fall of 2024 to widen NC 9 South between Hwy 108 E and Hwy 74. The plans include the addition of turning lanes for Polk Central Elementary School and the replacement of seven pipe crossings. He said preparations will begin this July with survey teams flagging the right of way. He gave a presentation discussing road closures and detour options, a copy of which is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes. It was the consensus of the Board for NCDOT to host another community meeting to bring this information to the attention of the public for a second time since the last meeting was held in 2019, to allow for public input on the project.

10. Schedule a public hearing for proposed Zoning Ordinance text amendment on Monday, July 18, 2022 at 5:00 pm in the R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice - Hannah Lynch, Zoning Administrator

Hannah Lynch, Zoning Administrator stated that a citizen had requested a Zoning Ordinance text amendment to update the definition of Schools: Vocational Schools, Business Schools, and Special Schools, and to include the use in the Neighborhood Commercial Zoning District. She said the Polk County Planning Board found the request is consistent with the Polk County 20/20 Vision Comprehensive Plan and recommends the change. Mrs. Lynch requested a Public Hearing for the Zoning Ordinance text amendment be scheduled for Monday, July 18th @ 5:00 pm prior to the BOC Regular Meeting and following the New Road Name Public Hearing on the same date.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve scheduling the Public Hearing as requested, seconded by Vice-Chairman Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

11. Meals on Wheels Program Discussion - Josh Kennedy, HHSA Director - Vice-Chairman Beiler requested this item be added to the agenda.

This item was removed from the agenda.

12. Proclamation to declare July 2022 as Parks and Recreation Month - Mickey Edwards, Parks, Recreation and Maintenance Director.

Mr. Edwards, PRM Director gave a brief overview of the Polk County Parks and Recreation programs and facilities and the impact they have on the citizens of Polk County. He requested designating July 2022 as Parks and Recreation Month. Chairman Melton read the proclamation.

Commissioner Overholt moved to declare July 2022 as Parks and Recreation Month, seconded by Vice-Chairman Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

13. Recreational Trail Program (RTP) Grant acceptance from the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (The complete grant contract is available for review in the County Manager's office.) - Mickey Edwards, Parks, Recreation and Maintenance Director.

Mickey Edwards, PMR Director reported the Recreation Department received a Recreational Trail Program Grant in the amount of \$99,999.76 which will provide funding to create 2.5 miles of mountain biking trails at the Little White Oak Mountain Trails. He said that the \$25,000 required grant match will be funded by a \$20,000 grant received from the Polk County Community Foundation and \$5,000 from the Parks and Recreation donations account.

Commissioner Moore moved to accept the award and approve the amended Little White Oak Mountain Grant Project Budget Ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

14. Consulting and Professional Services for the Streamflow Rehabilitation Assessment Program (StRAP) Grant - Kelly Gay, Director Soil and Water

Kelly Gay, Director of Soil and Water requested approval for Quible to provide consulting and professional services for the Streamflow Rehabilitation Assessment Program (StRAP). She said the proposal will be funded as part of the project they approved at the June 6, 2022 meeting.

Vice-Chairman Beiler moved to approve Quible for consulting and professional services during StRAP, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.

15. Capital Improvement Project in the amount of \$45,000 payable to the Town of Columbus for shared portion of paving Courthouse Street and Owens Street -

Manager Pittman.

Manager Pittman said the Town of Columbus requested the county's participation in their paving project for Owens, Courthouse, and Ward Streets. He said Owens and Courthouse Streets are used extensively by County employees, and the requested County funding is \$45,000.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the Capital Improvement Project in the amount of \$45,000, seconded by Vice-Chairman Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

16. Budget Amendments - Sandra Hughes, Finance Director will present any budget amendments, that may need approval for FY 2021-2022.

Sandra Hughes, Finance Director requested approval to create a Special Revenue Fund for the Opioid Settlement proceeds received. She said the funds are required to be kept in a separate special revenue fund and the budget for the revenue and expenditure are also within the new fund. She said the County received its first check in the amount of \$65,851.

Commissioner Overholt moved to approve the Special Revenue Fund, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

17. Volunteer Board Application(s)

- A. The following applications were received for consideration to serve on a Polk County Volunteer Board: Appearance Commission - Debra Torrence. Board of Adjustment - Halcott Green, Alexander Hagerty, Jr., Chris Jones, and Frank Monterisi. Fire and Rescue Advisory Committee (FRAC) - Cynthia Fowler. Harmon Field Board of Supervisors - Rick Covil. ICC Board of Trustees - Bill Miller.

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

18. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items.

There were three citizen comments on Non-Agenda Items.

19. Chairman and Commissioner Comments

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

20. Closed Session

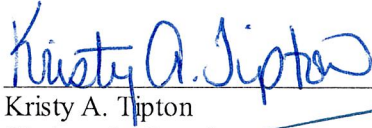
- A. Commissioner Overholt moved to go into closed session for the purpose of attorney client privilege, seconded by Commissioner Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.
- B. Commissioner Overholt moved to return to open session, seconded by Vice-Chairman Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

21. Adjournment

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

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS



Kristy A. Tipton
Clerk to the Board



Tommy W. Melton
Chairman