POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
August 15, 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.

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

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

   A. Approval of August 1, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes.

   B. Revert ownership back to Polk County Board of Education by Warranty Deed upon satisfying the Qualified Academy Zone Bond (QZAB) Loan.

   C. Schedule a public hearing to take public comments on the FY 2024 NCDOT Section 5311 (ADTAP), 5310, 5339, 5307, and applicable State Funding Community Transportation Grants for Tuesday, September 6, 2022 at 5:00 pm in the R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice, Womack Building.

   D. Vaya Health Quarterly Financial Reports for the period ending June 30,2022.

   E. Tax refund requests through August 9, 2022 in the amount of $134.56.

   F. Sheriff Department Monthly Activity Report for July 2022.

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

6. Resolution for Property Exchange between Polk County and Steps to

H.O.P.E., Inc. - Attorney Berg.

Attorney Berg presented the resolution to the Commissioners for approval. Chairman Melton invited Patty Otto, Steps to Hope Board of Directors, to speak. She gave a brief overview of the services provided to the public and said that with this property transfer, Steps to Hope would now have the space to expand its facilities to offer even more services.
Cliff Marr, Elections Director, then spoke. He said the property exchange will be beneficial to the elections office by creating a more secure, safe location that will be more convenient for Polk County voters, especially during early voting times.

Commissioner Yoder moved to approve the Resolution Authorizing Exchange of Property, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Sheriff Department Personnel, Part-time As Needed Position to Part-time Regular Position - Jeff Ramsey, Chief Deputy

Chief Deputy Jeff Ramsey sought the Board's approval to change a part-time as-needed position to a part-time regular position. He said this change would not affect this year's budget.

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

8. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Tom Raymond Fitness Trail and the ICC Hiking Trails - Mickey Edwards, Maintenance and Recreation Director and Laura Baird, Recreation Coordinator.

Laura Baird, the Recreation Coordinator, presented the MOU to the Board. She said it is a formalized agreement between Polk County, St. Luke's Hospital, and St. Luke's Hospital Foundation for the management, maintenance, and oversight of the renovation, of the ICC and Tom Raymond Fitness Trails.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.

9. Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program (StRAP) Contract Approval - Manager Pittman.

Manager Pittman presented the StRAP Contract to the Board for approval. He stated that the approval of the contract is the last step in allowing the County to receive the $400,050 grant for debris removal from county waterways.

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

10. Update Polk County Employee Travel Policy - Manager Pittman.

Manager Pittman said the Employee Travel Policy had not been updated since 2006. He said the changes were to increase the maximum amounts allotted for meals, remove the telephone call section, and clarify the timing for reimbursement requests.
Commissioner Moore moved to approve the amended Polk County Travel Policy, seconded by Vice-Chairman Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

11. Highway 9 South Project Discussion - Chairman Melton requested this item be added to the agenda.

Chairman Melton stated that the citizens will have a chance to voice their opinions on the project at a Public Meeting to be held by NCDOT at Polk Central Elementary School on September 22nd, 2022, from 5:00 pm-7:00 pm. He also stated that Representative Johnson would be in town on August 25th to visit the route of the widening project. The Commissioners each spoke and collectively thanked the public for coming out to the meeting, and each said they oppose the six foot shoulders and hope a compromise could be met.

12. Volunteer Board Application(s)

A. Applications for consideration: Agricultural Advisory Board - Mark Wilson. Animal Cruelty Investigators - Nancy Hasselbring, Evalynn Hyra, Nancy Phelps, Margo Savage, Pauline Spinale. Harmon Field Board of Supervisors - Stephen Nelon.

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

13. Citizen Comments on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items.

Fourteen members of the public spoke on Agenda Items and two members of the public spoke on non-agenda items.

14. Chairman and Commissioner Comment(s)

The Commissioners again thanked the public for attending and for speaking their concerns with the amount of widening planned in the Hwy 9 project.

15. Adjournment

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

Attest:

Kristy A. Tipton
Kristy A Tipton
Clerk to the Board

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tommy W. Melton
Tommy W. Melton
Chairman