

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
September 6, 2022 - 5:00 PM
R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice - Womack Building Columbus, NC
Columbus, NC
MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Melton, 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. Vice-Chairman Beiler was absent.

1. Public Hearing

A. Call Public Hearing to Order - Chairman Melton. The purpose of the public hearing was to take comments on the FY 2024 Polk County Transit Authority (PCTA) 5311 (ADTAP), 5310, 5339, 5307, and applicable State Funding Community Transit Grants. The public hearing was properly advertised in the Tryon Daily Bulletin. Bill Crisp PCTA Manager reviewed the information.

B. Citizen Comments.

There were no citizen comments.

C. Commissioner Comments.

There were no Commissioner comments.

D. Adjourn Public Hearing.

Commissioner Moore moved to adjourn the Public Hearing, seconded by Commissioner Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

Absent: Beiler

2. Public Hearing

A. Call to Order the Public Hearing - Chairman Melton. The purpose of the public hearing was to take comments on the proposed new road names, Eubanks Ridge and High Meadows Drive. The public hearing was properly advertised in the Tryon Daily Bulletin.

B. Citizen Comments.

There were no citizen comments.

C. Commissioner Comments.

There were no Commissioner comments.

Absent: Beiler

D. Adjourn Public Hearing.

Commissioner Overholt moved to adjourn the Public Hearing, seconded by Commissioner Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

Absent: Beiler

3. Call to Order - Chairman Melton.

4. Invocation - Commissioner Overholt.

Chairman Melton reviewed the meeting rules and emphasized that each citizen receives four minutes to comment. He also explained that Vice-Chairman Beiler was absent due to a medical procedure.

5. Pledge of Allegiance - Veterans of Polk County.

Chairman Melton recognized Polk County Veterans in attendance, and they led the pledge.

6. Approval of Agenda

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

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

Absent: Beiler

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

A. Approval of August 15, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes.

B. Budget Amendment appropriating Capital Reserve Fund Balance/Dam Funds in the amount of \$45,000 to be transferred to the Water Capital Project Fund for the Polk County Regional Water Commission.

C. Budget Amendment to appropriate general fund balance in the amount of \$34,211 for the settlement due to Steps to Hope for the land & structure trade made with the County.

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

Absent: Beiler

8. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items.

There were none.

Absent: Beiler

9. Approval of E-911 Renovation / Relocation Architect - Frank Thomason, Technology Specialist, Mission Critical Partners (MCP).

Frank Thomason, Communication Consultant with Mission Critical Partners (MCP) stated that there were two qualified respondents during the bidding process. He said both firms were interviewed by MCP and Polk County staff. Stewart-Cooper-Newell Architects were selected for the 911 Renovation project.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the contract between Stewart-Cooper-Newell Architects and Polk County, seconded by Commissioner Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

Absent: Beiler

10. Military Suicide Awareness Proclamation - Chairman Melton.

Chairman Melton said Polk County has one of the highest per-capita veteran populations in the State, and the following is a very sobering statistic. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) estimates that a Veteran commits suicide every sixty-five minutes, an average of twenty-two veterans die per day across the nation. He stressed the seriousness of the topic as he read the Military Suicide Awareness Proclamation.

Commissioner Yoder moved to adopt the Military Suicide Awareness Proclamation, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

Absent: Beiler

11. Proclamation for Prisoners of War (POW) and Missing In Action (MIA) - Joyce B. Preston, President Polk County Memorial Auxiliary to VFW Post #9116.

Joyce B. Preston, President Polk County Memorial Auxiliary to VFW Post 9116, said the Department of Defense last reported that 81,900 Americans were still considered Missing In Action (MIA). She also gave a new phone number for the Veteran Suicide Hotline, 988 press 1.

Mrs. Preston read the Proclamation for Prisoners of War (POW) and Missing In Action (MIA).

Commissioner Moore moved to adopt the Proclamation for Prisoners of War (POW) and Missing In Action (MIA), seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.

Absent: Beiler

12. Resolution in Remembrance of September 11, 2001 - Commander Mike Collins.

Michael Collins, Commander, VFW Post 9116 came representing the Memorial Honor Guard and VFW Post 9116 in Columbus. Commander Collins read the Proclamation in Remembrance of September 11, 2001.

Commissioner Overholt moved to adopt the Proclamation in Remembrance of September 11, 2001, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

Absent: Beiler

13. Polk County Veterans Services Update - Gina Cashion, Veterans Services

Officer.

Gina Cashion, Polk County's Veterans Services Officer (VSO), was present and shared information on the newly passed PACT Act, which is an expansion of benefits and services. She explained that the PACT Act would ensure veterans can receive high-quality health care screenings and services related to potential toxic exposures and expands access to VA health care services for veterans exposed during their military service. She said there is also a provision for the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 which will have a profound effect on veterans and their dependents. Ms. Cashion stated that Veterans Services would be hosting a free breakfast on Friday, September 9th at 8:00 am for all veterans and first responders, funded by the Kiwanis Club.

14. Resolution Declaring September 2022 as Preparedness Month - Bobby Arledge, Emergency Management Director.

Manager Pittman read the Resolution in the absence of Bobby Arledge.

Commissioner Moore moved to adopt and declare September 2022 as Preparedness Month, seconded by Commissioner Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

Absent: Beiler

15. FY 2024 PCTA Grants & Resolution - To consider approval of 5311 (ADTAP), 5310, 5339, 5307 and applicable State Funding Community Transit Grants subsequent to the public hearing. Bill Crisp PCTA Manager.

Commissioner Yoder moved to adopt the Resolution and submit the FY 2024 grant application, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.

Absent: Beiler

16. New Polk County Road Name - Eubanks Ridge (off Manus Chapel Road in White Oak Township) and High Meadows Drive (Off Hwy 108 E in White Oak Township) - Chairman Melton.

Commissioner Overholt moved to approve Eubanks Ridge and High Meadows Drive as new road names in Polk County, seconded by Commissioner Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

Absent: Beiler

17. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items.

Ten citizens spoke on non-agenda items.

18. Chairman and Commissioner Comments.

Chairman Melton read the below statement.

"I wanted to let everyone know that we are having conversations with NCDOT and our State Legislator Jake Johnson about the HWy 9 project. We are working with NCDOT to try to lessen the impact of the proposed six-

foot shoulders. We are encouraged by the conversations between NCDOT and Representative Johnson and hope that they will help some of the citizens who won property on the route. We support the citizens that have organized in finding a compromise between themselves and NCDOT and hope they find a resolution that is the least impactful to the taxpayers of Polk County. Please make sure you attend the NCDOT meeting on 9/22 at Polk Central Elementary School at 5 pm."

Commissioner Yoder stated that he stands behind the citizens 100%.

Commissioner Overholt thanked all the veterans for their service and sacrifices. He thanked the citizens for attending the meeting and said he hopes we can all find a way to work with NCDOT to find a happy medium. He said Polk County has needs and he doesn't want to see the money allocated for Polk County to go somewhere else.

Commissioner Moore thanked the public in attendance and thanked them for their passion. He echoed all the other Commissioners' statements.

19. Closed Session

- A. Commissioner Moore 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 Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

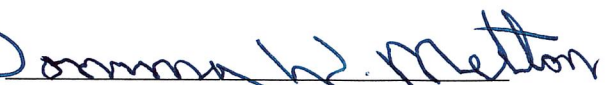
20. Adjournment

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

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS


Kristy A Tipton
Clerk to the Board


Tommy W. Melton
Chairman