

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
October 17, 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 - Commissioner Yoder.
3. Pledge of Allegiance - Vice Chairman Beiler.
4. Approval of Agenda

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

Attorney Berg asked that Closed Session be added to the agenda after Chairman and Commissioner Comments, for the purpose of attorney-client privilege and property acquisition.

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

5. Consent Agenda - Motion to approve Consent Agenda.
 - A. Approval of October 3, 2022 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes and the October 10, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes.
 - B. Amend Meeting Calendar.
 - C. Sheriff Department Monthly Activity Report for September 2022.
 - D. Budget Amendment to appropriate fund balance in the amount of \$6,000.00 for preservation of records due to the flood.
 - E. To renew the Lease Agreement between Polk County and the N.C. Department of Public Safety, Adult Probation and Parole, for office space located at the Courthouse Square Annex, Bldg. 2
 - F. Schedule a public hearing for proposed new road names to be considered on Monday, November 21, 2022 at 5:00 pm in the R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice.

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

6. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items.

There were none.

7. Dominion Energy utility easement for Recreation Complex, Polk County tax parcel P71-44 - Manager Pittman.

Manager Pittman reported that Dominion Energy requested an easement across the county property located at Polk Recreation Facility. He said the easement will cross the southern section of the property parallel to an existing Duke Energy easement. Manager Pittman said he did not see any negative impacts to the site from this easement.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the utility easement, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.

8. North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) Community Based Professional Foster Family Pilot Program- Josh Kennedy, HHSA Director and Kim Wilson, Social Service Manager.

Josh Kennedy, HHSA Director said that NC DHHS is piloting a professional parenting foster care program called, "Bridging Families" with local HHSAs or county Department of Social Services, and Crossnore Communities. He said the pilot would serve children from any county who best meets the criteria of the program established by Crossnore. The program could service sibling groups or children with complex behavioral health needs. Mr. Kennedy said the program requires a local county agency to be the fiscal agent. Since Polk County HHSA has been one of the county agencies leading the pilot discussions and have been asked to be the fiscal agent for this pilot. He said the program will cost \$692,000 and run until June 30, 2023. The funding will proceed in the same format as the current reimbursement process with NC DHHS, invoiced monthly by Crossnore for the service, and submitted for reimbursement. The plan is to seek ongoing funds for the program in FY2024. He said no extra Polk County dollars are associated with being the fiscal agent.

Kim Wilson, Social Services Director then stated that they are working with Crossnore and the Saluda United Methodist Church to develop a professional foster parenting program, Bridging Families, here in Polk County. With the help from Saluda United Methodist Church fundraising and a generous private donation, Saluda United Methodist Church bought the house next to the church, and it will serve as the first pilot program in professional foster parenting, Bridging Families in Polk County. The new model once renovations are complete would serve four children, and there are plans to try to establish two more houses that would serve an additional 12 children that would otherwise

have to be placed outside of Polk County. This program is to supplement traditional foster parenting, not to take its place.

Commissioner Yoder moved to approve the Budget Addition Amendment in the amount of \$692,000, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.

9. Resolution Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans - Commissioner Yoder.

Commissioner Melton presented the resolution to the Board. He stated that the green lights should be displayed during the week of November 7th through November 13th.

Commissioner Moore moved to adopt the Operation Green Light Resolution for Veterans., seconded by Commissioner Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

10. Volunteer Board Application(s)

- A. Applications for Consideration: Adult Care Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee - Stuart Goldstein.

Commissioner Overholt moved to approve the applicant as presented, seconded by Vice-Chairman Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

11. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items.

There were none.

12. Chairman and Commissioner Comments.

Commissioner Yoder gave a brief update on the Green River sand dredging project. He said they are making headway on clearing the land for access to the river.

Vice-Chairman Beiler commended the Sheriff on the Animal Control Unit and their hard work during an investigation into an incident at his mother's house. The Commissioners all thanked the citizens in attendance for faithfully attending the meetings.

- A. Closed Session - Chairman Melton motioned to go into closed session for the purpose of attorney client privilege and property aquisition, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.
- B. Commissioner Overholt moved to return to open session, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.
- C. Open Session - Commissioner Yoder motioned to authorize Manager Pittman to enter into a contract to purchase a 6.74 acre tract, tax parcel P72-120 located at 2881 NC Highway 108 E, Columbus, NC, together with improvements thereon, for the price of \$790,000 which amount

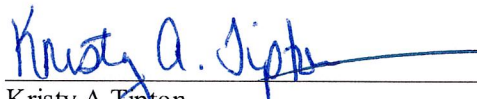
includes a \$5,000 earnest money deposit, from Gallant Enterprises, LLC,
seconded by Vice-Chairman Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

13. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn.

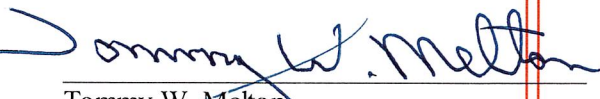
Commissioner Moore moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Overholt
and the motion carried unanimously.

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS



Kristy A. Tipton
Clerk to the Board



Tommy W. Melton
Chairman