

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Public Hearing & Regular Meeting
November 21, 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. Public Hearing

A. Call to Order the Public Hearing - Chairman Melton. The purpose of the public hearing was to take public comment on the proposed new road name, Olive Branch Trail. The public hearing was properly advertised in the Tryon Daily Bulletin.

B. Citizen Comments.

Seven citizens spoke during Citizen Comments.

C. Commissioner Comments.

There were three names brought forward for consideration, Songbird Ln., Hannon Ln., and Olive Branch Trail. The Commissioners discussed the information presented.

D. Adjourn Public Hearing.

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

2. Call to Order - Chairman Melton.

3. Invocation - Commissioner Overholt.

4. Pledge of Allegiance - Chairman Melton.

5. Approval of Agenda

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

Commissioner Yoder asked that Item 13 be discussed before Item 8. Commissioner Yoder moved to amend the agenda as requested, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

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

- A. Approval of October 17, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes.
- B. Tax refund requests for the month of October in the amount of \$990.22 and November 1-15, 2022 in the amount of \$403.35.
- C. Vaya Health Quarterly Financial Reports for the period ending November 21, 2022.
- D. Approve Budget Amendment to appropriate fund balance for funds that were reserved in FY 2020 for the old jail project.
- E. Approve Project Budget Ordinance for the old jail project.
- F. Amend the Project Budget Ordinance for Laughter Pond maintenance project in the amount of \$23,250.
- G. Schedule a public hearing for NC Department of Transportation Public Transportation Program Application for Polk County Transit on December 5, 2022.

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

7. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items.

There were none.

8. Polk County 2022 Annual Financial Report - Kari Dunlap, Martin Starnes & Associates PA.

Kari Dunlap from Martin Starnes & Associates PA presented the annual financial information. She stated that there were no red flags, the submittal was tidy, and the Finance Department was very cooperative. She said the audit is still awaiting Local Government Commission (LGC) approval. She encouraged the commissioners to read the Manager's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A). Chairman Melton thanked the finance director and County Manager for their hard work.

9. Polk County Schools.

A. Polk County Schools Updates - Aaron Greene, Superintendent. (This item was added at the request of Commissioner Moore)

Mr. Greene reported that Polk County Schools ranked 3rd in the state for end-of-year assessments. He said Niche ratings were second best school system, number one in teacher satisfaction, and number one for school safety. He also said the Safe Schools Grant will continue to fund the School Resource Officers for schools.

B. Request to transfer \$150,094.61 from the School Capital Sales Tax Set-aside to General Fund/School Capital - Dr. Brandon Schweitzer, Ed. D., Director of Operations

Dr. Schweitzer requested the release of school capital sales tax set aside for the final payment of the school district chrome book lease and security upgrades for three schools.

Commissioner Overholt moved to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$150,095, seconded by Vice-Chair Beiler, and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Public School Building Capital Fund (PSBCF) Lottery Fund Application - Dr. Brandon Schweitzer, Ed. D., Director of Operations.

Dr. Schweitzer requested approval of the application to release lottery funds for the Polk County High School track resurfacing project partially paid for by a K12 facilities grant.

Commissioner Overholt moved to approve the PSBCF NC Education Lottery application in the amount of \$269,960, seconded by Vice Chair Beiler, and the motion carried unanimously.

10. Addition of a full time temporary employee fully funded by the Innovative Approaches Program (IAP) Grant - Josh Kennedy, HHSA Director.

Mr. Kennedy said that the IAP employee was hired through a temp agency and they would like to convert the role to a full-time temporary position while the grant is funded. He went on to say the position is fully funded through a grant awarded to NC DHHS to Henderson County and Polk County DHHS is a subrecipient.

Commissioner Yoder moved to approve the addition of an Innovative Approaches Coordinator as a temporary full-time employee as grant funds are available, seconded by Vice-Chairman Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

11. Polk County Regional Water Commission Engineering Contract with Black & Veatch - Manager Pittman.

Manager Pittman said the request came from the Regional Water Commission and that each individual entity has to take any contract they want to enter into and approve those individually. He said the commission is seeking out an engineering services contract, and they are requesting to use Black and Veatch.

Vice-Chairman Beiler moved to follow the recommendation of the Regional Water Commission to retain Black and Veatch for Engineering Services,

seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously

12. YMCA Feasibility Study Contract - Manager Pittman.

Manager Pittman said the YMCA committee members want to do their due diligence through surveys in determining the number of capital donations they may get if they were to enter into a campaign. He said they met with three different vendors and the committee has requested the Board approve the contract submitted by Convergent Nonprofit Solutions to conduct a feasibility study.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the contract with Convergent for \$35,550, seconded by Commissioner Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

13. New Polk County Road Name - Olive Branch Trail (off Old Hwy 19 (SR 1514) in Tryon Township - Attorney Berg.

Commissioner Beiler thanked everyone for coming and stating their case. He said the reason Hannon Lane gets his vote was not because of contention, hostility or anger, but because of the history that is attached to that property. Commissioner Beiler agreed with what was said by Commissioner Beiler and that he feels the inconvenience of having to go through a name change is worth it in order to honor the history of the property.

Commissioner Yoder moved to name the drive in question, Hannon Lane, seconded by Vice-Chairman Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

14. Volunteer Board Application(s)

- A. Applications for Consideration: Adult Care Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee - Brent Seagle and Cornelia Yoder. Animal Cruelty Investigators - Monica Garren. Mental Health Advisory Board - Angie Pena. Town of Tryon Planning Board, ETJ Applicant - Luis C. Ebratt

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

15. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items.

There were three citizen comments on non-agenda items.

16. Chairman and Commissioner Comments.

The Commissioners collectively thanked those in attendance and those citizens who gave comments. Commissioner Overholt wanted to bring notice to the retirement of Polk County High School Football Coach, Bruce Ollis. Vice-Chairman Beiler said Angus Weaver was named Mountain Foothills 7 Player of the Year. Weaver, who was named last season as the MF7's Defensive Player

of the Year, is believed to be the first Polk County player to win a conference's top honor since Andre Overholt (Commissioner Overholt) in 2010. Chairman Melton again thanked the Finance Department and County Manager for their work in receiving a good audit report. He went on to thank the entire BOC for their work in Polk County and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

17. Closed Session

- A. Motion to go into closed session for the purpose of attorney client privilege.

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. Motion to return to open session.

Commissioner Yoder moved to return to open session, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

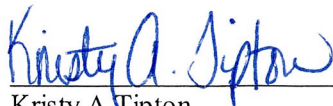
Commissioner Overholt moved to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$65,000 to appropriate fund balance for filtration systems that will allow the water to be monitored around the old Little Mtn. Landfill, as recommended by Warren Eadus with Quible, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.
Abstain: Vice-Chairman Beiler.

18. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn.

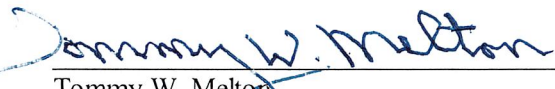
Commissioner Yoder moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS



Kristy A Tipton
Clerk to the Board



Tommy W. Melton
Chairman