POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Public Hearing & Regular Meeting
July 21, 2025 - 5:00 PM
Bryant H. Womack Justice & Administration Building
40 Courthouse Street Columbus, NC 28722
MINUTES

Present: Chairman Yoder, Vice-Chairman Moore, Commissioner Beiler, Commissioner Melton, Commissioner Hargett, Manager Pittman, Attorney Berg, Clerk to the Board Freeman, and citizens.

1. Public Hearing

   A. Call to Order the Public Hearing - The purpose of the Public Hearing is to take public comment on the proposed new road names; Narrow Way - Private Road - Off of Chesnee Road, and Mercy Ridge - Private Road - Off of Holbert Cove, and the proposed address change; 11 Fox Paw Lane – Off of Holbert Cove Road - requesting to change to: 6041 Holbert Cove Road. The Public Hearing was properly advertised in the Tryon Daily Bulletin.

   Attorney Berg was present for questions.

   B. Citizen Comments

   There were no citizen comments.

   C. Adjourn Public Hearing

   Commissioner Melton motioned to adjourn the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Beiler, and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Call to Order the Regular Meeting - Chairman Yoder.

3. Invocation - Commissioner Beiler

4. Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Harget

5. Approval of Agenda

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

   Manager Pittman requested the addition of the contract to renew the license plate agency to the agenda.

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

6. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Melton moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Hargett, and the motion carried unanimously.

A. Approval of the June 16, 2025, Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes.

B. Schedule a Public Hearing for Monday, August 18, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the Bryant H. Womack Justice & Administration Building to discuss details and funding for the Transportation Department for Fiscal Year 2027.

C. Designation of Chairman Yoder as the voting delegate for the Annual Business Session on Saturday, August 23, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. to be held during the 118th Annual Conference of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners in Pitt County.

D. Tourism Special Revenue Fund Balance Appropriation for an Addendum to an Existing Contract.

E. VAYA Health Quarterly Financial Report for the period ending March 31, 2025.

F. Acknowledgment of hazardous materials stored on premises leased by AdventHealth Polk (formerly St. Luke's Hospital).

G. Solid Waste Fee Refund Request in the amount of $560.00.

H. Tax Refund Request in the amount of $1,221.90.

7. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items.

There were no citizen comments.

8. Regular Agenda Items

A. Contract to continue the operation of the Polk County license plate agency.

Manager Pittman said that the county has been under this contract for the past 10 years, but the contract has expired. He informed the Board that the Department of Transportation has awarded the county a contract for an additional 8 years, and he is requesting the Board's approval to proceed.

Commissioner Melton moved to approve the Contract to continue the operation of the Polk County license plate agency. Seconded by Vice-Chairman Moore, and the motion carried unanimously.

B. ~~A.~~ Health and Human Services Agency In-Home Aide Program and Community Block Grant Discussion - Josh Kennedy, HHSA Director.

Josh Kennedy, HHSA Director, explained that Bright Star, the previous in-home aid program provider for seniors in Polk County, has decided not to renew its contract. Bright Star was managed by the Area Agency on Aging in Rutherford County and was funded through a portion of Polk County's Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG). Mr. Kennedy requested support from the Board of Commissioners to allow the Polk County Health and Human Services Agency to request proposals for a new in-home aid provider and to manage the contract once awarded. He said the HCCBG is a three-part grant that funds Transportation, Senior Nutrition programs, and in-home aid programs for seniors. He said the HHSA already manages the other two programs, and if the Board agrees, this would bring all three parts under the HHSA in Polk County. He said this is an opportunity to centralize senior programs and funding management and enhance services.

By consensus, the Board of Commissioners supported the HHSA moving forward to request proposals for an in-home aid provider for Polk County, and to have the HHSA manage the provider and funding.

C. ~~B.~~ Polk County Schools - Dr. Brandon Schweitzer, Ed. D. Director of Operations.

1. Public School Capital Fund, NC Education Lottery Application totaling $500,000.00.

2. Budget Amendment for the request to transfer $231,923.96 from the County's Capital Reserve Account to reimburse Polk County Schools for the PCHS Road Drainage and Paving Project.

Commissioner Melton moved to approve the $500,000 Public School Capital Fund, NC Lottery Application, seconded by Commissioner Hargett, and the motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chairman Moore moved to approve the transfer and budget amendment of $231,923.96 from the County's Capital Reserve Account, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

D. ~~C.~~ 2025 South Mountain Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan and Resolution - Bobby Arledge, Fire Marshal, and Emergency Management Director.

Bobby Arledge presented the 2025 South Mountain Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan and Resolution, a copy of which is hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference. Mr. Arledge said that this plan has been approved by FEMA and the State of Emergency Management and he is now requesting the Boards Approval.

Commissioner Hargett moved to approve the South Mountain Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, seconded by Vice-Chairman Moore, and the motion carried unanimously.

E. ~~D.~~ Consideration and approval of the Purchase Order request for Republic Services, Inc. by the Polk County Solid Waste Department in the amount of $1,365,113.00 for hauling and disposal per the contract approved on 4/15/2024 - Manager Pittman.

Commissioner Melton moved to approve the Purchase Order request for Republic Services, Inc. by the Polk County Solid Waste Department, seconded by Commissioner Beiler, and the motion carried unanimously.

9. <u>Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items.</u>

There were three citizen comments.

10. Volunteer Board Applications

A. Animal Control Board - there are three vacancies and three applicants; Suzanne Crawford, Kathryn Meyer, and Angel Mitchell.

Vice-Chairman Moore moved to appoint the applicants as presented to the Animal Control Board, seconded by Commissioner Beiler, and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Appearance Commission - There are five vacancies and one applicant; Carolyn Ashburn.

Commissioner Beiler moved to appoint the applicant as presented to the Appearance Commission, seconded by Commissioner Hargett, and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Board of Adjustment - There are five vacancies and three applicants; James Hagerty, Frank Monterisi, and Libby Morris.

Vice-Chairman Moore moved to appoint the applicants as presented to the Board of Adjustment, seconded by Commissioner Beiler, and the motion carried unanimously.

D. Tryon Fire District Tax Commission - There are two vacancies and one applicant; Cindy Viehman.

Commissioner Hargett moved to appoint the applicant as presented to the Tryon Fire District Tax Commission, seconded by Commissioner Beiler, and the motion carried unanimously.

11. Commissioner Comments.

The Commissioners thanked everyone in attendance.

12. Closed Session

A. Motion to go into closed session for the purpose of personnel, property acquisition, and attorney-client privilege.

Vice-Chairman Moore moved to go into closed session for the purpose of personnel, property acquisition, and attorney-client privilege, seconded by Commissioner Beiler, and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion to return to open session.

Vice-Chairman Moore moved to return to open session, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chairman Moore moved to amend the employment contract with Manager Pittman effective August 1, 2025, to provide that in consideration for his agreement to extend the term of his contract to April 1, 2030, the county will increase his vacation leave and 401k contribution. It was seconded by Commissioner Beiler, and the motion carried unanimously.

13. Adjournment

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

Attest:

Kennedy Freeman

Kennedy E Freeman
Clerk to the Board

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Myron Yoder

Myron Yoder
Chairman