

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
February 19, 2024 - 5:00 PM
R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice - Womack Building
Columbus, NC
MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Yoder, Vice-Chairman Melton, Commissioner Beiler, Commissioner Moore, and Commissioner Overholt. Also in attendance were County Manager Pittman and Clerk to the Board Tipton. Absent: County Attorney Berg.

1. Call to Order - Chairman Yoder.
2. Invocation - Commissioner Moore.
3. Pledge of Allegiance - Chairman Yoder.
4. Approval of Agenda

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

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

5. Consent Agenda - Motion to approve the consent agenda.
 - A. Approval of the February 5, 2024 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes.
 - B. Tax Refund Request in the amount of \$4,711.75.
 - C. Polk County GREAT Grant Project, Grantee Progress Report for 4th Quarter 2023.
 - D. Vaya Health Quarterly Financial Reports for the period ending December 31, 2023.
 - E. Sheriffs Department Monthly Activity Report for January 2024.

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

6. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items.

There were none.

7. Polk County Schools - Brandon Schweitzer, Ed. D., Director of Operations.

A. Public School Building Capital Fund (PSBCF) NC Education Lottery Requests - Polk Central Elementary Paving Project in the amount of \$91,801.

Dr. Schweitzer presented the Distribution Request for reimbursement of paving costs for Polk Central Elementary

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the Distribution Request in the amount of \$91,801, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Public School Building Repair & Renovation Fund (PSBRRF) NC Education Lottery Requests - Polk Central Elementary Roofing Project in the amount of \$129,310.

Dr. Schweitzer presented the Lottery request for roofing repairs at Polk Central Elementary.

Vice-Chairman Melton moved to approve the Distribution Request in the amount of \$129,310, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Proposed updated Polk County Watershed Ordinance amendments, as requested by North Carolina Environmental Quality, Water Supply Watershed Program. The Public Hearing for this item was held on February 5, 2024 - Cathy Ruth, Polk County Planning and Economic Development Director.

Cathy Ruth reported to the Board that she spoke with the citizens who had questions about the proposed updated ordinance, and they have no objection to the approval.

Commissioner Moore moved to to enact the proposed updated Polk County Watershed Ordinance as requested by the North Carolina Environmental Quality, Water Supply Watershed Program and incorporating the Planning Board's Consistency Statement, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.

9. Renew the Foothills North Carolina Consortium Joint Cooperation Agreement for Home Investment Partnership Act, Home Investment in Affordable Housing - Cathy Ruth, Polk County Planning and Economic Development Director.

Cathy Ruth presented the proposed agreement, previously reviewed by Attorney Berg. She said the agreement was originally approved three years

ago, and gives organizations the opportunity to request funds to be used for affordable housing in Polk County.

Vice-Chairman Melton moved to approve the agreement, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.

10. Radio Tower/Systems Update - Sheriff Wright and Jeremy Gregg, Director Polk County E-911 Communications.

Sheriff Wright and Jeremy Gregg thanked the Board and Manager Pittman for the radio update. They reported they are actively working on the Saluda area with Kimball Communications, Manager Pittman, and the City of Saluda, which will require a new tower site. Both Manager Pittman and Mr. Gregg said they are actively pursuing grants that will help fund this project.

11. Discussion and approval of the 2024/2025 Budget Calendar - Sandra Hughes, Finance Director.

Sandra Hughes presented the proposed 2024/2025 Budget Calendar for review. She said it is similar to last year's calendar and follows the recommended practice of the Local Government Commission (LGC).

Vice-Chairman Melton moved to approve the proposed 2024/2025 Budget Calendar, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

12. Proposed FY 2024 Audit Contract with Martin Starnes and Associates - Sandra Hughes, Finance Director.

Sandra Hughes presented the proposed FY 2024 Audit Contract with Martin Starnes and Associates. She said a three year commitment with them was just completed without any additional increases beyond their commitment. However, now the commitment is over, there will be a 16.5% minimum increase up to 30%, depending on how many programs. She said many factors play into the increase such as new programs requiring audits. Due to many counties and municipalities having trouble finding auditors and the fact that Martin Starnes is already familiar with the accounting practices of Polk County, Ms. Hughes recommends approving the contract.

Vice-Chairman Melton moved to approve the FY 2024 audit contract with Martin Starnes and Associates, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

13. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items.

There were none.

14. Volunteer Board Application

- A. Applications for Consideration: Garry Bradley - Recreation Advisory Board.

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

15. Chairman and Commissioner Comments.

Vice-Chairman Melton gave a health update and thanked everyone for their prayers during his absence.

Manager Pittman said the county sends information to the papers, social media, and the county website. Melissa O'Loughlin was present in the audience and reiterated that the revaluation is a "curb reval" and only if a building permit has triggered the property or if a new addition/ building is visible from the road would staff get out of the vehicle to measure or walk around the property. Otherwise, they will be taking pictures from their vehicles. The vehicles are marked with the county logo, and all revaluation staff have a county ID.

Commissioner Moore thanked those in attendance and asked for citizens to be on the lookout for a housing survey coming from Foothill Regional Commission. Commissioner Overholt congratulated the five young men from the Polk County High School Wrestling Team that went to the State Championship in Greensboro. He also reminded everyone that early voting is currently underway at the new Elections Office located at 231 Ward St.

Commissioner Beiler complimented the wrestling team on their hard work and dedication as well as the growth of the entire wrestling program.

Chairman Yoder welcomed Vice-Chairman Melton back and thanked those in attendance. He gave a special thanks to the Sheriff and his department.

16. Adjournment

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

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

Kristy A Tipton
Clerk to the Board

Myron Yoder
Chairman