BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PUBLIC HEARINGS AND REGULAR MEETING JULY 21, 2025 5:00 PM

Bryant H. Womack Justice & Administration Building 40 Courthouse Street Columbus, NC 28722

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.

   B. Citizen Comments

   C. Adjourn Public Hearing

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

3. Invocation - Commissioner Beiler

4. Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Hargett

5. Approval of Agenda

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

6. Consent Agenda

   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 - Melinda Massey, Travel and Tourism Director

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

F. Acknowledgment of storage of hazardous material at St. Luke's Hospital premises.

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.

8. Regular Agenda Items

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

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.

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

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

9. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items.

10. Volunteer Board Applications

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

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

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

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

11. Commissioner Comments.

12. Closed Session

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

B. Motion to return to open session.

13. Adjournment

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

July 21, 2025

AGENDA ITEM # 1.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.

ATTACHMENTS

1. July 21, 2025 New Road Names PH Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that at 5:00 p.m., on Monday, July 21, 2025, in the Bryant H. Womack Justice and Administration Building, located at 40 Courthouse Street, Columbus, NC 28722, the Polk County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing to receive citizen input on the following two (2) proposed new road names and one (1) proposed house address change to be adopted in Polk County, North Carolina:

Green Creek Township:

Narrow Way – Private Road – Off of Chesnee Road

Saluda Township:

Mercy Ridge- Private Road - off of Holbert Cove

11 Fox Paw Lane – Off of Holbert Cove Road - requesting to change to: 6041 Holbert Cove Road

Kennedy Freeman
Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

July 21, 2025

AGENDA ITEM # 6.A

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

ATTACHMENTS

1. June 16 2025 Public Hearing & Regular Meeting Minutes DRAFT

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Public Hearings & Regular Meeting
June 16, 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, and Commissioner Hargett. Also in attendance were Manager Pittman, Attorney Berg, Clerk to the Board Freeman, media and citizens.

1. Public Hearing

   A. Call to Order the Public Hearing - The purpose of this public hearing is to take public comment on the proposed text amendments to the Zoning Ordinance to allow the use of vacation rentals as a use in the permitted use table RE-5. (A copy of the current and proposed draft of the Zoning Ordinance is available for review online at https://www.polknc.gov/ordinances or in the County Manager's office.)

      Chelsea Louray, Planning Administrator gave a presentation, a copy of which is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes.

   B. Citizen Comments

   There were 9 citizen comments.

   C. Adjourn Public Hearing

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

2. 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; Walnut Cove - Private Road – Off of Old Highway 19, and Strawberry Hill Lane - Private Road - Off of Substation Road. The Public Hearing was properly advertised in the Tryon Daily Bulletin.

   B. Citizen Comments

   There were no citizen comments.

   C. Adjourn Public Hearing

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

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

4. Invocation - Chairman Yoder.

DRAFT

5. Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Melton.

6. Approval of Agenda

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

   Manager Pittman requested that the Cashflow Loan Agreement (Round 2) be added to the regular meeting agenda as item D.I.

   Attorney Berg requested that an item be added as attorney - client privilege to the closed session agenda.

   Commissioner Melton moved to approve the addition of both items to the regular meeting, and closed session agendas, seconded by Commissioner Beiler, and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Consent Agenda

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

   A. Approval of May 19, 2025, Budget Work Session, May 19, 2025, Regular, and June 2, 2025, Public Hearing Meeting Minutes.

   B. Juvenile Crime and Prevention Council (JCPC) Annual Plan and Budget for FY 2025/2026.

   C. 2025 Recruitment and Retention Resolution.

   D. Schedule a Public Hearing for proposed new road names to be considered on Monday, July 21, 2025, at 5:00 pm in the Bryant H. Womack, Justice and Administration Building, 40 Courthouse Street, Columbus.

   E. GF - Opioid/McKinsey Payment - Budget Amendment for $17,728.

   F. ETSF - Fund 60 - Budget Amendment of $136,698 for the uninterruptible power source (UPS) purchase.

   G. Sheriff, School Resource Officers, and Jail Budget Transfers - Budget Amendment of $108,108.

8. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

   There were no citizen comments.

9. Regular Agenda Items

   A. Budget Amendments - Sandra Hughes will present any budget amendments that may need approval for FY 2024/25.

   Mrs. Hughes said that there were no additional budget amendments that needed approval.

DRAFT

B. Polk County Budget Ordinance for the Fiscal Year 2025/26 (including any proposed fee changes included in the County Manager's recommended budget) - The Manager's recommended budget was presented on May 12, 2025. A budget work session was held on May 19, 2025, and the budget public hearing was held on June 2, 2025.

Manager Pittman requested that an additional $20,000 be allocated to the 911 Communications contracted services and to increase the General Fund Balance Appropriation to offset that increase. He also announced a reduction in the tax rate, which dropped from 0.4342 to a rate of 0.4277.

Vice-Chairman Moore moved to approve the FY 2025/2026 Budget Ordinance with the additional $20,000 allocated to the 911 Communications Contracted Services, and the increase in fund balance appropriation, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Reappointment of the County Tax Administrator for a four-year term.

Commissioner Melton moved to approve Melissa O'Loughlin's reappointment as the County Tax Administrator for another four-year term, seconded by Vice-Chairman Moore, and the motion carried unanimously.

D. Amendment to Loan Agreement between North Carolina and Polk County (previously approved at the 3/17/25 BOC meeting) - Manager Pittman

Commissioner Melton moved to approve the amendment to the loan agreement, seconded by Commissioner Beiler, and the motion carried unanimously.

D.I. State Cashflow Loans for Disaster Response Activities to Local Governments (Round 2) - Manager Pittman, and Sandra Hughes.

Mrs. Hughes explained that this cashflow loan is similar to the one that was approved at the March 17, 2025 Regular Meeting. She said that this is an additional interest free loan in the amount of $1,092,017.52 that will go toward the completion of projects that are being completed due to Hurricane Helene.

Vice-Chairman Moore moved to approve the State Cashflow Loans for Disaster Response Activities to Local Governments (Round 2), seconded by Commissioner Hargett, and the motion carried unanimously.

E. FEMA Grant Project Ordinance - Sandra Hughes

Commissioner Hargett moved to approve the FEMA Hurricane Helene Disaster Response and Recovery Grant Project Ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

F. Duke Energy Easement Along Landfill Road - Manager Pittman.

Manager Pittman requested approval and signatory authority for the Duke Energy Easement.

Commissioner Melton moved to approve the Duke Energy Landfill Road Easement and grant Manager Pittman signatory authority, seconded by Vice-Chairman Moore, and the motion carried unanimously.

G. Consideration and Approval of the proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance,

subsequent to the Public Hearing - Cathy Ruth, Planning Director.

Chelsea Louray was present for questions.

Commissioner Hargett asked for clarification on whether the Hunting Country Association is a homeowner's association (HOA).

Mrs. Louray, explained that it is not. Individuals can choose to join the association and pay dues, but it is not a requirement even if they live within the area covered by the association.

The commissioners determined that the proposed land use, to permit short-term rental units in the RE5 zoning district, is consistent with the comprehensive land use plan.

Commissioner Melton moved to deny the proposed zoning ordinance text amendment to allow short term rental units as a permitted use in the RE-5 zoning district, seconded by Vice-Chairman Moore. The motion carried with a 4 to 1 vote, Commissioner Hargett opposing.

H. Consideration and Approval of the proposed new road names subsequent to the Public Hearing - Attorney, Jana Berg.

Attorney Berg was present for questions.

Commissioner Hargett moved to approve Walnut Cove as presented, seconded by Commissioner Beiler, and the motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chairman Moore moved to approve Strawberry Hill Lane as presented, seconded by Commissioner Hargett, and the motion carried unanimously.

10. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items.

There was one citizen comment.

11. Volunteer Board Applications

A. Columbus Fire District Tax Commission - There are three vacancies and two applicants; Gordon High, and Sam Patel.

Commissioner Melton moved to appoint the applicants as presented to the Columbus Fire District Tax Commission, seconded by Commissioner Hargett, and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Mill Spring Fire District Tax Commission - There are three vacancies, and three applicants; John McDowell, Ric Osborn, and Jeff Reid.

Vice-Chairman Moore moved to appoint the applicants as presented to the Mill Spring Fire District Tax Commission, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

12. Commissioner Comments.

The Commissioners collectively thanked everyone in attendance.

13. Closed Session

A. Motion to go into closed session for the purpose of personnel.

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

unanimously

B. Motion to return to open session.

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

Vice-Chairman Moore moved for the County Attorney to retain outside council for tower litigation, seconded by Jennifer Hargett, and the motion carried unanimously.

14. Adjournment

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

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Kennedy E Freeman
Clerk to the Board

Myron Yoder
Chairman

DRAFT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

July 21, 2025

AGENDA ITEM # 6.D

Tourism Special Revenue Fund Balance Appropriation - Melinda Massey, Travel and Tourism Director

ATTACHMENTS

1. T&T Addendum 7.21.25 BOC

POLK COUNTY FINANCE

BUDGET AMENDMENT: TOURISM SPECIAL REVENUE FUND BALANCE APPROPRIATION

DATE: 7/21/2025 BOC Meeting BATCH #: _____ LINE_____

Dept.: Tourism

Amendment # : 2-F Fund balance

INCREASE EXPENSE			REDUCE FUND BALANCE APPROPRIATED		
GL ACCOUNT #			GL ACCOUNT #		
21-6170-3908-0	Marketing	$ 43,500	21-3991-0000	Fund Balance Approp	$ (43,500)

EXPLANATION: To appropriate fund balance to increase marketing - see attached

_____

Date approved & entered into the BOC minutes

_____ _____

COUNTY MANAGER **FINANCE OFFICER**

big sea

Polk County

Paid Media Addendum, estimate

11 July 2025

We've put together a Paid Media overview to support Polk County's late-summer tourism push. Below are a variety of options, with strategy recommendations focused on reaching new audiences through fresh platforms. These suggestions consider cost, timing, and overall reach, and are designed to align with ongoing social media efforts and partner resources for a consistent, high-impact message across channels.

The Team:

BIG SEA + JB MEDIA

- In October 2025, JB Media and Big Sea came together through a mutually agreed-upon acquisition, focused on creating greater opportunities and long-term growth.
- The same trusted Asheville-based team, including Justin, continues to serve Polk County—bringing years of local partnership and insight.
- Our Asheville office remains active and involved, now joined by the broader support of Big Sea's leadership, including their CEO.
- You'll experience the same communication style and workflow you're familiar with—nothing changes there.
- With the added strength of the Big Sea team, we're excited to offer expanded services, tools, and expertise to better support your goals.

The Idea:

Adding new platforms to your marketing strategy allows you to reach different audience segments at various stages of their buyer's journey, while delivering a consistent, streamlined message across channels. This multi-platform approach also lets you connect with people when you have their full attention—like during rush hour in the car—offering a calm, inviting ad for the First Peak region just when they're most likely to be dreaming of a peaceful escape.

RECOMMENDATION: TO BE FINE-TUNED ONCE ACCEPTED

- (1) **Digital OOH** or Digital Billboards are a great way to reach an audience in larger cities who are interested in travel and tourism.
    - We can target Charlotte, Charleston, and Columbia with not only large scale Billboards, but also smaller screens like gas stations, convenience stores, grocery stores, and liquor stores.
    - Smaller screens: video with Voice Over
    - Ad Spend $3,000/ month for the best visibility and reach (~450K views)
- (1) **Digital Radio** ads are a very cost-effective way to reach targeted, engaged local and regional audiences, making them ideal for driving interest and visits to tourism destinations.
    - Targeting larger cities within a driveable distance: Charlotte, Columbia, Augusta, and Atlanta.
    - Play times could align with rush hour, for example, to create a sense of calm, reflection, and connection.
    - Messaging for Digital Radio and Digital OOH could align to potentially reach the same audiences.
    - Ad Spend: $2,500 / month for best audience capture and reach (~625K ears)
- **Programmatic campaigns** – to be determined
    - Ad Spend: $3,000 / month for best audience capture and reach (~1.8 million)

big sea

ESTIMATED TOTALS (CREATIVE + AD SPEND)

CREATIVE + PRODUCTION: $18,000

AD SPEND: $25,500

INITIAL PLAN: $43,500

TIMELINE

ASSET CREATION Late July > August

LAUNCH AUGUST >> OCTOBER (Late summer Fall focus)

REFRESH LAUNCH IN NOVEMBER >> JANUARY (Holiday, Winter cozy getaway)

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

July 21, 2025

AGENDA ITEM # 6.E

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

ATTACHMENTS

1. Q3_2025_County_Commissioner_Quarterly_Report_Cover_Letter_Final

Vaya Health
200 Ridgefield Court, Suite 218
Asheville, NC 28806
Business Calls: 1-800-893-6246
vayahealth.com

May 28, 2025

RE: Vaya Health Quarterly Report to the Counties for Period Ending March 31, 2025

Dear County Representatives:

Enclosed you will find the financial update for Vaya Health for the most recent quarter ending March 31, 2025. Included in this email are the following documents:

- Fiscal Monitoring Report; and
- Total Spendable Cash Report, which provides greater clarity of cash availability after meeting accounts payable and IBNR obligations.

Please note that the prior year figures being reported for June 30, 2024, reflect final audited figures. With the inclusion of the new BH I/DD Tailored Plan contract, Vaya's annual SFY24-25 operating budget has now reached a revised amount of $1.6 billion. This increase over the original budget has been largely attributed to growth in overall membership due to Medicaid expansion, growth in the Tailored Care Management program, and various additional allocations, including those to support relief from Hurricane Helene.

While these first three quarters of SFY24-25 marked the successful launch of the new Tailored Plan on July 1, 2024, it has also required a concerted response to the recent Hurricane Helene disaster, which greatly impacted Vaya's service area. Vaya has been directly supporting members, providers, and staff through the disaster with donations, flexibility, and stabilization efforts. Note, Vaya distributed $6.9m in provider grants to support financial stabilization throughout the recovery period. Additionally, Vaya will be supporting other initiatives to strategically expand services and provide ongoing support through the remainder of this fiscal year and into SFY26.

With the onset of the Tailored Plan, a new set of solvency standards is also in effect, and Vaya is compliant with each of those metrics per the latest NCDHHS report, which can be found here:

https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/lme-mco-solvency-dashboard-04092025/download?attachment

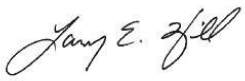
Of particular note is the new requirement to maintain "capital reserves," which is an amount of unobligated fund balance as a percentage of annual Medicaid capitation. For Vaya, this requirement means that we are required to have 12.5%, or $165 million in unobligated fund balance to meet this requirement. As of this latest report published in April 2025, Vaya is shown to meet this requirement at 12.8%.

Budget planning for SFY25-26 has been ongoing for the past several weeks, and our new budget was presented at the Board of Directors meeting on May 22, 2025, and will also be reviewed with each Regional Board May 28-29, 2025. The estimates recently provided to us from NCDHHS's actuary show an

expected continued growth in Medicaid expansion enrollment into the upcoming year. This, along with certain service expansions, will result in a higher budget for the next fiscal year, and will also result in a higher amount of capital reserves that Vaya must maintain to meet the 12.5% requirement.

Should you have any additional questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me via email (larry.hill@vayahealth.com) or phone (828-225-2785, Ext. 4743).

Sincerely,



Larry E. Hill
Executive VP and CFO, Vaya Health

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

July 21, 2025

AGENDA ITEM # 6.F

Acknowledgment of storage of hazardous material at St. Luke's Hospital premises.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Advent Acknowledgement Letter 2025

D. Marche Pittman
County Manager

Jana L. Berg
County Attorney

Kennedy Freeman
Clerk to Board

Polk County
GOVERNMENT

Myron Yoder
Chairman

David Moore
Vice - Chairman

Paul (Little) Beiler
Commissioner

Tommy Melton
Commissioner

Jennifer Hargett
Commissioner

July 21, 2025

To Whom it May Concern

This shall serve as formal notification that Polk County, North Carolina, as lessor of that certain sublease between the Polk County Board of Commissioners and Fletcher Hospital, Incorporated for the hospital premises which is the subject of an existing Lease Agreement between Polk County and St. Luke's Hospital, hereby agrees to and acknowledges the use and or storage of radioactive material on the premises.

_____
Myron Yoder, Chairman
Polk County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

_____
Kennedy Freeman, Clerk to the Board

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

July 21, 2025

AGENDA ITEM # 6.G

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

ATTACHMENTS

1. 7.21 Solid Wst Fee Refund

Memorandum

To: Polk County Board of Commissioners

From: Melissa O'Loughlin, Polk County Tax Administrator

Date: 7/10/2025

Re: Refund Request

Taxpayer	Parcel	Amount	Reason
John Hudson	P91-76	$ 560.00	clerical error- refund solid waste fee
	TOTAL:	**$ 560.00**	

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

July 21, 2025

AGENDA ITEM # 6.H

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

ATTACHMENTS

1. TaxRefund 7.14 - 1221.90

Memorandum

To: Polk County Board of Commissioners

From: Melissa O'Loughlin, Polk County Tax Administrator

Date: 5/30/2025

Re: Refund Request

Taxpayer	Parcel	Amount	Reason
Douglas Jackson	Vehicle	$ 181.87	tag surrender
Roger McSwain	Vehicle	$ 259.54	tag surrender
Thomas Hoy	Vehicle	$ 170.92	tag surrender
Joe Barrowski	Vehicle	$ 118.36	Tag surrender
South Carolina Telecommunication	RP	$ 222.90	Overpayment
David Starford	Vehicle	$ 115.93	tag surrender
John Welch	Vehicle	$ 152.38	tag surrender
	TOTAL:	**$ 1,221.90**	

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

July 21, 2025

AGENDA ITEM # 8.A

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

ATTACHMENTS

None

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

July 21, 2025

AGENDA ITEM # 8.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.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Public Schools Capital Fund Ed. Lottery
2. PCSchool Cap Reserve Fund Balance

APPLICATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING CAPITAL FUND
NORTH CAROLINA EDUCATION LOTTERY

Approved: _____

Date: _____

County: Polk

LEA: 750

Address: 125 E. Mills Street., PO Box 638, Co

Contact Person: Brandon Schweitzer

Title: Director of Operations

Phone: 828-894-1023

Project Title: Polk County High School - Paving Improvements

Location: 1681 E. NC 108 Hwy, Columbus, NC 28722

Type of Facility: Public High School

North Carolina General Statutes, Chapter 18C, provides that a portion of the proceeds of the North Carolina State Lottery Fund be transferred to the Public School Building Capital Fund in accordance with G.S. 115C-546.2. Further, G.S. 115C-546.2 (d) has been amended to include the following:

(3) No county shall have to provide matching funds…

(4) A county may use monies in this Fund to pay for school construction projects in local school administrative units and to retire indebtedness incurred for school construction projects.

(5) A county may not use monies in this Fund to pay for school technology needs.

As used in this section, "Public School Buildings" shall include only facilities for individual schools that are used for instructional and related purposes, and does not include central administration, maintenance, or other facilities. ***Applications must be submitted within one year following the date of final payment to the Contractor or Vendor.***

Short description of Construction Project: Improvements to parking and road surfaces on campus.

Reference Certificate of Review 750-3947 # 9811

Estimated Costs:

Purchase of Land	$	
Planning and Design Services		
New Construction		
Additions / Renovations		500,000.00
Repair		
Debt Payment / Bond Payment		
TOTAL	$	500,000.00

Estimated Project Beginning Date: 6/9/25

Est. Project Completion Date: 8/2/25

We, the undersigned, agree to submit a statement of state monies expended for this project within 60 days following completion of the project.

The County Commissioners and the Board of Education do hereby jointly request approval of the above project, and request release of $ 500,000.00 from the Public School Building Capital Fund (Lottery Distribution). We certify that the project herein described is within the parameters of G.S. 115C-546.

(Signature — Chair, County Commissioners) (Date)

6/27/2025

(Signature — Chair, Board of Education) (Date)

Form Date: July 01, 2011

Polk County Schools

ADMINISTRATION

Todd Murphy
Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mike Ashworth
Chairman

Rick N. Covil
Vice Chairman

Lucinda T. Allen

Danielle E. Gibbs

Judy N. Jackson

Sherry Page

Rick Stich

Stearns Education Center
PO Box 638
125 East Mills Street
Columbus, NC 28722
828-894-3051
828-894-8153 fax

www.polkschools.org

Sandra Hughes
Finance Officer
Polk County Government

Jul 14, 2025

Dear Sandra,

Polk County Schools is requesting the transfer of **$231,923.96** from the County's Capital Reserve account. The funds will reimburse Polk County Schools for capital expenses paid this year.

Project	Amount to Reimburse Schools
PCHS - Road Drainage and Paving Project	$231,923.96
Total	**$231,923.96**

Any questions about this transfer should be directed to Polk County Schools' Finance Officer Debbie Lovelace. Thank you for your consideration of this request and your continued support of our schools.

Sincerely,

Brandon Schweitzer
Director of Operations
Polk County Schools

BUDGET AMENDMENT: CAPITAL RESERVE FUND BALANCE/ADDITON To GF

DATE: 7/21/2025 BOC Meeting BATCH #: _____ LINE_____

Dept.: Capital Reserve-School Sales Tax/Transfer to School Capital

Amendment # : 1-F Fund balance/ Addition #2

INCREASE EXPENSE/REVENUE			INCREASE FUND BALANCE APPROPRIATED		
GL ACCOUNT #			GL ACCOUNT #		
10-3981-9822	Trans-in	$ (231,924)	22-3931-0000	Fund Balance Approp	$ (231,924)
10-5910-6313-0	Sales tax-School	231,924	22-8168-9800-0	Trans-out (School Capital)	$ 231,924
		-			-

EXPLANATION: To appropriate Capital Reserve fund balance for the funds that were reserved in prior years from the sales tax set-aside computation & to be transferred to the General Fund School Capital account for reimbursement of capital spending

_____

Date approved and entered into the BOC minutes

COUNTY MANAGER **FINANCE OFFICER**

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

July 21, 2025

AGENDA ITEM # 8.C

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

ATTACHMENTS

1. SMtns Adoption Resolution
2. Hazard Mitigation Plan BOC 7.21.25 - UPDATED

RESOLUTION
ADOPTING THE SOUTH MOUNTAINS
REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the citizens and property within Polk County are subject to the effects of natural hazards that pose threats to lives and cause damage to property, and with the knowledge and experience that certain areas of the county are particularly vulnerable to drought, extreme heat, hailstorm, hurricane and tropical storm, lightning, thunderstorm wind/high wind, tornado, winter storm and freeze, flood, hazardous material incident, and wildfire; and

WHEREAS, Polk County desires to seek ways to mitigate the impact of identified hazard risks; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of North Carolina has in Article 5, Section 160D-501 of Chapter 160D of the North Carolina General Statutes, delegated to local governmental units the responsibility to adopt regulations designed to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of North Carolina has enacted General Statute Section 166A-19.41 (*State emergency assistance funds*) which provides that for a state of emergency declared pursuant to G.S. 166A-19.20(a) after the deadline established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency pursuant to the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2002, P.L. 106-390, the eligible entity shall have a hazard mitigation plan approved pursuant to the Stafford Act; and.

WHEREAS, Section 322 of the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 states that local governments must develop an All-Hazards Mitigation Plan in order to be eligible to receive future Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funds and other disaster-related assistance funding and that said Plan must be updated and adopted within a five year cycle; and

WHEREAS, the County of Polk has performed a comprehensive review and evaluation of each section of the previously approved Hazard Mitigation Plan and has updated the said plan as required under regulations at 44 CFR Part 201 and according to guidance issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management.

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Board of Commissioners of Polk County to fulfill this obligation in order that the County of Polk will be eligible for federal and state assistance in the event that a state of disaster is declared for a hazard event affecting the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Commissioners of Polk County hereby:

1. Adopts the South Mountains Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

2. Agrees to take such other official action as may be reasonably necessary to carry out the objectives of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Adopted this the _____ day of _____, _____

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

_____

Kennedy Freeman
Clerk to the Board

_____

Myron Yoder
Chairman

Certified by: _____ (SEAL)

Date: _____

Polk County Mitigation Action Plan

Action #	Description	Hazard(s) Addressed	Relative Priority	Funding Sources	Responsible Party	Target Completion Date	2025 Action Implementation Status
Prevention							
P-1	Incorporate a GIS to maintain building/parcel data for purposes of conducting more detailed hazard risk assessments and for tracking permitting/land use patterns.	All	Moderate	NCEM/ FEMA/Local Funds	Polk County MIS	This action will be revisited during the 2030 update.	Continue to update GIS system as needed
P-6	Identify and map landslide-prone areas in County	Geological/ Landslides	High	State of NC, Grant funding	NC Geological Survey, County ES	Completed.	Action completed. Data now on County GIS site. Action to be removed during 2030 plan update.
P-7	Work with State of NC to expand FIMAN into Polk County – new gauges are needed on the Green River and White Oak Creek	Flooding	High	NCEM/FEMA Grants	County ES, NCEM	This action will be revisited during the 2030 update.	Still in progress. The County would like to consider three additional sites.
P-8	Seek grant funding for mitigation opportunities eligible under the most current version of the UHMA Guidance and Public Assistance 406 mitigation Guidance at the time of the application. Projects may include, but are not limited to: acquisition, elevation, mitigation reconstruction, and wet/dry flood proofing to commercial and/or residential structures as applicable; redundant power to critical facilities, storm shelters and other activities that reduce the loss of life and property as a result of impacts from natural hazards.	All	Moderate	Federal Grants	Polk County Emergency Management	As funding becomes available.	Action to remain in plan moving forward.

Action #	Description	Hazard(s) Addressed	Relative Priority	Funding Sources	Responsible Party	Target Completion Date	2025 Action Implementation Status
P-9	Implement a program that identifies streams that are impacted by beaver dams and creates a solution to the flooding caused by the dams.	Flooding	Low	NCEM/FEMA/ Local Funds	NCDOT	This action will be revisited during the 2030 update.	Mitigate as necessary when beaver dams pose a threat to flooding and causing other safety issues.
Property Protection							
PP-4	Create a private bridge registry for bridges built over the county's four major streams.	Flooding	Low	Local Funds	GIS	Project completed.	Project completed. Will be removed during the 2030 plan update.
PP-5	Identify and remove large obstructions in the county's major streams.	Flooding	Low	NCDA&CS/ NCEM/ FEMA/Local Funds	Soil & Water	2028	In the past, major obstructions have been removed, but this will continu to be an issue. Seek grant funding to move this program forward.
PP-6	Acquire generators for emergency shelters.	All	High	FEMA Grant Funding (approximate cost $400,000)	County ES	2025-2030	Ongoing project. NO generators have been purchased at this time. They would be most beneficial at PCHS, PCMS, Sunnyview Elementary School, Cooper Gap Baptist Church, and Tryon 7th Day Adventist Church.
Emergency Services							
ES-3	Enhance weather monitoring to attain earlier severe winter and ice storm warnings, as well as any severe weather related events.	All	Moderate	NCEM/FEMA/ Local Funds	Communications Department	This action will be revisited during the 2030 update.	Many steps have been taken to enhance weather monitoring over the past several years, but with new advancements in equipment and systems, this program will need to be reviewed and updated. Continue to work closely with the National Weather Service.

Action #	Description	Hazard(s) Addressed	Relative Priority	Funding Sources	Responsible Party	Target Completion Date	2025 Action Implementation Status
ES-5	Develop an inventory list of required equipment needed by Emergency Service agencies for hazardous material spills.	Hazardous Substances	Moderate	Local Funds	Polk County Chief's Assoc.	Action completed.	Equipment has been purchased and placed in the Hazmat trailer. This action will be removed during the 2030 plan update.
ES-6	Enhance County emergency Services' radio system for better interoperability with other agencies.	All	High	Grant funding as available, Local Funds (approximate	County ES	2028	A new radio system has been put in place. We still have a few areas that need to be addressed for better coverage.
ES-7	Acquire a drone to assist with assessing and monitoring emergencies.	All	Moderate	Grant funding, County Funding (approximate cost $30,000)	County ES	Completed.	Drone acquired. This action will be removed during the 2030 plan update.
ES-9	Install River Markers	Flooding	Moderate	Local, Grant Funding, State	County ES	2028	Install river markers so that Emergency Services personnel can locate missing and/or injured citizens along the river during recreational months.
ES-10	Acquire weather sirens for all fire departments in the county.	Tornadoes	Moderate	Local, Grant Funding, State	County EM	2028	Acquire weather sirens for all fire departments so we can notify the public during tornados.
ES-11	Work with the LEPC and emergency services to ensure proper SARA Title III reporting.	Hazardous Substances	Moderate	Local Funds	LEPC	This action will be revisited during the 2030 update.	This committee will need to meet and stay up to date on any new requirements that are passed concerning Title III reporting.

Action #	Description	Hazard(s) Addressed	Relative Priority	Funding Sources	Responsible Party	Target Completion Date	2025 Action Implementation Status
ES-12	Improve cell phone coverage in the County.	All	High	State and Federal Grants	County Administration Emergency Management	2030	We would like to improve the cell phone coverage throughout the county. With more people utilizing cell phones as their only means of communications, it is important to reach out to cell phone providers to enhance the coverage in the county.
Structural Projects							
SP-1	Turner-Shoal Dam Upgrade: Construction updates to strengthen the dam.	Flooding /Dam Failure	High	County Funds	County ES, DEQ	2028	Some updates to the dam have been implemented but the dam is still in need of upgrade in some areas. Major repairs are expected to start within the next year. This will be multi-year project.
SP-2	Coordinate with NCDOT to repair/replace storm water drainage on Main Street Saluda	Flooding	Moderate	City Funds (estimated cost of $250,000)	City of Saluda	2030	Main Street drainage includes a 135-year-old rock culvert. The culvert is failing and collapsing the sidewalk.
SP-3	Coordinate with NCDOT to improve the cleaning of side ditches and culverts in the county to prevent water standing on the roadways.	Flooding	High	State	NCDOT	2028	New action for the 2025 plan. Roadways are flooding due to side ditches and culverts being stopped up.
SP-4	Work with State and Federal partners to identify opportunities to assist with repair of private roads and bridges following disasters.	Flooding, Hurricanes and Tropical Storms	High	State and Federal Grants	Polk County Emergency Management	As funding becomes available.	New action for the 2025 plan update.

Action #	Description	Hazard(s) Addressed	Relative Priority	Funding Sources	Responsible Party	Target Completion Date	2025 Action Implementation Status
Public Education and Awareness							
PEA-1	Promote the availability of flood insurance to property owners by direct mail at least once a year.	Flooding	High	Local Funds	Planning and Zoning	Annually	Information has been sent out annually on the tax notices in the past. This program will need to be updated in the future and will be evaluated to determine if new outreach mechanisms are needed.
PEA-2	Provide brochures, flyers, and pamphlets on all hazards that affect Polk County. Information will be placed in departments/agencies that are considered high traffic areas.	All	Low	Local Funds	County ES	Annually	Information has been placed in high traffic areas, but the county will continue to look at ways to improve outreach including through online surveys (carried out in this plan) and other means, such as community events.
PEA-4	Provide a booth with hazard mitigation information at all major community events.	All	Low	Local Funds	County ES	Annually	The county has provided informational booths at many events including fairs and community gatherings. Information displayed will need to be updated periodically.
PEA-5	Work to extend broadband/fiber/cell service and internet in unserved/underserved areas of the County.	All	High	Grant funding as available, Local Fund	County ES	Ongoing	Great progress has been made on this project. Approximately 75% complete as of 2025.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

July 21, 2025

AGENDA ITEM # 8.D

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

ATTACHMENTS

1. Landfill PO 2025 for Republic Services

SUBMIT ALL INVOICES TO ➡

POLK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

FINANCE OFFICE
P.O. BOX 308
COLUMBUS, N.C. 28722

PHONE (828) 894-3302
FAX (828) 894-3565

PURCHASE ORDER

NO. 24324

PURCHASE ORDER NUMBER MUST APPEAR ON ALL INVOICES, BILLS OF LADING AND CORRESPONDENCE.

DATE 6/29/25

SHIP TO:

Landfill

00000

VENDOR NO. 2745

REQ#

VENDOR

REPUBLIC SERVICES, INC.
PO BOX 932899

CLEVELAND OH 44193

F.O.B.	VIA
DELIVERY REQUIRED	**TERMS**

ITEM	QUANTITY	UNIT	DESCRIPTION	UNIT COST	TOTAL COST
			********** FY 26 **********		
1	3113.00	EA	TRASH HAULING & DISPOSAL (UNION COUNTY) $113,592.75/MONTH X 12 MONTHS 51-4720-4405-0	1.00	363113.00
					1363113.00

THIS INSTRUMENT HAS BEEN PREAUDITED IN THE MANNER REQUIRED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET AND FISCAL CONTROL ACT.

Sandra Hughes 06/30/2025
FINANCE OFFICE

06/30/2025
COUNTY MANAGER ON $1000 OR MORE

BOC Approved

NO CHANGES MAY BE MADE WITHOUT CONSENT OF PURCHASING DEPARTMENT.
POLK COUNTY IS NOT EXEMPT FROM SALES TAXES

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

July 21, 2025

AGENDA ITEM # 10.A

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

ATTACHMENTS

None

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

July 21, 2025

AGENDA ITEM # 10.B

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

ATTACHMENTS

None

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

July 21, 2025

AGENDA ITEM # 10.C

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

ATTACHMENTS

None

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

July 21, 2025

AGENDA ITEM # 10.D

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

ATTACHMENTS

None

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

July 21, 2025

AGENDA ITEM # 12.A

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

ATTACHMENTS

None