POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Public Hearing & Regular Meeting August 18, 2025 - 5:00 PM
Bryant H. Womack Justice & Administration Building
40 Courthouse Street Columbus, NC 28722
MINUTES

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

1. Public Hearing

   A. Call to Order the Public Hearing - The purpose of the Public Hearing was to receive comments on the FY 2027 Polk County Transportation Authority (PCTA) 5311 (ADTAP), 5310, 5339, 5307, and applicable State Funding, or a combination thereof, Community Transportation Grants. The public hearing was properly advertised in the Tryon Daily Bulletin. Yanet Cisneros, Transportation and Human Services Program Manager, was present

   B. Citizen Comments

   There were no citizen comments.

   C. Adjourn Public Hearing

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

   Call to Order the Regular Meeting - Chairman Yoder.

2. Invocation - Commissioner Hargett.

3. Pledge of Allegiance - Vice-Chairman Moore.

4. Approval of Agenda

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

   Manager Pittman requested that the Sponsorship Policy be moved from item 8.F. to item 8.A.1.

   Vice-Chairman Moore moved to change item 8.F. to item 8.A.1, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

   Consent Agenda

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

   B. Approval of the July 21, 2025, Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes.

   C. Schedule a Public Hearing for the proposed new road names to be considered on Monday, September 15, 2025, at 5:00 pm in the R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice, Womack Building.

D. Schedule a Public Hearing for the proposed new road names to be considered on Monday, September 15, 2025, at 5:00 pm in the R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice, Womack Building.

E. Approval of road names from the July 21, 2025 public hearing; 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.

F. Approval of the Hurricane Helene Disaster Response and Recovery Grant Project Budget Amendment.

G. Carolina Recording Systems, 911 Communications 60 Fund Purchase Order approval.

H. Approval of a budget amendment to appropriate general fund balance for transfer to the Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), Department of Social Service to replace failing controls for the HVAC system.

I. Tax refund request in the amount of $5,649.46.

5. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items.

There were no citizen comments.

6. Regular Agenda Items

A. FY 2027 Polk County Transportation Authority Grants & Resolution - To consider approval of 5311 (ADTAP), 5310, 5339, 5307, and applicable State Funding Community Transit Grants subsequent to the public hearing - Yanet Cisneros, Transportation and Human Services Program Manager was present for questions.

Commissioner Melton moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2027 Polk County Authority Grant applications and Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Hargett, and the motion carried unanimously.

A.1. Sponsorship Policy - Dawn Jordan, Agricultural Economic Development Director.

Dawn Jordan explained that this policy will allow departments to accept sponsors from outside entities, which will support current and future county programs.

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

B. Polk County 2025 Housing Study - Preston Janco, Foothills Regional Commission gave a presentation on the 2025 Polk County Housing Study, a copy of which is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes.

C. YMCA Update - Ryan Finney, Vice President of Operations, YMCA of Greater Spartanburg, and Ashley Brazell, Polk County YMCA Operations Director, presented an update on the status of the new YMCA facility and current programming changes at Stearns Gym. Mr. Finney reported that the Polk YMCA Design Committee is working with GRO, a firm specializing in YMCA design projects. He said the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) and Architect/Engineer selection process will begin next month, marking the start of the construction phase. Ms. Brazell said programs and services will continue at Stearns Gym with a few changes.

She shared that the YMCA began operating the after-school program on August 11th in Stearns for this school year, and in October 2025, there will be an opportunity for modified memberships to begin. Mr. Finney explained this will allow for more staffing and program opportunities, as well as addressing the security and liability concerns at Stearns.

D. Polk County Library Policy and Procedure Updates - Marcie Dowling, Director.

Marcie Dowling presented updates to the Polk County Libraries Circulation Policy. She said they have added a category which will now require non - Polk County residents to get a library card for an annual fee. Mrs. Dowling said that this fee will help to cover the cost of library operations. She also presented a new form which will help to track the usage of in-library laptop rentals.

Vice-Chairman Moore moved to approve the Library Policy and Procedure Updates, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

E. Budget Amendment for the Replacement of Polk County Schools' Fund Balance - Todd Murphy, Superintendent, and Aaron Greene.

Todd Murphy presented a request for a one-time funding allocation of $750,000 to help stabilize the district's operating budget. He said they are requesting this due to rising operational costs, inflation, delayed reimbursements, and other financial challenges. He also explained that Polk County Schools have consistently ranked within the top ten districts in North Carolina, and said the requested funds would be used to maintain current staff and existing services.

Commissioner Melton moved to approve the Polk County Schools budget amendment, seconded by Vice-Chairman Moore, and the motion carried unanimously.

~~F. Sponsorship Policy - Dawn Jordan, Agricultural Economic Development Director.~~ *Moved to item 8.A.1.*

F. Polk County Animal Control Ordinance Amendments - Attorney Berg.

Attorney Berg presented the proposed amendments to the Animal Control Ordinance. She explained the changes, which included an expanded definition of "exotic animals", as well as updates to some of the terminology within the ordinance to align with language deemed more appropriate by the County. Attorney Berg also reviewed the addition of subsections g. and h. to Section 16, *Seizure and Disposition of Animals*.

Commissioner Hargett moved to approve the text amendments to the Animal Control Ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items.

There were three citizen comments.

8. Volunteer Board Applications

A. Animal Cruelty Investigators - There are two vacancies and one applicant; Jeanne Peters.

Commissioner Melton moved to appoint Jeanne Peters to the Animal Cruelty Investigators, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Appearance Commission - There are five vacancies and one applicant; Don Dicey.

Vice-Chairman Moore moved to appoint Don Dicey to the Appearance Commission, seconded by Commissioner Hargett, and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Economic and Tourism Development Commission - There are three vacancies and one applicant; Donna "Pat" Linnon.

Commissioner Melton moved to appoint Pat Linnon to the Economic and Tourism Development Commission, seconded by Vice-Chairman Moore, and the motion carried unanimously.

D. Health and Human Services Agency - There are seven vacancies, and one applicant; George Sweet.

Commissioner Hargett moved to appoint George Sweet to the Health and Human Services Agency, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

E. Isothermal Community College Board of Trustees - There is one vacancy and one applicant; Danna Stansbury.

Vice-Chairman Moore moved to appoint Danna Stansbury to the Isothermal Community College Board of Trustees, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

9. Commissioner Comments.

The Commissioners thanked everyone who was in attendance for coming to the meeting.

10. Closed Session

A. Motion to go into closed session for the purpose of Attorney-Client Privilege.

Commissioner Melton moved to go into Closed Session for the purpose of Attorney-Client Privilege, seconded by Commissioner Hargett, 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.

11. Adjournment

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

ATTEST:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Kennedy Freeman
Clerk to the Board

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Myron Yoder
Chairman