POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
March 18, 2024 - 5:00 PM
R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice - Womack Building
Columbus, NC
MINUTES

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

1. Call to Order - Chairman Yoder.

2. Invocation - Commissioner Beiler.

3. Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Overholt.

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.
   Absent: Moore

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

   A. Approval of March 4, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes.

   B. Tax Refund Request in the amount of $119.61.

   C. Declare IT equipment as surplus to be sold electronically through Govdeals.

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

6. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items.

   There were two citizen comments on agenda items.

7. Polk County Schools Update - Aaron Greene, Superintendent.

   Mr. Greene introduced Polk County High School Volleyball Coach, Molly Hill. Ms. Hill thanked the Commissioners for their support during their road to win the state championship. Senior volleyball team members, Makayla Fisher and Ada Kelly then presented the Commissioners with medallions.
   Mr. Greene gave an update on the school system, a copy of the quick facts is

hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference. Some of the highlights were that Polk County Schools has ranked in the top 5 in NC for student achievement for a decade, currently at 4th for college prep and 5th for grade level proficiency. He also stated that the school system is idependently ranked in NC as #1 district to teach in, #1 district for best teachers and #2 overall district.

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

A. Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund (NBPSCF) Request - Sixth payment on the Tryon Elementary PreK Addition Project.
Motion to approve the Distribution Request.

Dr. Schweitzer presented the 6th payment request for the Tryon Elementary Pre-K addition. he said the project is on schedule and will be completed in the Spring.

Vice-Chairman Melton moved to approve the Distribution Request in the amount of $271,341, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.
Absent: Moore

9. Proclamation to declare April 2024 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month - Sandra Halford, Steps to HOPE, Inc.

A represestative from Steps to Hope was not present at the meeting.

Vice-Chairman Melton moved to approve the Proclamation to decalre April 2024 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.
Absent: Moore

10. 2023 Uncollected (Delinquent) Tax Report - Melissa O'Loughlin, Tax Administrator.

Melissa O'Loughlin presented the 2023 uncollected tax report.

Vice-Chairman Melton moved to charge the Tax Administrator to advertise and collect the 2023 taxes by any and all means, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.
Absent: Moore

11. Department of Social Services Compensation Alignment and Recruitment/Retention Proposal - Josh Kennedy, HHSA Director

Josh Kennedy, HHSA Director gave a presentation a copy of which is hereby

incoporated into these minutes by reference. In an effort to recruit and retain social workers, he requested the approval of a budget amendment in the amount of $19,759 to place all qualified Social Workers in Grade 25, Step 3, minimum, and to add one Adult Protection Services Supervisor and three Social Worker Assistants. Vice-Chairman Melton moved to approve the Budget Amendment in the amount of $19,759 for FY 2024, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.
Absent: Moore

Vice-Chairman Melton moved to approve the positions as requested, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.
Absent: Moore

12. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items.

There were two comments on non-agenda items.

13. Volunteer Board Application(s)

A. Applications for Consideration: Susan J. Smith - Library Board of Trustees.

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

14. Chairman and Commissioner Comments.

Commissioner Overholt thanked those in attendance, specifically those present to support Child Protective Services. He said he appreciates them advocating for these children. He said the situation is so much more than just throwing money at it and thinking it will get better, but that it is a step in the right direction.
Commissioner Beiler thanked the foster parents that came out. He said foster parenting is an incredible sacrifice and thanked those in the county willing to step up and foster. He went on to say that it is pleasure and honor to serve all of Polk County.
Vice-Chairman Melton also thanked those in attendance. He said although we live in the best county, there are still many issues we need to take care of.
Chairman Yoder thanked the public in attendance and gave a special thanks to Rep. Jake Johnson and for attending. He also thanked Josh Kennedy and Manager Pittman for their hard work on the recruitment and retention plan for the Social Workers.

15. Adjournment

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

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

_____
Kristy A Tipton
Clerk to the Board

_____
Myron Yoder
Chairman