POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
August 19, 2024 - 5:00 PM
Bryant H. Womack Justice & Administration Building
Columbus, NC 28722
MINUTES

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

1. Public Hearing

   A. Call to Order the Public Hearing - Chairman Yoder. Purpose of the Public Hearing: To receive public comment on the proposed new road name, Blue Ridge Trail. The public hearing was properly advertised in the Tryon Daily Bulletin.

   B. Citizen Comments

   There were none.

   C. Adjoun Public Hearing

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

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

3. Invocation - Chairman Yoder.

4. Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Moore.

5. 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 Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Consent Agenda

   A. Approval of the July 22, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes.

   B. Schedule a public hearing to take public comments on FY 2026 NCDOT Section 5311 (ADTAP), 5310, 5339, 5307, and applicable State Funding Community Transportation Grants for Monday, September 16, 2024, at 5:00 pm in the R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice, Womack Building.

   C. Vaya Health Quarterly Financial Reports for the period ending June 30, 2024.

D. Sheriffs Department Activity Report for June and July 2024.

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

7. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items.

There were none.

8. Regular Agenda Items

A. Polk County Schools - Brandon Schweitzer, Ed. D., Director of Operations
Public School Building Repair & Renovation Fund (PSBRRF) NC Education Lottery Requests in the amount of $246,671.94.
Local Government Request for Capital Reserve Transfer in the amount of $160,631.

Dr. Schweitzer, Polk County Schools, presented a lottery request for repair and renovations of various capital projects that took place over the summer. He said the NC Department of Public Instruction now asks that these requests be itemized, so there are a total of 16 requests.
Commissioner Moore moved to approve the PSBRRF NC Education Lottery Requests in the amount of $246,671.94, seconded by Vice-Chairman Melton and the motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Schweitzer then presented the Capital Reserve Transfer request for two service vehicles, furniture, and renovations to the concession stand.
Commissioner Beiler moved to approve the Capital Reserve Transfer request in the amount of $160,631, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Animal Cruelty Investigators Program Updates - Margo Savage and Patti Lovelace.

Margo Savage gave a presentation, a copy of which is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes. She also announced that after 20 years of volunteer service, she was retiring as an Animal Cruelty Investigator. Patti Lovelace, Animal Control Officer then presented her with a framed proclamation in honor of her service.

C. Polk County Library Policy Updates - Marcie Dowling, Director.

Marcie Dowling presented the proposed updates to the Library's Safe Child and the Computer Use and Internet Safety Policies. She also presented two new policies, the Maker Equipment and Space Policy, and the Saluda Library Teen Space Agreement.
Commissioner Moore moved to approve the updates as presented, seconded by Vice-Chairman Melton and the motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of proposed new road name, Blue Ridge Trail (Off SR 1135 Skyuka Rd) Columbus Township.

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

E. Proposed Easement from Polk County Government to Steps to Hope, Inc. - Attorney Berg.

Attorney Berg presented the proposed easement for ingress and egress to be granted by Polk County to Steps to Hope, Inc. she said Steps to Hope, Inc. will cover the fees involved with the transaction.
Commissioner Overholt moved to grant the easement to Steps to Hope, Inc., seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

F. Skyrunner/North Carolina Department of Information Technology (NCDIT) Completing Access to Broadband (CAB) Program Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Budget Amendment - Manager Pittman.

Manager Pittman said the county has been awarded funding from the N.C. Department of Information Technology's (NCDIT) Completing Access to Broadband (CAB) program. He said the evaluation committee recommended awarding the contract to Skyrunner, Inc. because their proposal represented the best value to the state and county among the submitted proposals. Skyrunner proposed serving 2,680 locations with a total project cost of $8,117,499. The award requires a county match of $811,750. Manager Pittman said the county has received funding from the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF), Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) Grant, and now the Completing Access to Broadband (CAB) program. With the match requested, Polk County has appropriated $1,061,750 county dollars to bring in more than $21,000,000 of state and federal funds that will collectively, provide fiber optic capabilities to more than 7,000 homes in the unserved and underserved areas of Polk County. Manager Pittman requested approval of the budget amendment and signatory authority for another future CAB award that may be available.
Commissioner Moore moved to approve the budget amendment in the amount of $811,750 and to grant signatory authority to the County Manager for any future CAB awards , seconded by Commissioner Andre Overholt and the motion carried unanimously

G. Board appointments to the Foothills Humane Society Board of Directors.

It was the consensus of the Board of Commissioners that the three vacant positions on the Foothills Humane Society (FHS) Board of Directors should be filled by a county commissioner, the county manager and the sheriff.
Vice-Chairman Melton moved to appoint County Manager Pittman, Sheriff Wright, and Commissioner Moore to serve on the FHS Board of Directors. Commissioner Overholt seconded, and the motion carried with Commissioner Moore abstaining.

9. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items.

There was one comment on a non-agenda item.

10. Volunteer Board Applications

    A. Applications for Consideration: Animal Control Board - Anita Williamson. Animal Cruelty Investigators - Taylor Lampert, Sarah McDonald, Jeanne Peters, Paula Spinale. Board of Adjustment - Paul Weidman. FRAC Committee - Pat Linnon. Harmon Field Board of Supervisors - Warren Watson. Mental Health Advisory Board - Lora Collier. Recreation Advisory Board - Graham Caparulo, Amy Emery, Hannah O'Brien.

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

11. Commissioner Comments.

    The commissioners collectively thanked those in attendance.

12. Adjournment

Attest:

Kristy A Tipton
Clerk to the Board

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Myron Yoder
Chairman