POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
September 16, 2024 - 5:00 PM
Bryant H. Womack Justice & Administration Building
4O Courthouse Street
Columbus, NC 28722
MINUTES

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

1. Public Hearing

   A. Call to Order the Public Hearing - Chairman Yoder.

      Motion to appoint Ange' High as temporary acting clerk until Clerk Tipton returns.

      The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive comments on the FY 2026 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. Bill Crisp PCTA Manager will be present. (A complete copy of the grant application is available for review upon request.)

   B. Citizen Comments

   C. Adjourn Public Hearing.

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

3. Invocation - Chairman Yoder.

4. Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Beiler.

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 September 3, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes.

   B. Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) Program Update.

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

7. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items.

There were none.

8. Regular Agenda Items

A. Thermal Belt Outreach Update - Margot Carter, Executive Director.

Margot Carter, Executive Director, spoke about the programs and services provided to the citizens of Polk County. She said food and shelter needs are their main focus, but they also provide many other services to the community. A copy of her presentation is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes.

B. Annual Green River Sand and Gravel Dredge Project Update - Warren Eadus, Director of Environmental Services, West Region WithersRavenel (formerly Quible & Associates).

Warren Eadus, Director of Environmental Services, West Region WithersRavenel (formerly Quible & Associates) gave the required annual report on the dredging project. He said Amer-con has obtained the required permits, and has made the necessary improvements to the property to begin dredging. A copy of his presentation is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes.

C. Schedule a public hearing for the submission of the proposed uniform schedule of values, standards, and rules for the 2025 county-wide revaluation - Melissa O'Loughlin, Tax Administrator. (A copy of the Schedule of Values will be available for public review beginning 9/17/24 in the Tax office and on the Tax page of the County website www.polknc.org).

Melissa O'Loughlin, Tax Administrator, said the schedule of values is an appraisal tool to keep the county appraisers in compliance with the machinery act when appraising real property. She said citizens can also use it to help understand the mass appraisal process used in Polk County, as the schedule of values describes the methods, procedures, and classifications used by county appraisers to develop assessed values for real property. When applied correctly, she said the schedule of values provides uniformity and equity in the mass appraisal process. She requested the Commissioners schedule a public hearing to receive public comment on the schedule of values for the 2025 revaluation. A copy of the Schedule of Values will be available for public review in the Tax office and on the Polk County website www.polknc.org.
Commissioner Moore moved to schedule a public hearing to receive comments on the 2025 revaluation schedule of values for Monday, October 7, 2024, at 5:00 pm in the Bryant H. Womack Justice and Administration Building, seconded by Vice-Chairman Melton and the motion carried unanimously.

D. FY 2026 Polk County Transportation Authority Grants & Resolution - To consider approval of 5311 (ADTAP), 5310, 5339, 5307, and applicable State Funding Community Transit Grants after the public hearing - Bill Crisp PCTA Manager.

Bill Crisp, PCTA Manager, was present. Chairman Yoder reminded the Board that the funds received from these grants will be used during the 2026 fiscal year

(7/1/25 - 6/30/26).
Vice-Chairman Melton moved to approve the PCTA resolution and FY 2026 grant application as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Overholt, and the motion carried unanimously.

E. Polk County Schools - Dr. Brandon Schweitzer, Ed. D. Director of Operations
Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund Grant Application for $7,000,000 to fund an addition of 12,800 square feet to Polk County High School to be used for career and technical education classes. The grant deadline was September 13, 2024.

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer, Ed. D. Director of Operations said they are applying for another Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund Grant for $7,000,000 to fund an additional 12,800 square foot building to be constructed on the Polk County High School campus. Dr. Schweitzer read a portion of the grant application to explain the proposed use for the new structure. "While this new facility is primarily intended for high school students, it presents a unique opportunity for broader community engagement. It would enhance dual enrollment initiatives with ICC, allow for specialized courses, and support training programs for local government agencies. One specific area of interest is the potential for a "First Responder" academy, offering focused programming in fire prevention, law enforcement, emergency medical services, and emergency response-all fields showing strong local and regional demand". He said since the grant submission deadline was Friday, September 13, 2024, Chairman Yoder had to sign the application prior to tonight's meeting. He requested approval of the grant application, and ratification of the Chair's signature.
Commissioner Moore moved to approve the NBPSCF grant application and to ratify Chairman Yoder's signature, seconded by Vice-Chairman Melton and the motion carried unanimously.

F. Polk County Schools - Dr. Brandon Schweitzer, Ed. D. Director of Operations
Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund (Lottery Distribution) disbursement approval for the Tryon Elementary Pre-K Expansion.

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer, Ed. D. Director of Operations requested the final draw for a previous Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund grant the Schools received for the Tryon Elementary Pre-K Expansion.
Vice-Chairman Melton moved to approve the request for the release of funds in the amount of $113,628.58 as reimbursement for local funds spent, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.

G. Polk County Schools - Dr. Brandon Schweitzer, Ed. D. Director of Operations
Local Government Request for Capital Reserve Transfer in the amount of $93,822. Requesting approval of the budget amendment to appropriate Capital Reserve fund balance reserved in prior years from the sales tax set aside to the General Fund School Capital account for reimbursement of capital spending on the Tryon Elementary Pre-K addition.

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer, Ed. D. Director of Operations Requesting approval of the budget amendment to appropriate Capital Reserve Fund balance reserved in prior years from the sales tax set aside to the General Fund School capital account to reimburse capital spending on the Tryon Elementary Pre-K expansion project.
Vice-Chairman Melton moved to approve the disbursement request for the Tryon

Elementary Pre-K expansion project, and the associated Budget Amendment in the amount of $93,822, seconded by Commissioner Overholt and the motion carried unanimously.

H. Polk County Schools - Dr. Brandon Schweitzer, Ed. D. Director of Operations Public School Building Capital Fund (Lottery Distribution) requested release and project approval for the Saluda Elementary School Awning Project in the amount of $49,200.

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer, Ed. D. Director of Operations explained this project was included in the renovation/repair reimbursement requests approved at the August 19, 2024 BOC meeting. However, when submitted, the State said this project should be categorized as its own project. He presented the Saluda Elementary School Awning Project in the amount of
$49,200, and request project approval, as well as the release of funds from the Public School Building Capital Fund (Lottery Distribution).
Vice-Chairman Melton moved to approve the Saluda Elementary School Awning project, and request the release of funds in the amount of $49,200, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

9. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items.

There was one citizen commment on a non-agenda item.

10. Volunteer Board Applications

A. Applications for Consideration: Mental Health Advisory Board - Kelly LeCompte.

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

11. Adjournment

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

Attest:

Kristy A Tipton
Clerk to the Board

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Myron Yoder
Chairman