POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Public Hearings & Regular Meeting
March 17, 2025 - 5:00 PM
Bryant H. Womack Justice & Administration Building
40 Courthouse Street
Columbus, NC 28722
MINUTES

Present: Chair Yoder, Vice-Chair Moore, Commissioner Beiler, Commissioner Hargett, Commissioner Melton.

Also present were County Manager Pittman, County Attorney Berg, Clerk to the Board Freeman, media, and citizens.

1. Public Hearing

   Chair Yoder called to order the Public Hearing for the adoption of the Regional Water Authority Resolution.

   A. Call to Order the Public Hearing -The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive public comment on the proposed resolution to be adopted by the Board of Commissioners signifying the organization of the Polk County Regional Water Authority. The Public Hearing was properly advertised in the Tryon Daily Bulletin.

   Attorney Belton Zeigler presented information regarding the Regional Water Authority Resolution.

   B. Citizen Comments

   There were no citizen comments.

   C. Adjourn Public Hearing

   Commissioner Melton moved to adjourn the Regional Water Authority Public Hearing, seconded by Commissioner Hargett, and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Public Hearing II.

   Chair Yoder called to order the Public Hearing on the proposed text amendments to the Polk County Voluntary Agricultural District & Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinance.

   A. Call to Order the Public Hearing - The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments on the proposed text amendments to the Polk County Voluntary Agricultural District & Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinance to comply with amendments made in the North Carolina

General Statutes. (A copy of the current and proposed draft of the Voluntary Agricultural District & Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinance is available for review online at https://www.polknc.gov/ordinances.php or in the County Manager's office).

B. Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

C. Adjourn Public Hearing

Commissioner Melton moved to adjourn the Polk County Voluntary Agricultural District & Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinance Public Hearing, seconded by Commissioner Hargett, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Hearing III.

Chair Yoder called to order the Public Hearing on the proposed new road names.

A. Call to Order the Public Hearing - The purpose of the Public Hearing is to take public comment on the proposed new road names; Evergreen Drive - Private Road - Off of Big Level Road - SR 1311, and Westlyn Way - Private Road - Off of Peniel Road - SR 1521. 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 on the proposed new road names, seconded by Commissioner Hargett, and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Call to Order the Regular Meeting - Chair Yoder.

5. Invocation - Commissioner Beiler

6. Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Hargett

7. Approval of Agenda

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

Manager Pittman proposed an amendment to the Regular Agenda, requesting the addition of the Audit Contract as the first item.

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

8. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of February 17, 2025 Public Hearings & Regular Meeting Minutes

B. Budget Amendment 4331 - LIDAR, Access Road & Generator.

C. Sheriff's Department Surplus Vehicle Donation to the Isothermal Community College Foundation. (The notice was available for review at https://www.polknc.gov/public_hearing_notices.php and in the County Manager's Office).

D. Budget Amendment for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Phase Three.

E. Interlocal Agreements Pertaining to Debris Removal.

F. Declare one Sheriff vehicle to be sold electronically by public auction. Asset details are attached.

G. Schedule a Public Hearing for the proposed new road names to be considered on Monday, April 14, 2025, at 5:00 pm in the R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice, Womack Building.

Commissioner Melton moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Hargett, and the motion carried unanimously.

9. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items.

There were no citizen comments.

10. Regular Agenda Items

A. Approval of the Contract to Audit Accounts - Sandra Hughes

Commissioner Beiler moved to approve the Contract to Audit Accounts, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Recognition of the Polk County High School Volleyball Team State Champions - Aaron Greene, Polk County Schools Superintendent.

~~A.~~

Todd Murphy, Human Resources Director for Polk County Schools, introduced Molly Hill, the volleyball coach for Polk County High School. Coach Hill recognized each member of the volleyball team for their achievement in securing the 2024 State Championship title for the second time. The team presented medallions, designed to resemble the championship rings, to the Commissioners, Manager Pittman, and Attorney Berg. A group photo was taken with the volleyball team and Commissioners, followed by applause from the attendees of the Board of Commissioners meeting.

~~B~~ **C.** Sheriff's Department Annual Report for 2024 - Sheriff Tim Wright.

Sheriff Tim Wright and members of his department gave a presentation on the Polk County Sheriff's Office Annual report for 2024. A copy of which is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes.

~~C.~~ **D.** State Cashflow Loans for Disaster Response Activities to Local Governments - Manager Pittman, and Sandra Hughes, Finance Director.

Manager Pittman and Sandra Hughes presented the State Cashflow Loans for Disaster Response Activities.

Commissioner Melton motioned to approve the State Cashflow Loans for Disaster Response, seconded by Vice-Chair Moore, and the motion carried unanimously.

~~D.~~ **E.** 2024 Uncollected (Delinquent) Tax Report - Melissa O'Laughlin, Tax Administrator.

Melissa O'Laughlin presented the 2024 uncollected tax report.

Commissioner Melton moved to charge the Tax Administrator to advertise and collect the 2024 taxes by any and all means, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

~~E.~~ **F.** Consideration to adopt the Resolution to form the Regional Water Authority subsequent to the Public Hearing - Attorney, Belton Zeigler.

Attorney Belton Zeigler was present for questions.

Commissioner Melton moved to adopt the Resolution to form the Regional Water Authority, seconded by Vice-Chair Moore, and the motion carried unanimously.

~~F.~~ **G.** Consideration and Approval of the proposed Voluntary Agricultural District & Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinance subsequent to the Public Hearing - Kelly Gay, Director of Soil and Water Conservation District, and Dawn Jordan, Director of Agricultural Economic Development.

Dawn Jordan, Director of Agricultural Economic Development, and Kelly Gay, Director of Soil and Water Conservation District were present for questions.

Vice-Chair Moore moved to approve the proposed text amendments to the Voluntary Agricultural District & Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

Attorney Jana Berg was present for questions.

Commissioner Melton moved to approve the proposed new road names, seconded by Commissioner Hargett, and the motion carried unanimously.

~~H.~~ **I.** Resolution Designation of Applicants Agent - Bobby Arledge, Emergency Management Director and Fire Marshal.

Vice-Chair Moore moved to approve the Resolution of Applicants Agent, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

~~I.~~ **J.** Emergency Management Update

Bobby Arledge, Emergency Management Director and Fire Marshal, announced that the Army Corps of Engineers has cleared 92,205 cubic yards of right-of-way debris. The right-of-way debris removal will end on Monday, March 31. FEMA's Private Property Debris Removal (PPDR) program has received 184 applications, with 68 properties already assessed. Applications are still being received at www.PolkNC.gov/PPDR and citizens are encouraged to apply. Mr. Arledge presented before and after pictures of Hurricane Helene damage to show how much progress has been made throughout the county. Mr. Arledge also expressed his gratitude to all Emergency Services workers in the county for their dedication and hard work, both during the hurricane and the recent 3910 fire, which burned a total of 619 acres.

Chair Yoder has nominated Mr. Arledge for the Heroic Hands award, which recognizes individuals who demonstrate exceptional dedication and integrity in serving their county. Mr. Arledge will be featured in a book across the state highlighting nominees from all 100 counties in the state.

11. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items.

There were eight citizen comments on non-agenda items.

12. Volunteer Board Applications

A. Equalization and Review Board - There is one vacancy and one applicant; Erika Bradley.

Vice-Chair Moore moved to appoint Erika Bradley to the Equalization and Review Board, seconded by Commissioner Hargett, and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Discussion and Approval of Chairperson for the Equalization and Review Board. Members include: Ray Gasperson, Jeff Miller, Tonya Walls, Wendy Wipperman, and Erika Bradley (if appointed).

Commissioner Melton nominated Tonya Walls as Chairperson of the Equalization and Review Board due to her experience and dedication.

Commissioner Melton moved to appoint Tonya Walls as Chairperson to the Equalization and Review Board, seconded by Vice-Chair Moore, and the motion carried unanimously.

13. Commissioner Comments.

The Commissioners thanked those who attended the meeting.

14. Adjournment

Commissioner Melton motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Vice-Chair Moore, and the motion carried unanimously.

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Kennedy E Freeman
Clerk to the Board

Myron Yoder
Chair