# POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
July 20, 2026 - 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 Manager Pittman, Attorney Berg and Clerk to the Board Freeman.

Absent: Commissioner Beiler

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

2. Invocation - Chairman Yoder.

3. Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Hargett

4. Approval of Agenda

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

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

5. Consent Agenda

   A. Approval of the June 15, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes.

   B. Purchase Order Request for the Polk County Senior Center parking lot funded through the Carolina Foothills Foundation grant.

   C. Tax Refund Request in the amount of $3,322.19 for the month of June 2026.

   D. Request to designate Chairman Yoder as the voting delegate for the Annual Business Session on Saturday, August 22, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. to be held during the 119th Annual Conference of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners in Durham County.

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

6. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items.

   There were two citizen comments on agenda items.

7. Regular Agenda Items

A. Schedule a public hearing to review and discuss approval of text amendments to the Zoning Ordinance on August 17, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the Bryant H. Womack Justice and Administration Building, 40 Courthouse

Street, Columbus, NC. (A copy of the current Zoning Ordinance is available to review online at https://www.polknc.gov/ordinances.php or in the County Manager's office.) - Chelsea Louray, Planning Administrator.

Chelsea Louray, Planning Administrator, explained that there was a request submitted by a citizen to include vacation rentals as a use in the permitted use table RE-5 (Hunting Country area). She requested a public hearing to be scheduled to review the text amendments.

Commissioner Hargett moved to schedule the public hearing for August 17, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Schedule a public hearing to be held during the August 17, 2026, Board of Commissioner's meeting to review and discuss an installment financing agreement to finance a new community center - Manager Pittman.

Manager Pittman presented a resolution calling a public hearing to be scheduled on August 17, 2026 regarding an installment financing agreement to finance a new community center. He explained that the public hearing was required by the Local Government Commission as part of the financing application process. He said that the hearing will provide an opportunity for citizens to express support or opposition to the application before it is submitted following completion of the guaranteed maximum price process for the construction manager at risk project.

Commissioner Hargett moved to approve the resolution scheduling the public hearing to be held at the August 17, 2026, Board of Commissioners meeting at 5:00 p.m., seconded by Vice-Chairman Moore, and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Budget Amendment and transfer of $146,252.84 from the County's Capital Reserve Account to reimburse Polk County Schools for capital expenses paid through this year - Dr. Brandon Schweitzer, Polk County Schools Director of Operations.

Mr. Murphy explained that the budget transfer would reimburse Polk County Schools for the purchase of 345 new student Chromebooks. The new devices replaced Chromebooks that had reached the end of their life or were no longer reliable for daily student use.

Vice-Chairman Moore moved to approve the budget amendment and transfer of $146,252.84, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

D. Consideration and approval of the Purchase Order request for Republic Services, Inc. by the Polk County Landfill in the amount of $1,365,113.00 for trash hauling and disposal - Manager Pittman.

Vice-Chairman Moore moved to approve the Purchase Order request for Republic Services, Inc. by the Polk County Landfill, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

E. Polk County Emergency Management - Bobby Arledge, Director.

I. NC Emergency Management, State Centric Memorandum of Agreement.

Mr. Arledge explained that the MOA was for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program property acquisition of four flood-prone properties, including one on Wall Road in Tryon and three on Green River Cove Road in Saluda. He said that the total acquisition cost was $1,348,739.50.

Vice-Chairman Moore moved to accept the properties of the NCEM Hazard Mitigation property acquisition, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

II. Flood Gauge Project - Green Stream Products and Services.

Mr. Arledge explained that North Carolina Emergency Management awarded the County a grant of approximately $90,000 to purchase and install additional flood gauges throughout the county. He said that the County currently has only one flood gauge and that three quotes were obtained for the project. He recommended awarding the contract to Green Stream, the lowest responsive bidder, to install the flood gauges.

Commissioner Hargett moved to approve the use of Green Stream as the vendor to install the gauges for the flood gauge project.

F. State Cashflow Loans for Disaster Response Activities to Local Governments Resolution, Amendment, and Promissory Note - Sonya Ayers, Finance Director.

Mrs. Ayers explained that, following Hurricane Helene, Polk County received approximately $3.66 million in interest-free State cash flow loans to provide operating cash while awaiting FEMA reimbursements. She said that the proposed resolution would amend the repayment terms in accordance with State legislation, extending repayment until the latest of June 30, 2030, final FEMA determination, or receipt of FEMA reimbursement funds. She mentioned that the amendment does not increase the loan amount, authorize additional borrowing, or change the interest-free status of the loans, and that the funds remain restricted to eligible disaster recovery activities in the county's unincorporated areas.

Commissioner Hargett moved to approve the amendments, resolution and promissory note, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items.

There were seven citizen comments on non-agenda items.

9. Volunteer Board Applications

A. Agricultural Advisory Board - There is one vacancy and one applicant; Sofia Lilly.

Vice-Chairman Moore moved to appoint Sofia Lilly to the Agricultural Advisory Board, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Economic & Tourism Development Commission - There are three vacancies and one applicant; Katie Biel.

Commissioner Hargett moved to appoint Katie Biel to the Economic and Tourism Development Commission, seconded by Vice-Chairman Moore, and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Fire Rescue Advisory Committee (FRAC) There are seven vacancies, and three applicants; Cynthia Fowler, Jeremy Gregg, and Pat Linnon.

Vice-Chairman Moore moved to appoint Cynthia Fowler, Jeremy Gregg, and Pat Linnon to the Fire Rescue Advisory Committee, seconded by Commissioner Melton.

D. Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) - There are eight vacancies, and one applicant; Christine Davis.

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

E. Recycling Advisory Board - There are three vacancies and one applicant; Pat Linnon.

Vice-Chairman Moore moved to appoint Pat Linnon to the Recycling Advisory Board, seconded by Commissioners Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

10. Commissioner Comments.

The commissioners thanked everyone for attending.

11. Closed Session

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

Vice-Chairman Moore 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 Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

12. Adjournment

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

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Kennedy E Freeman
Clerk to the Board

Myron Yoder
Chairman