POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Public Hearing & Regular Meeting April
14, 2025 - 5:00 PM
Bryant H. Womack Justice & Administration Building 40
Courthouse Street
Columbus, NC 28722
MINUTES

Present: Chairman Yoder, Commissioner Beiler, Commissioner Melton, Commissioner Hargett, Manager Pittman, Attorney Berg (Virtually), Clerk to the Board Freeman, Media and Citizens.

Absent: Vice-Chairman Moore

1. Public Hearing

   A. Call to Order the Public Hearing

   Chair Yoder called the public hearing to order.

      I. Call to Order the Public Hearing - The purpose of the Public Hearing is to take public comment on the proposed new road names; Destination Drive - Private Road -Off of Chesnee Road - SR-1343, Elijah Circle - Private Road - Off of Houston Road - SR 1137, and a request to renumber these addresses: 2263 to 93, 2267 to 97, 2293 to 143, 2295 to 175, 2297 to 191, Chanterelle Circle - Private Road - Off of Pinewood Trail, and Loggers Pass Lane - Private Road - Off of Mountain Parkway. The Public Hearing Notice was properly advertised in the Tryon Daily Bulletin.

   Attorney Berg was available for questions.

   B. Citizen Comments

   There was one citizen comment on the public hearing.

   C. Adjourn Public Hearing

   Commissioner Melton moved to adjourn the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Beiler, and the motion carried unanimously. (Moore absent)

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

   Chairman Yoder called to order the Regular Meeting.

3. Invocation - Commissioner Hargett

4. Pledge of Allegiance - Vice-Chairman Moore

   Commissioner Beiler led the Pledge of Allegiance in place of Vice-Chairman Moore.

5. Approval of Agenda

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

Commissioner Melton moved to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Commissioner Hargett, and the motion carried unanimously. (Moore absent)

6. Consent Agenda

A. March 17, 2025, Public Hearings, and Regular Meeting Minutes

B. Declare Five Sheriff's Vehicles as Surplus to be sold by electronic auction. Asset details are attached.

C. Steps to Hope Declaration of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

D. Health and Human Services Agency Child Abuse Prevention Proclamation.

E. National Public Safety of Telecommunicators Proclamation

F. Tax Refund Request through February 28, 2025, in the amount of $3,004.82.

G. Restore a Sheriff's Department position that was unfunded in FY 23-24. No additional funding is needed.

H. Schedule a Public Hearing for proposed new road names to be considered on Monday, May 19, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the Bryant H. Womack Justice & Administration Building.

Commissioner Melton moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Beiler, and the motion carried unanimously. (Moore absent)

7. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items.

There were no citizen comments on agenda items.

8. Regular Agenda Items

A. Consideration and approval of the proposed new road names subsequent to the Public Hearing - Attorney, Jana Berg.

Commissioner Melton moved to approve the proposed new road names and renumbering, seconded by Commissioner Hargett, and the motion carried unanimously. (Moore absent)

B. Consideration and approval of the proposed Subdivision Ordinance Amendment. A Public Hearing for these text amendments was held on Monday, February 17, 2025, at 5:00 pm in the Bryant H. Womack Justice & Administration Building. - Cathy Ruth, Planning and Economic Development Director.

Cathy Ruth gave a presentation on the proposed Subdivision Ordinance text amendments, a copy of which is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes.

Commissioner Hargett moved to approve the amendments to the Subdivision Ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously. (Moore absent)

C. Little White Oak Mountain Trail Network Update - Mickey Edwards, Parks, and Facilities Director, and Holly Williams, Recreation Coordinator.

Mickey Edwards gave a presentation to update everyone on the Little White Oak Mountain Trail Network, a copy of which is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes. Mr. Edwards also requested approval for the proposed new trail names; Laurel Loop, Live Wire, Piney Flats Loop, Ripsaw Cove Loop, The Hub, and The Escalator. He said that signs displaying the new names will be installed, with funding from a grant provided by the Polk County Community Foundation.

Commissioner Melton moved to approve the new trail names for the Little White Oak Mountain Trail Network, seconded by Commissioner Beiler, and the motion carried unanimously. (Moore absent)

D. Board of Elections Budget Amendment - Cliff Marr, Director.

Cliff Marr gave a presentation explaining the reasons behind the Board of Elections' request for a budget amendment, as well as reviewing their performance after the November 2024 election, a copy of which is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes.

Commissioner Melton moved to approve the budget amendment, seconded by Commissioner Hargett, and the motion carried unanimously. (Moore absent)

E. Request the addition of a Deputy Sheriff Patrol position for the Sheriff's Department. No additional funding is needed for the addition of this position - Sheriff Wright

Chief Deputy, Jeff Ramsey was present for questions.

Commissioner Melton moved to approve the addition of the Deputy Sheriff Patrol position for the Sheriff's Department, seconded by Little Beiler, and the motion carried unanimously. (Moore absent)

F. Approval of Parcel Change from Mill Spring to Green Creek - Bobby Arledge, Fire Marshal and Emergency Management Director.

Bobby Arledge explained that a Mill Spring resident requested a fire district change to qualify for better insurance rates. The resident’s property lies outside the Mill Spring six-mile district, placing them in Class 10, but falls within Green Creek Fire Department’s six-mile district, which would assign them a Class 9 rating. Mr. Arledge explained that to make this change they had to change the following 7 parcels to line up with the fire district lines: P113-25, P113-6, P113-15, P113-7, P113-4, P113-10, P113-11.

Commissioner Hargett motioned to approve the change of parcels for the Green Creek Fire District, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously. (Moore absent)

G. Emergency Management Update - Bobby Arledge.

Bobby Arledge expressed gratitude to the Fire Departments for their support during the Black Cove Fire, where three fires collectively burned 7,670 acres and resulted in the loss of 11 structures, including 3 homes and 11 outbuildings. Mr. Arledge recognized everyone who was involved in the fires for their teamwork. He says that without their collaboration, the fires could have been a lot worse. He also says that they are currently working to communicate and emphasize fire safety tips, such as clearing gutters and removing leaves from around structures. Mr. Arledge noted that Private Property Debris Removal (PPDR) sign-ups close on May 1, 2025. 368 applicants have been reviewed by the Army Corps of Engineers and Tetra Tech as of April 14, 2025. Of those, 203 applications were sent to FEMA for approval. Regarding private roads and bridges, Mr. Arledge explained that assistance is available through FEMA and the State of Emergency Management.

H. Resolution for Volunteer Board Appreciation - Manager Pittman.

Commissioner Hargett read the resolution.

Commissioner Melton motioned to approve the resolution for the Volunteer Board appreciation, seconded by Commissioner Hargett. (Moore absent)

9. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items.

There were no citizen comments on non-agenda items.

10. Volunteer Board Applications

A. Health and Human Services Agency – There are three vacancies and three applicants; Luvenia Abrams, Margaret Franklin, and Terri Palmer.

Commissioner Melton moved to appoint the three applicants as presented, seconded by Commissioner Beiler, and the motion carried unanimously (Moore absent).

B. Mental Health Advisory Board - There are two vacancies and one applicant; Luvenia Abrams.

Commissioner Hargett moved to appoint Luvenia Abrams, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously. (Moore absent)

11. Commissioner Comments.

The Commissioners thanked everyone who attended the meeting.

12. Adjournment

Commissioner Melton motioned to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner Hargett, and the motion carried unanimously. (Moore absent)

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Kennedy E Freeman
Clerk to the Board

Myron Yoder
Chairman