POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
May 18, 2026 - 5:00 PM
Bryant H. Womack Justice & Administration Building
40 Courthouse Street Columbus, NC 28722
MINUTES

Present: Chairman Yoder, Vice-Chairman Moore, Commissioner Beiler, and Commissioner Hargett. Also in attendance were Manager Pittman, Clerk to the Board Freeman, and citizens.

Absent: Commissioner Melton

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.

   Vice-Chairman Moore moved to add an agenda item to cancel the May 19, 2026, Budget Work Session as item 7.A.I. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beiler and carried unanimously.

5. Consent Agenda

   A. Approval of the April 20, 2026, Public Hearing and Regular Meeting, and the May 11, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes.

   B. Schedule a Public Hearing for proposed new road names to be considered on Monday, June 15, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the Bryant H. Womack Justice & Administration Building.

   C. Tax Refund Requests in the amount of $1,537.49.

   D. Budget Amendment to adjust budget lines internally within the Sheriff's Department and Detention Center.

   E. Budget Amendment to cover Sheriff's Department Merit Increases which were budgeted and appropriated in FY26.

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

6. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

There were no citizen comments on agenda items.

7. Regular Agenda Items

A.I. Cancellation of the May 19, 2026, Budget Work Session (added during item 4.A.)

Commissioner Beiler moved to cancel the Budget Work Session, seconded by Commissioner Hargett, and the motion carried unanimously.

A.II. Child Fatality Prevention Team 2025 Annual Report - Robin Elliott, HHSA Director, and the Child Fatality Prevention Team.

Ms. Elliott gave the Child Fatality Prevention Team's 2025 Annual Report.

B. Resolution Adjusting Current and Future Reappraisal Cycles – Melissa O'Loughlin, Tax Administrator.

Mrs. O'Loughlin presented a resolution requesting a six-year reappraisal cycle. She explained that the current four-year cycle is too frequent for a county the size of Polk, while the previous eight-year cycle was too long. A six-year cycle would remain within the statutory limit and provide a more stable tax base, while also supporting long-term financial planning and reducing the frequency of costly reappraisals.

Vice-Chairman Moore moved to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beiler and carried unanimously.

C. Helene Recovery Disaster Mitigation Program Update - Ryan Searcy - NCFS Polk County Ranger, and Coleman Enloe -NCFS Mitigation Specialist.

Mr. Searcy and Mr. Enloe gave a presentation which is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes.

D. Fund Balance Appropriation for new Emergency Management Truck - Bobby Arledge, Emergency Management Director, and Fire Marshal.

Mr. Arledge requested approval of a fund balance appropriation to purchase a new Emergency Management vehicle. He explained that the vehicle currently assigned to the Assistant Fire Marshal has experienced ongoing mechanical issues and that replacing the vehicle would be more cost-effective than continuing repairs. He said his current truck would be reassigned to the Assistant Fire Marshal and that the new vehicle would better meet the towing and operational needs of Emergency Management.

Commissioner Beiler moved to approve the appropriation, seconded by Vice-Chairman Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

E. Polk County Public Libraries 2026-2031 Strategic Plan Approval - Marcie Dowling, Libraries Director.

Ms. Dowling presented the Polk County Libraries Strategic Plan. A copy of the presentation is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes.

Commissioner Hargett moved to approve the Strategic Plan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beiler and carried unanimously.

F. Request for Approval of Reimbursement through the Public School Building Repair and Renovations Fund (PSBRRF) NC Education Lottery - Dr. Brandon Schweitzer, Director of Operations.

I. Sunny View Elementary HVAC Replacement

Vice-Chairman Moore moved to approve the Sunny View Elementary HVAC Replacement PSBRRF request, seconded by Commissioner Hargett, and the motion carried unanimously.

II. Tryon Elementary HVAC Replacement

Commissioner Beiler moved to approve the Tryon Elementary HVAC Replacement PSBRRF request, seconded by Commissioner Hargett, and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items.

There were 14 citizen comments on non-agenda items.

9. Volunteer Board Applications

A. Board of Adjustment - There are two vacancies and one applicant; Arion Jones.

Commissioner Beiler moved to appoint Arion Jones to the Board of Adjustment, seconded by Vice-Chairman Moore, and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Saluda Fire District Tax Commission - There are three vacancies, and one applicant; Arion Jones.

Vice-Chairman Moore moved to appoint Arion Jones to the Saluda Fire District Tax Commission, seconded by Commissioner Beiler, and the motion carried unanimously.

10. Commissioner Comments.

The Commissioners thanked those in attendance for participating in the meeting and encouraged residents to continue attending Board meetings and providing input on matters affecting the community.

11. Closed Session

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

Commissioner Hargett moved to go into closed session for the purpose of Attorney-Client privilege, seconded by Commissioner Beiler, and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion to return to open session.

Commissioner Melton moved to return to open session, seconded by Commissioner Beiler, and the motion carried unanimously.

12. Adjournment

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

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Kennedy E Freeman
Clerk to the Board

Myron Yoder
Chairman