POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Public Hearing & Regular Meeting
October 19, 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, Commissioner Melton, and Commissioner Hargett. Also in attendance were Manager Pittman, Attorney Berg, Clerk to the Board Freeman, and citizens.

1. Public Hearing

   A. Call to Order the Public Hearing - The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive comments on the FY 2028 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. (A complete copy of the grant application was available for review upon request.)

   Calan Halford, Transportation and Human Services Program Manager, presented an overview of the proposed grant applications.

   B. Citizen Comments

   There was one citizen comment on the public hearing for the FY 2028 Polk County Transportation Authority Grant Application.

   C. Adjourn Public Hearing

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

2. Call to Order the Regular Meeting - Chairman Yoder

3. Invocation - Vice-Chairman Moore

4. Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Beiler.

5. Approval of Agenda

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

   Chairman Yoder requested a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Personnel to the Closed Session.

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

6. Consent Agenda

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

   A. Approval of the September 21, 2026, Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes.

B. Schedule a Public Hearing for proposed new road names to be considered on Monday, November 16, 2026, at 5:00 pm in the R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice, Womack Building.

C. Reschedule the public hearing for consideration of amendments to the Subdivision Ordinance to Monday, November 16, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., in the Bryant H. Womack Justice & Administration Building due to an advertising error, pursuant to NCGS § 160D-601(a).

D. Declare one Health and Human Services Vehicle as surplus to be sold via GovDeals auction. (Asset details attached).

E. Declare miscellaneous Jail kitchen equipment as surplus to be sold via GovDeals auction. (Asset details attached).

F. Project Budget Ordinance Amendment to Reflect Additional Sales Tax Refund-Capital Project.

G. Approval of the 2026 State CashFlow Loan for Debris and Project Ordinance Amendment.

H. 2026 SBI Local Law Enforcement Bonus Program Budget Addition.

I. September tax refund requests in the amount of $525.52.

7. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items.

There was one citizen comment on agenda items.

8. Regular Agenda Items

A. FY 2028 Polk County Transportation Authority Grants & Resolution - To consider approval of 5311 (ADTAP), 5310, 5339, 5307, and applicable State Funding Community Transit Grants subsequent to the public hearing - Calan Halford, Transportation and Human Services Program Manager.

Commissioner Melton moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2028 Polk County Transportation Authority Grant Applications and Resolution, seconded by Vice-Chairman Moore, and the motion carried unanimously.

B. NC 911 Grant – E-911 Communications Center Roof Replacement: Bid Award Recommendation, Purchase Order Request, and Budget Amendment - Jeremy Gregg, E-911 Communications Director.

Jeremy Gregg, 911 Director, presented the bid award recommendation, purchase order request, and budget amendment for replacement of the roof at the E-911

Communications Center. He recommended awarding the bid to Hayes Roofing as the lowest responsible bidder. Mr. Gregg explained that they were aware of the need for a roof replacement prior to the renovation project; however, the original renovation grant would not cover the cost of the roof. The Board considered and accepted a separate grant during the December 15, 2025, Board of Commissioners meeting which provided $96,221 in state funding for the roof replacement. Mr. Gregg said that if the board chooses to award the bid to Hayes roofing, the County would be responsible for the remaining $15,339.

Vice-Chairman Moore moved to award the bid to Hayes Roofing as the lowest responsible bidder, as well as accept the purchase order request, and the budget amendment. The

motion was seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

A. Consideration of a Late Tax Exemption Request for Saluda Pop-Up Pantry and Historic Saluda, Inc.

Melissa O'Loughlin, Tax Administrator, presented a late tax exemption application for Saluda Pop-Up Pantry and Historic Saluda, Inc., requesting consideration for the 2026 calendar year. She explained that applications are due in January and that the application was received in August. In response to the Board's questions regarding the late submission, Mrs. O'Loughlin explained that the organizations did not own the property during the January application period but had since acquired the property and were using it to serve the community. She further explained that the Board's vote would be limited to accepting the application for review. Any determination regarding eligibility and the granting of the tax exemption would be made after she completed her review of the application.

Commissioner Beiler moved to accept the late tax exemption application, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Part-Time Regular Finance Position Budget Amendment

Sonya Ayers, Finance Director, presented a request to establish a part-time regular Finance Department position working 24 hours per week. The position would primarily assist with the increased workload associated with FEMA disaster and non-disaster funding. The employee would also provide support for other Finance Department duties as needed. Mrs. Ayers also explained that funding would come from the current fiscal year's available budget, with no additional County funds requested or appropriated.

Vice-Chairman Moore moved to approve the establishment of a part-time regular Finance Department position, and the associated budget amendment, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

9. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items.

There were two citizen comments on non-agenda items.

10. Volunteer Board Applications

A. Animal Cruelty Investigators - There are five vacancies and five applicants; Jeanne Peters, Paula Spinale, Sarah McDonald, Shyla Foster, and Ted Owen, DVM. (All applicants have completed the required training).

Commissioner Beiler moved to appoint the applicants as presented to the Animal Cruelty Investigators, seconded by Commissioner Melton, and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Health and Human Services Agency - There are seven vacancies and one applicant; Ellen Thomas.

Vice-Chairman Moore moved to appoint the applicant as presented to the Health and Human Services Agency, seconded by Commissioner Beiler, and the motion carried unanimously.

11. Commissioner Comments.

The Commissioners thanked everyone for attending the meeting and expressed their appreciation to veterans in recognition of Veterans Day, which would take place before the Board's next meeting.

12. Closed Session

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

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

    B. Motion to return to open session.

    Commissioner Beiler moved to return to open session, seconded by Vice-Chairman Moore, and the motion carried unanimously.

13. Adjournment

    Commissioner Melton moved to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner Hargett, and the motion carried unanimously.

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Kennedy E. Freeman
Clerk to the Board

Myron Yoder
Chairman