

POLK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC HEARING &
REGULAR MEETING

Monday, July 9, 2012, at 7:00pm
R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice, Womack Building
Columbus, NC
MINUTES

PRESENT: Chair Gasperson, Vice-Chair McDermott, Commissioner Owens, Commissioner Pack and Commissioner Walker. Also in attendance were County Manager Whitson, County Attorney Egan, Administrative Assistant Dianne Timberlake, staff, media and citizens.

1. Call to Order of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) 2012 Secondary Roads Improvement Program Amendment Public Hearing – Chair Gasperson called the public hearing to order, the purpose of which was to hear public comments on the NCDOT 2012 Secondary Roads Improvement Program Amendment. Steve Cannon, NCDOT District Engineer, gave the presentation describing proposed changes to the program.
2. Citizen Comments - There were no citizen comments.
3. Commissioner Comments – Commissioner Owens asked about the timing for work on Highway 9 and was told that project is at least 3 or 4 years away. A resolution may help to change the timing.
4. Motion to Adjourn the Public Hearing - Commissioner Owens moved to adjourn the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously.
5. Call to Order of the Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting – Chair Gasperson called the regular meeting to order.
6. Invocation – Commissioner Owens gave the invocation.
7. Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner McDermott led the pledge.
8. Approval of Minutes – Commissioner Pack requested that an audio recording of the budget discussion during the June 18 meeting be attached to the minutes. With discussion it was agreed that the minutes include a verbatim transcription of Agenda Item No. 12, FY 2012/13 Polk County Annual Budget, and will be presented for approval at the next meeting.
9. Approval of Agenda – Commissioner McDermott moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously.
10. NCDOT 2012 Secondary Roads Improvement Program Amendment – Commissioner Owens moved to approve the amendment, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously.

11. CooperRiis Waterline Extension - Hwy. 108 Polk/Columbus Interconnection Change Order #2 – Virgil Stucker, CooperRiis Executive Director, presented information clarifying the location of the extension being requested, which is along Highway 108 at the mid-point of their property line. Also, he stated the purpose of the new line is primarily for the safety of residents in the event of a fire. Guy Greaves of the Mill Spring Fire Department, ETDC Chair Craig Hilton, and former EDC Chairs Joe Epley and Ambrose Mills all advocated the installation of the line to CooperRiis. Bob Morgan spoke in favor of the installation, citing his position on the ETDC, also with Thermal Belt Outreach, and as a neighboring business.

Local utility contractor, Myron Steppe of Steppe Construction and Scott Roach of Odom Engineering presented new information regarding the actual distance of the line requested, which means the cost will be less than initially stated. Commissioner Pack questioned the impact of this installation on the capacity of the wells at the Middle School. A pump station will be installed at the High School, allowing the transfer of water from Columbus. However, according to Scott Roach, the impact on the capacity of the wells is unknown. County Manager Whitson said there is plenty of water available for Cooper-Riis' use since Woodland Mills is closed. Vice Chair McDermott moved that the water line be extended to the mid-point of the CooperRiis property along Highway 108 as requested. Chair Gasperson seconded the motion.

Comments in support also were made by CooperRiis employees Jeff Byrd, Doug Arbogast, Pat Dockendorf, Samuel Schlassel and Sharon Young. Bob Dockendorf also spoke in favor of the installation. Commissioner Pack moved to amend Commissioner McDermott's motion to state that the waterline cost not exceed \$111,543, to be funded through the general fund, as discussed June 18, and that a contract be established with CooperRiis to purchase at least 80,000 gallons per month. Commissioner Owens seconded the motion to amend. With further discussion, Commissioner McDermott amended her motion and Commissioner Gasperson made the change part of his second. With the amended motion and a second on the floor, the motion carried with unanimous approval.

12. 2012 Appearance Commission Beautification Awards – Joe Cooper, Chair of the Appearance Commission, presented awards to The Town of Columbus for the Gateway Trees along Highway 108, the House of Flags Museum's new location in Columbus, Bob Laine for Sunnydale in Tryon, beautification at the Doughboy Statue by the Daffy Jills Garden Club, and Walnut Creek Preserve's Anne Elizabeth Suratt Nature Center. Mr. Cooper also recognized the Saluda Community Land Trust who received their certificate at an earlier date for their two-year kudzu removal project on the corner of Ozone and Thompson.
13. June Refund Request – Melissa Bowlin, Interim Tax Administrator, presented the request. Commissioner Owens moved that the refund be granted, seconded by Commissioner McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
14. Maintenance of Effort Funds Proposals – Presentations were made by Neal Bebbler, President of Polk Vocational Services, and Maureen Smith, Chair of the Polk Wellness Center. Commissioner Walker moved the approval of the MOE

- funds for the Polk Wellness Center. Commissioner Owens suggested dividing the funds to offer a portion to Polk Vocational Services. Commissioner McDermott seconded the motion, acknowledging as was done by Commissioner Walker the difficulty in the decision based on the needs of both organizations and the known impact of this issue in the community. Commissioner Walker also noted that the Mental Health Advisory Board had voted in favor of granting all funds to the Polk Wellness Center based on their ability to ease the burden on the hospital and other local agencies. It was suggested that the ETDC work with Polk Vocational Services for jobs creation and to find additional funds for Polk Vocational Services. Commissioner Pack stated his desire that the money be split between the two organizations. With a motion and a second on the floor, the motion carried 4 to 1, with Commissioner Pack dissenting.
15. Polk County Water Extension Policy Amendment – Discussion ensued regarding language needed to clarify the intent of the water extension policy and how various situations are to be treated. The resolution was tabled for discussion at the next meeting.
 16. 12-Lead EKG Discussion For Basic Support Ambulances – Commissioner Pack presented an issue for clarification based on prior budget discussions with the Rescue Squad and EMS Director, Sandra Halford. He pointed out that there were several references to using the 12-Lead EKG in an EMT protocol book and corresponding test when it had been suggested that the equipment was not necessary. Ms. Halford told Commissioners that the protocol book and test were developed by the State, which recommends but does not require the equipment. The paramedics have them, but not the EMTs. She described various issues related to transmitting the data, plus challenges with funding. Additionally, the use of the equipment does not change the treatment of the patient. It was agreed to defer the discussion to another time to allow Commissioners to learn more about the local ambulances' ability to transmit the 12-Lead EKG data to hospitals.
 17. Discussion on the Adopted Budget – Commissioner Pack challenged the procedures used in passing the budget at the June 18 meeting, which he stated were not in alignment with Robert's Rules on amendments. Discussion ensued with differing opinions on how the motion and amendments were concluded. The County Attorney offered his opinion, based on listening to the recording, that the motion on the budget was in fact adopted as amended. Further discussion addressed the need to define which rules and procedures the Board follows, even concerning those used in decisions reached in this meeting. The Chair suggested a review of meeting procedures at a later date.
 18. Sheriff's Office Request for Position Grade Change – Commissioner Owens moved the approval of the Sheriff's request to change a Sergeant's position (Grade 21) to a Staff Sergeant (Grade 22), seconded by Commissioner Pack and the motion carried unanimously.
 19. Grant Project Budget Ordinances – Sandra Hughes, Finance Director, presented the budget ordinances. Commissioner Walker moved to approve the CDBG 2011 Scattered Site Housing Private Dwelling Grant for \$400,000, seconded by

- Commissioner McDermott and the motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Owens moved the approval of the CDBG Small Business & Entrepreneurial Small Business Assistance Grant for \$250,000 which is managed by IPDC, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously.
20. Budget Amendments – Sandra Hughes presented two budget amendments. BA Addition #1, to increase Capital Reserve by \$12,197 to increase revenue and expense for a grant received in June for the future purchase of an emergency management truck. Commissioner McDermott moved to approve the amendment, seconded by Commissioner Walker and the motion carried unanimously. The County had reserved \$13,059 in 2010. Therefore, this amendment brings the total to \$25,256. Next was BA #1, AG Economic Development for \$45,510. Lynn Sprague was present and explained that the requested funds will support three primary functions: A Distribution Center Manager; A Farmer Outreach Coordinator and two Ameri-Corps positions for community outreach and farmland preservation. Commissioner Walker moved the approval of this amendment, seconded by Commissioner McDermott and the motion carried unanimously.
21. Manager's Report – The County Manager presented quotes received from a State contractor and a local dealership for the purchase of two vehicles. Commissioner Walker moved to approve the purchase of a 2012 Ford E350 12-passenger wagon at \$22,500, seconded by Commissioner McDermott and the motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Pack moved to approve the purchase of a 2013 Ford Escape from Stotts Ford, seconded by Commissioner Owens, and the motion carried unanimously.
22. Volunteer Boards for Vote – Ernie Kan and Carolyn Ashburn received unanimous approval for re-appointment to the Appearance Commission. Paul Weideman received unanimous approval for re-appointment to the Zoning Board.
23. Volunteer Boards for Review – Animal Cruelty Investigators – 6 applications were reviewed.
24. Commissioner Comments – Commissioner Walker expressed pride in the County for its forward movement supporting Mental Health. Commissioner Owens stated that the Polk County contractor on the water lines has added several employees as a result of that project, making it a win-win for everyone. Commissioner Pack thanked everyone for coming out. Commissioner McDermott noted the progress with the water policy and meeting procedures. Chair Gasperson thanked citizens for coming out and fellow Commissioners for working through some difficult issues.
25. Adjournment – Commissioner Walker moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Owens and the motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

POLK COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS

Dianne Timberlake
Administrative Assistant

Ray Gasperson
Chair