

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
October 21, 2019 - 7:00 PM
R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice Womack Building Columbus, NC
Columbus, NC
MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Melton, Vice-Chairman Yoder, Commissioner Beiler, Commissioner Gasperson, and Commissioner Moore. Also in attendance were County Manager Pittman, Clerk to the Board High, and citizens.
ABSENT: Attorney Berg.

1. Call to Order - Chairman Melton.
2. Invocation - Commissioner Beiler.
3. Pledge of Allegiance- Commissioner Gasperson.
4. Approval of Agenda

Manager Pittman asked to remove item 8 - NC HWY 108 Right of Way Purchase Offer from the agenda. He also asked to remove attorney client privilege from closed session since Attorney Berg was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Vice-Chairman Yoder asked to add a Resolution supporting the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission to use any and all means necessary for safety at Bradley Falls, replacing item 8 on the agenda.

Commissioner Gasperson moved to approve agenda as amended, seconded by Vice-Chairman Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Consent Agenda

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

- A. October 7, 2019 public hearings and regular meeting minutes.
- B. 2020 Polk County Local Government Holiday Schedule.

6. Citizen Comment(s)

One citizen spoke regarding item 7, the resolution supporting the socioeconomic data for the NCDOT Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

7. NCDOT Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update and Resolution.

J. Andy Bailey Western Piedmont Planning Engineer Supervisor, Dominique Boyd Project Manager, and Richard Virgo Engineer the Polk County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) Team from the North Carolina

Department of Transportation (NCDOT), and Karyl Fuller Rural Planning Organization (RPO) Director, Isothermal Planning & Development Commission (IPDC) gave a presentation a copy of which is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes.

They gave an overview of the CPT explaining it is a long-range plan developed cooperatively among local stakeholders, the RPO, and NCDOT incorporating land use plans, community and statewide goals. They said the next step is to adopt the resolution supporting the socioeconomic data, then in November 2019 the Polk County CTP survey will be sent out to the public.

Chairman Melton asked how the surveys will be distributed. Mr. Boyd said they will be mailed to each property owner using addresses from the tax office, and the survey will be available electronically.

Vice-Chairman Yoder moved to approve the Resolution of Endorsement of Socioeconomic Data for the Isothermal Region-Wide CTP, seconded by Commissioner Beiler and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Resolution supporting the North Carolina Department of Wildlife Resources to use any and all means necessary for the safety of Bradley Falls.

Vice-Chairman Yoder requested this item be added to the agenda. The Commissioners discussed the safety issues at the Bradley Falls area which have resulted in several deaths over the past few years. Vice-Chairman Yoder said there is currently no signage, or safety measures on the trails or near the falls, and he would like to pass a resolution requesting the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission to use any and all means necessary to ensure the safety of citizens and tourists who visit Bradley Falls.

The consensus of the Board was to have staff draft a resolution as stated above, and send to Commissioners for approval, then ratify at the next meeting.

9. Involuntary Commitment Transportation Agreement Review.

County Manager Pittman said the involuntary commitment general statutes were amended in 2018 to require a transportation plan by 2020. He said County partners have been working together, and Vaya Health has held several regional meetings to answer questions and collect information on best practices and to receive suggestions for a plan. After much discussion with community partners, and law enforcement officers associated with the transport of the involuntary committed residents, the partners agreed to codify their current practice which was developed and refined over the past two years. The draft document is in the packet for review.

10. Introduction of New Library Director Marcie Dowling.

Diana Blanton Chair of the Library Board of Trustees introduced Marcie Dowling as the new Polk County Library Director. The Commissioners welcomed Ms. Dowling.

11. Volunteer Board Application for Vote:

- A. Commissioner Gasperson moved to appoint Nancy Phelps as an Animal Cruelty Investigator, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

12. Commissioner Comment(s)

The Commissioners welcomed Ms. Dowling as the new Library Director. They thanked everyone who came to the meeting, and said they appreciated the citizen's comments.

13. Closed Session

- A. Commissioner Moore moved to go into closed session for the purpose of property acquisition, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.
- B. Commissioner Beiler moved to return to open session, seconded by Vice-Chairman Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

14. Adjournment

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

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

Ange High
Clerk to the Board

Tommy W. Melton
Chairman