

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
November 4, 2019 - 7:00 PM
R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice Womack Building Columbus, NC
Columbus, NC
MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Melton, Vice-Chairman Yoder, Commissioner Gasperson, and Commissioner Moore. Also in attendance were Attorney Berg, Clerk to the Board High, media and citizens. (Commissioner Gasperson arrived at 7:20 pm)

ABSENT: Commissioner Beiler, County Manager Pittman.

1. Call to Order - Chairman Melton.

Chairman Melton said Representative Johnson will be attending one of the Board of Commissioner meetings in December, and will be on the agenda to give a legislative update.

2. Invocation - Commissioner Gasperson.

Commissioner Gasperson arrived late, Vice-Chairman Yoder gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance - Chairman Melton.

4. Approval of Agenda

A. Commissioner Moore moved to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Vice-Chairman Yoder and the motion carried unanimously. Absent: Beiler, Gasperson

5. Consent Agenda

Vice-Chairman Yoder moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.
Absent: Beiler, Gasperson

A. October 21, 2019 regular meeting minutes.

B. Schedule a public hearing for proposed new road names for Monday, November 18, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice, Womack Building.

C. Ratify Bradley Falls Resolution approved on October 21, 2019.

6. Citizen Comment(s)

One citizen spoke about ways to increase participation at County meetings. One citizen spoke in support of the resolution for the Courthouse., and one citizen spoke in support of kudzu management.

7. Involuntary Commitment Transportation Agreement.

Joshua Kennedy Health and Human Services Director presented the agreement for approval.

Vice-Chairman Yoder moved to approve the Involuntary Commitment Transportation Agreement, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

Absent: Beiler, Gasperson

8. Kudzu Discussion.

Scott Welborn, Polk County's Cooperative Extension Director led the discussion on kudzu management options in North Carolina. He said there are pros and cons to the issue of managing kudzu, removal is only one concern, erosion issues and ground cover replacement must also be considered. Mr. Welborn provided information and a brochure with facts about the kudzu conundrum, and said he has a list of local contractors willing to do removal, and the cost of the different chemical options in his office to provide to anyone who inquires. He said the county can only manage the kudzu on property they own, which currently is approximately 11 acres with kudzu. Chairman Melton said he is willing to consider options to control the kudzu on county owned property, but the board cannot tell citizens what they must do on their property.

Vice-Chairman Yoder asked how the chemicals can be used safely, and Mr. Welborn explained the term means that you follow the directions listed on the label. Chairman Melton asked about the effect of the chemicals on water, and Mr. Welborn said it depends on the soil type, but typically clay or dense soils do not let the chemicals penetrate to the water, but the residue left in the soil could affect new growth.

Commissioner Gasperson said Johnson Grass is also an invasive species that effects hay fields, and he would like to have it considered along with kudzu.

Chairman Melton asked if the spraying of chemicals will effect wildlife. Mr.

Welborn said they will lose habitats, but there is no physical danger.

The Commissioners agreed they cannot mandate control, but should have a supportive roll in the management.

Chairman Melton asked if there was anyone in attendance that would like to speak. Joe Cooper thanked Mr. Welborn for the information presented and said he is glad to know there is a list of local contractors who are willing to deal with kudzu. Emily Clark said it is encouraging to hear management is possible and would like to engage the county to work with the public to control the growth. Mr. Welborn stated extension agents provide information to the public, but the citizens have to do the work. He said there are volunteer groups in the county that help fight kudzu, and he could see members of those groups being great leaders to serve the community in this effort.

9. Animal Control Ordinance Amendments for Review.

Attorney Berg reviewed the draft animal control ordinance with the Board. She

stated she worked with Patti Lovelace Animal Control Officer, Joshua Kennedy Health and Human Services Director, and the Animal Control Advisory Board to amend the ordinance. Attorney Berg explained the draft in the packet only contains the recent changes, and she will submit a red lined copy with all of the changes for them to review before approval at the next meeting. Attorney Berg said the letter from a citizen sent to the Commissioners with suggested items to include in the ordinance were considered in the revised draft.

Chairman Melton asked Patti Lovelace Animal Control Officer if there are a large number of mistreated animals in Polk County. Ms. Lovelace said it is not a major concern, but there have been issues to come up. She said mostly the pet owner needs to be educated on the care needed for the animal, or they are having financial trouble and are unable to provide the necessities for the animal, but typically the neglect is not intentional.

10. Courthouse Resolution.

Chairman Melton requested this item be added to the agenda, and read the resolution. The Board discussed that they cannot tie the hands of a future Board with the specific details, but they do support this idea and will recommend it be leased to the Polk County Historic Agency. Vice-Chairman Yoder moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Moore and the motion carried unanimously.

Absent: Beiler

11. Volunteer Board Application(s)

A. There were no Volunteer Board applications for vote, or review.

12. Commissioner Comment(s)

The Commissioners thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, and encouraged more citizens to attend future meetings and give their input.

13. Adjournment

Commissioner Gasperson moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Vice-Chairman Yoder and the motion carried unanimously.

Absent: Beiler

Attest:

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

Ange High
Clerk to the Board

Tommy W. Melton
Chairman