

POLK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING
June 20, 2016 – 7:00 P.M.
R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice
Womack Building
Columbus, NC
MINUTES

PRESENT: Chair Gage, Vice-Chair Holbert, Commissioner Bradley, Commissioner Gasperson and Commissioner Owens. Also in attendance were County Manager Pittman, County Attorney Berg, Clerk to the Board Fehrmann, media and citizens.

1. Call to Order – Chair Gage called the meeting to order.
2. Invocation – Rev. Don Hollifield, Cooper Gap Baptist Church, gave the invocation.
3. Pledge of Allegiance – Mr. Bobby Arledge led the pledge.
4. Approval of Agenda – Chair Gage asked that Agenda Item #12, “Smoky Mountain LME/MCO Update”, be moved to Agenda Item #7.a. Vice-Chair Holbert moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson and the motion carried unanimously.
5. Consent Agenda
 - A) Approval of the May 27, 2016, special meeting minutes, and the June 6, 2016, regular meeting minutes.
 - B) Approval of Budget Amendment #97, Personnel, \$79,871 – To transfer actual increases from the personnel budget to each individual department.
Commissioner Bradley moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Vice-Chair Holbert and the motion carried unanimously.
6. Citizen Comments – There were none.
7. FY 2016/17 Polk County Annual Budget – A budget work session was held on May 17, 2016 and the budget public hearing was held on June 6, 2016. The budget included a 2¢ tax increase to cover the first payment (due the last half of FY 2016/17) on the recurring biannual debt service obligation for the new law enforcement center. Vice-Chair Holbert moved to adopt the FY 2016/17 Polk County Annual Budget, seconded by Commissioner Bradley and the motion carried unanimously.
- 7.a Smoky Mountain LME/MCO Update – Shelly Foreman, Senior Director of Public Affairs for Smoky Mountain LME/MCO, gave an update on the contracted comprehensive care center in Polk County Center which provides services for individuals with mental health, development disability, and substance use issues. Smoky Mountain’s visions for the FY 2015-16 community and capital reinvestment plan are: 1) Create a robust crisis continuum to help divert individuals from long waits at, and costly visits to, hospital emergency departments. 2) Improve care for

- the people served, support contracted providers, and reinvest in the local communities. 3) Expand services, reduce stigma, and continue to develop integrated and collaborative care efforts across the service area. Ms. Foreman said by the end of 2017, the North Carolina General Assembly will have cut \$262 million in critical Smoky Mountain single stream funding. Smoky Mountain is asking the General Assembly to restore these funds to ensure that the most vulnerable citizens receive the care they need in order to be stable and productive.
8. New Insurance/Fire Protection Districts for Blue Ridge, Dana & Edneyville – Bobby Arledge, Emergency Management Director/Fire Marshall, presented the new district maps which enable the provision of fire protection to areas in the county that are currently geographically difficult to protect. Commissioner Bradley moved to approve the creation of a new insurance/fire protection district in the Saluda Township to enable the Blue Ridge Fire & Rescue Department to provide fire protection to areas in the Saluda Township that are currently geographically difficult for the Saluda Fire & Rescue Department to protect, and further move to approve the corresponding map, seconded by Vice-Chair Holbert and the motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Bradley moved to approve the creation of a new insurance/fire protection district in the Saluda Township to enable the Dana Fire & Rescue Department to provide fire protection to areas in the Saluda Township that are currently geographically difficult for the Saluda Fire & Rescue Department to protect, and further move to approve the corresponding map, seconded by Vice-Chair Holbert and the motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Bradley moved to approve the creation of a new insurance/fire protection district in the Coopers Gap Township to enable the Edneyville Fire & Rescue Department to provide fire protection to areas in the Cooper Gap Township that are currently geographically difficult for the Sunny View Fire & Rescue Department to protect, and further move to approve the corresponding map, seconded by Vice-Chair Holbert and the motion carried unanimously.
 9. County Service District Service Contracts & Annual Addendums Between Polk County & Blue Ridge, Dana & Edneyville – Mr. Arledge presented the contracts. Commissioner Bradley moved to approve the County Service District Contract and Annual Addendum between Polk County and the Blue Ridge Fire & Rescue Department, seconded by Vice-Chair Holbert and the motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Bradley moved to approve the County Service District Contract and Annual Addendum between Polk County and the Dana Fire & Rescue Department, seconded by Vice-Chair Holbert and the motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Bradley moved to approve the County Service District Contract and Annual Addendum between Polk County and the Edneyville Fire & Rescue Department, seconded by Vice-Chair Holbert and the motion carried unanimously.
 10. Proposed Ordinance Establishing the Polk County Government & Public Facilities Zoning District – Cathy Ruth, Planner, gave an overview of the Planning Board's recommendation. Commissioner Owens moved to schedule a public hearing on July 18, 2016, at 7:00 P.M. in the R. Jay Foster Hall of Justice, Womack Building, seconded by Commissioner Gasperson. Ms. Ruth said the Planning Board expressed concern regarding the provision of visual buffering around the jail facility. County Manager Pittman said the back side of the property which abuts

- residential and commercial properties is the area of concern; the civil engineers involved in the project determined the best solution will be to plant trees/shrubbery to block the viewscape. With a motion and a second on the floor, the motion carried unanimously.
11. Property Revaluation – Tax Administrator Melissa Bowlin encouraged the Commissioners to come by the Tax Office individually and discuss the revaluation process and status. Robert Haskins of Wampler Eanes Appraisal Group began by complimenting the two county appraisers on their expertise, professionalism, and willingness to assist the revaluation process. Mr. Haskins said his team has visited approximately 83% of the properties in the county. Accompanied by a county appraiser, the team will now begin visiting properties they were unable to visit during the first attempt due to such circumstances as a locked gate or an overgrown road. Mr. Haskins said the fieldwork should be completed by the end of August 2016. Currently 45% of the property cards have been re-keyed, and most all of the residential properties will be re-keyed by the end of October. Pricing of properties is about 50% complete. Once all the information is keyed, Mr. Haskins will conduct a second review of pricing, with a third and final review planned for the end of December to ensure accuracy. The team is also building a sales file for the county; if there are any tax appraisal questions or appeals the county will have a listing of all qualified sales by neighborhood as reference material. Through working with the county on building permits, in November and December the team will visit all properties where there has been new construction. Commercial property appraisals should be completed sometime in November. The schedule of values will be presented to the BOC on August 8th, a public hearing on the schedule of values will be held on August 22nd, and the schedule of values will be approved on September 19th.
 12. ~~Smoky Mountain LME/MCO Update – Shelly Foreman, Senior Director of Public Affairs for Smoky Mountain LME/MCO, will present the update.~~ This agenda item was moved to Agenda Item #7.a.
 13. Manager's Report – County Manager Pittman said the county is moving forward on the Law Enforcement Center/Government Complex. For the past two weeks surveyors have been working diligently at the future site identifying the boundaries, identifying the tree plan, creating a topographical map, and conducting geotechnical test boring.
 14. Volunteer Board for Vote – Edward Goettert was reappointed to the Recycling Advisory Board by unanimous vote.
 15. Volunteer Boards for Review – Three applications for six Appearance Commission vacancies were reviewed. Three applications for five Juvenile Crime Prevention Council vacancies were reviewed. One application for two Recycling Advisory Board vacancies was reviewed.
 16. Commissioner Comments – Commissioner Gasperson said he had a great Father's Day with his father. Commissioner Owens reminded everyone about the 4th of July celebration in Columbus and Coon Dog Day in Saluda. Commissioner Bradley encouraged everyone to get outside and enjoy the weather, and thanked

everyone for coming out. Vice-Chair Holbert thanked the Tax Department for all their hard work on the revaluation, and the Emergency Management Director for all his hard work on the new fire districts. Chair Gage thanked everyone for coming out, and thanked all the county employees for the fine jobs they do which, in turn, make the Commissioners' jobs easier.

17. Adjournment – Commissioner Owens moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Bradley and the motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

POLK COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS

Beth Fehrmann
Clerk to the Board

Michael V. Gage
Chair