POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 05, 2024 6:20 PM

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Commissioners Ray Carter, Hal Floyd, Jordan Hubbard, Linda Liles, Gary Martin, and Chuck Thaxton.

OTHERS PRESENT:

County Manager Matt Denton, Assistant County Manager Connor Hooper, County Attorney Brad McFall, and County Clerk Jaime Armstrong.

MEDIA PRESENT:

Jeremy Stewart, Polk County Standard Journal, and Kevin Myrick, Polk.Today.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Hal Floyd called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. **Consider approval of agenda for the Regular Meeting of March 05, 2024.**

   Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Carter to approve the agenda for the Regular Meeting of March 05, 2024 with the amendment to add: Consider proposed Intergovernmental Agreement between Polk County and Haralson County regarding shared expenses for the Tallapoosa Judicial Circuit Juvenile Court CHINS Program. Second by Commissioner Martin. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. **Consider approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting of February 06, 2024, and the Called Meeting and Executive Session of February 15, 2024.**

   Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Liles to approve the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of February 06, 2024 and the Called Meeting and Executive Session of February 15, 2024. Second by Commissioner Hubbard. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Consider application requesting Special Land Use Permit from Jerome W. Bentley and Jody B. Smith for Tax Parcel 026-038A located at 578 Tallapoosa Highway, Cedartown, Georgia, to allow for an event venue and campground. Planning and Zoning recommended approval.**

   Applicants were present at the Work Session to answer any questions the Commissioners may have prior to consideration of the requests at their Regular Meeting.

   Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Carter to approve the application requesting Special Land Use Permit from Jerome W. Bentley and Jody B. Smith for Tax Parcel 026-038A located at 578 Tallapoosa Highway, Cedartown, Georgia, to allow for an event venue and campground with the stipulation that any entrance from Sewell Creek Road less than 250-feet from DOT right-of-way must include improvements to Sewell Creek Road to DOT standards. Second by Commissioner Martin.

   Following discussion and further clarification, Commissioner Carter amended his Motion to remove the stipulation and to approve the application for Special Land Use Permit from Jerome

W. Bentley and Jody B. Smith for Tax Parcel 026-038A located at 578 Tallapoosa Highway, Cedartown, Georgia, to allow for an event venue and campground as requested. Second by Commissioner Thaxton. Motion passed unanimously.

2. **Consider Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement pertaining to emergency situations.**

   EMA Director Bobby Dockery is requesting renewal of the Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement. The current agreement approved in 2019 has expired.

   Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Thaxton to approve renewal of the Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement pertaining to emergency situations. Second by Commissioner Hubbard. Motion passed unanimously.

3. **Consider appointment of a voting delegate for the Region 1 Regional Advisory Council regarding Opioid Settlement Funds.**

   The State of Georgia entered a Settlement Agreement with manufacturers and distributors of opioids that will bring payments of $638 million to Georgia over 18 years. Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities Commissioner Kevin Tanner is the Trustee of these funds. The State's share of the settlement funds is 75% ($479 million) and will be put into a state-administered trust. Forty percent of the State's share of funds ($191.6 million) must be spent on a regional basis. Commissioner Tanner asked the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) to coordinate the role that Participating Local Governments will play with respect to the distribution of these regional funds.

   The Memorandum of Understanding between the State of Georgia and Participating Local Governments requires the creation of the Georgia Opioid Settlement Advisory Commission (GOSAC) and Regional Advisory Councils (RACs), which will help to direct regional funding allocations. Three GOSAC members, representing local interests, and the RAC members for each region must be approved by the Participating Local Governments, which are defined as the litigating and non-litigating parties listed in the nationwide settlement agreements. Polk County is considered a Participating Local Government, and is hereby being notified of the pending process to form the RACs.

   Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Martin to appoint Commissioner Ray Carter as a voting delegate for the Region 1 Regional Advisory Council regarding Opioid Settlement Funds. Second by Commissioner Liles. Motion passed unanimously.

4. **Consider a recommendation from the Ordinance Committee to amend the Code of Polk County, Section 2-50 regarding appointments to committees, boards, and authorities.**

   The proposed amendment clarifies the appointment process for committees, boards, and authorities.

   Chairman Floyd stated the Motion as recommended by the Ordinance Committee is to amend the Code of Polk County, Section 2-50 regarding appointments to committees, boards, and authorities. Motion passed unanimously.

5. **Consider a resolution for proposed amendments to the Polk County Development Regulations, Section 3.4.5 Hardship Variances.**

   The current regulations allow for the Planning & Zoning Commission to consider hardship variances that do not pertain to zoning ordinances. The proposed amendment specifies that such variances will instead go to the Board of Commissioners for consideration.

   Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Carter to approve the resolution for proposed amendments to the Polk County Development Regulations, Section 3.4.5 Hardship Variances. Second by Commissioner Liles. Motion passed unanimously.

6. **Consider proposed change order for the Cave Spring Road Project to complete roadway striping and guardrail construction in the amount of $8,400.00.**

During construction of the improvements to Cave Spring Road, it was determined that edge line striping was not included in the bid documents. The striping would have been required regardless of whether or not it was included on the bid form. The cost for edge line striping is $3,000.00. Also during construction, it was determined, due to the location of unidentified utilities, the guardrail location must be placed further from the edge of pavement in an area that slopes away from the roadway. This will require longer guardrail posts to achieve the proper anchoring of the guardrail. The cost for the longer posts is $5,400.00. The total proposed change order is $8,400.00. For the clarification, the initial amount discussed with Committees was $11,100.00. Actual material costs resulted in $8,400.00.

Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Thaxton to approve the proposed change order for the Cave Spring Road Project to complete roadway striping and guardrail construction in the amount of $8,400.00. Second by Commissioner Martin. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Consider a proposed resolution establishing an FY2024 budget for Opioid Funds.

Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Hubbard to approve the proposed resolution establishing an FY2024 budget for Opioid Funds. Second by Commissioner Carter. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Consider renewal of an agreement between Floyd County and Polk County for inmate labor and work detail services.

Floyd County advised that, due to Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases, they are increasing the inmate labor cost from $100,000.00 to $103,700.00. Even with this increase, the County would be unable to hire a 5-man crew for this cost, especially considering overhead and benefits. According to Public Works Director Dion Senn, the labor and work detail services are especially beneficial to Public Works for paving.

Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Martin to approve the renewal of an agreement between Floyd County and Polk County for inmate labor and work detail services. Second by Commissioner Hubbard. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Consider an agreement with Place Services, Inc. for the architectural design of the Esom Hill Fire Station in the amount of $103,500.00.

Place Services, Inc. provided an initial price of $110,000.00 for the architectural design of the Esom Hill Fire Station. Administration negotiated the price and was able to get PSI to lower it by $6,500.00. This includes architectural design and civil, structural, and mechanical/plumbing/electrical engineering. The price does not include construction administration costs. In addition, PSI's Director of Architecture noted that, to revise or adapt these plans to different sites, the cost would be approximately $40,000.00 less unless it was a total redesign of the station.

Commissioner Carter requested that Administration meet with Place Services, Inc. to discuss alternate concepts and scalable plans for future stations.

Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Liles to approve the agreement with Place Services, Inc. for the architectural design of the Esom Hill Fire Station in a not to exceed amount of $103,500.00 from the Fire Fund. Second by Commissioner Thaxton. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Consider proposed Intergovernmental Agreement between Polk County and Haralson County regarding shared expenses for the Tallapoosa Judicial Circuit Juvenile Court CHINS Program.

The proposed Intergovernmental Agreement between Polk County and Haralson County specifies the terms and conditions for the Pro Rata Apportionment of salaries and expenses for shared employees and services for the Tallapoosa Judicial Circuit Juvenile Court CHINS Program. During the January meeting, the Board approved an item authorizing the Pro Rata allocation for cost sharing of a CHINS Coordinator, Case Manager, Prosecutor, and Defender for the Juvenile Court, however questions arose regarding the specifics of the arrangement.

The only clear resolution was to draft the proposed IGA that specifically outlines each entities obligations. A copy of the IGA was provided to Haralson County for consideration during their monthly meeting.

Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Carter to approve the proposed Intergovernmental Agreement between Polk County and Haralson County regarding shared expenses for the Tallapoosa Judicial Circuit Juvenile Court CHINS Program. Second by Commissioner Hubbard. Motion passed unanimously.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

1. February 2024 Finance Report.

County Manager Denton reviewed the February 2024 Finance Report. He reported that Revenues were at 69.8%, Expenses were at 51%, and Agency Allocations were at 71.3% though the report does not reflect salaries from ADP.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Martin commended Department Heads on their hard work stating he feels that they are all doing a phenomenal job.

Commissioner Carter recognized and commended the Elections Department for all of their hard work so far with regard to early voting.

Commissioner Hubbard thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve in his uncle, Scotty Tillery's, seat. He stated that it is an honor, he is ready to serve, and looking forward to working with them all.

Commissioner Liles gave a shout out to first responders for their collaboration on the fire at the former Jockey plant. She stated it was amazing how everyone worked together noting that is how it is meant to be.

Commissioner Thaxton stated he is saving his comments for next month's meeting to cover his list of student recognitions.

Commissioner Floyd acknowledged his fellow Commissioners expressing appreciation for them and the work that they do. He looks forward to continuing to work with them stating that he is certainly grateful for this Board. He is also appreciative of Administration and the work that they do.

ADJOURN

Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Hubbard to adjourn. Second by Commissioner Thaxton. Motion passed unanimously.

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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HAL FLOYD, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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JAIME ARMSTRONG, COUNTY CLERK