

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 03, 2023 6:08 PM

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Commissioners Ray Carter, Hal Floyd, Linda Liles, Gary Martin, Chuck Thaxton and Commissioner Scotty Tillery (via phone conference).

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Hal Floyd called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Consider approval of agenda for the Regular Meeting of October 03, 2023.

Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Thaxton to approve the agenda for the Regular Meeting of October 03, 2023. Second by Commissioner Martin. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Consider approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting of September 05, 2023.

Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Thaxton to approve the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of September 05, 2023. Second by Commissioner Liles. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider application for zoning change from PoBar Properties LLC for Tax Parcels 062-072A and 062-082C (split) located on SR 113 in Taylorsville, Georgia. Property is zoned A-1. Requesting total of 1.367 acres be rezoned to C-1 to combine with adjoining property for proposed development of a convenience store. Planning and Zoning recommended approval.

Applicant was 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 for zoning change from PoBar Properties LLC for Tax Parcels 062-072A and 062-082C (split) located on SR 113 in Taylorsville, Georgia for a total of 1.367 acres be rezoned to C-1 to combine with adjoining property for proposed development of a convenience store. Second by Commissioner Liles. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Consider the acquisition of donated land from Mrs. Stacey Hillis for the placement of the new Esom Hill Fire Station.

Mrs. Hillis is donating 0.494 acres to the county to increase the total size of the land on Tax Parcel 008A033A to 1 acre. There will be a provision in the agreement that, if a fire station ever ceases to exist on the property, the property will revert back to heirs of Mrs. Hillis.

Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Liles to approve the acquisition of donated land from Mrs. Stacey Hillis for the placement of the new Esom Hill Fire Station. Second by Commissioner Thaxton. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Consider amendments to the FY2024 CIP pertaining to the funding of a vehicle for Animal Control.

Due to increased vehicle costs since the CIP request was made, funding for a new Animal Control box truck needs to be increased from \$60,000.00 to \$75,000.00. The funding will remain under Public Safety covered by the 2020 SPLOST.

Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Martin to approve the amendments to the FY2024 CIP pertaining to the funding of a vehicle for Animal Control. Second by Commissioner Carter. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Consider proposed funding agreement with Georgia Department of Transportation regarding preliminary engineering services for the Airport Line of Sight Project in the amount of \$95,872.02.

The Georgia Department of Transportation prepared the proposed funding agreement based upon the persistent recommendation by the Airport Consultant for a preliminary engineering phase for the Line of Sight Project due to the suspicion of rock under the runway. According to conversations with GDOT, any overage in design costs would be pulled from the available Federal funding. This will be part of the overall costs, and is a pre-emptive measure needed to determine the most cost-effective solution. Currently, the county only has approximately six months remaining to complete the design for the Line of Sight project to meet the State and Federal funding deadlines.

Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Carter to approve the proposed funding agreement with Georgia Department of Transportation regarding preliminary engineering services for the Airport Line of Sight Project in the amount of \$95,872.02. Second by Commissioner Martin. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Consider a proposed Work Authorization with CMT for Preliminary Design Services associated with the design phase of the Line of Sight Project for the Airport.

The proposed Work Authorization with CMT ties directly to the GDOT funding agreement above and will authorize CMT to proceed with the preliminary engineering work.

Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Thaxton to approve the proposed Work Authorization with CMT for Preliminary Design Services associated with the design phase of the Line of Sight Project for the Airport. Second by Commissioner Carter. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Consider proposed resolution urging the governor and general assembly of Georgia to continue efforts to reform and improve mental health services for the citizens of Georgia.

ACCG has requested that the proposed resolution be adopted by all counties in the state prior to December 08, 2023.

Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Liles to approve the proposed resolution urging the governor and general assembly of Georgia to continue efforts to reform and improve mental health services for the citizens of Georgia. Second by Commissioner Martin. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Consider proposed resolution amending the Retirement Plan Documents regarding Carolyn Elliott.

The Personnel Committee has been considering a request from Carolyn Elliott regarding her retirement. Commissioner Liles asked if there are any other employees that would be affected by this amendment to which Assistant County Manager Hooper answered that there are no other active employees that would be affected.

Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Tillery to approve the proposed resolution amending the Retirement Plan Documents regarding Carolyn Elliott. Second by Commissioner Martin. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Consider proposed resolution for policy regarding judicial supplements.

At the request of the Finance Committee, the proposed policy specifies the frequency and percentage for amendments to the supplements paid by Polk County to the Superior Court Judges, Juvenile Judge and the District Attorney. Under this proposed policy, the referenced supplements will be amended as the Board grants Cost of Living Adjustments and by the same rate as all other employees to remain current with the market.

Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Martin to approve the proposed resolution for policy regarding judicial supplements. Second by Commissioner Carter. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Consider proposed resolution for the Georgia Outdoors Stewardship Program grant application.

As part of the Georgia Outdoors Stewardship Program grant application process, The Georgia Outdoors Stewardship Act (GOSA) requires that a formal resolution be adopted by the requesting organization.

Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Tillery to approve the proposed resolution for the Georgia Outdoors Stewardship Program grant application. Second by Commissioner Martin. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Consider recommendation from Personnel Committee for the position of Permits Technician to be regraded to a Grade 12.

The Personnel Committee had recommended this position be a Grade 12 due to increased job responsibilities and for market adjustments during the budget process. However, the official vote for the FY2024 budget had the position graded as a Grade 11. For this reason, the Personnel Committee recommended revising the position to a Grade 12 to be considered by the full board.

Chairman Floyd stated the Motion as recommended by the Personnel Committee is for the position of Permits Technician to be regraded to a Grade 12. Motion passed with Commissioners Carter, Liles and Martin voting in favor. Commissioners Thaxton and Tillery voted against.

11. Consider authorization to apply for the Georgia Recreational Trails Program grant for improvements to the Silver Comet Trail in an amount not to exceed \$400,000.00 total project cost (there is a 20% County match requirement for this project).

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a federal grant program funded by the Federal Highway Administration and administered at the state level by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The purpose of RTP is to support recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. This grant requires at least a 20% match.

The County has three (3) bridges that are currently being evaluated by an engineer firm to determine the extent of required work. The trail also needs re-striping. Based on the Public Works Director's predicted best case scenario of only needing to replace one bridge, the County will be looking at approximately a \$150,000.00 total cost with a \$30,000.00 match, and the worst-case scenario of replacing all three bridges at \$400,000.00 total cost with an \$80,000.00 match. Capital Project Fund 340 would be the funding source.

Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Carter to approve the authorization to apply for the Georgia Recreational Trails Program grant for improvements to the Silver Comet Trail in an amount not to exceed \$400,000.00 total project cost with a 20% County match requirement for the project. Second by Commissioner Martin. Motion passed unanimously.

12. Consider recommendation from Bid Committee to award the bid for a new roof for the Polk County Administration Building to Midian Roofing in the amount of \$69,815.00.

The sole bid received was from Midian Roofing listing two options, both of which included new coping. The total amount for fully adhered was \$69,815.00, and the total amount for mechanically fastened was \$45,255.00. The bid also specified a 20-year warranty on materials and a 2-year warranty on labor. The Committee's recommendation is to award the bid for the fully adhered option in the amount of \$69,815.00.

Chairman Floyd stated the Motion as recommended by the Bid Committee is to award the bid for a new roof for the Polk County Administration Building to Midian Roofing in the amount of \$69,815.00 to be funded by Capital Fund 340. Motion passed unanimously.

13. Consider request from Tax Commissioner for tax relief on behalf of Robin Brooks.

A tax relief request was submitted by the Tax Commissioner on behalf of Robin Brooks pertaining to delinquent taxes from 2008 to 2023 on construction equipment. Since 2008, several failed attempts were made to contact Mr. Brooks to address the delinquent taxes. He finally visited the Tax Commissioner's Office to provide bills of sale on all of his equipment sold in 2008. Based on the documents provided showing that Mr. Brooks was no longer in possession of the equipment, Tax Commissioner Lindsey is requesting tax relief in the amount of \$22,029.67.

Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Martin to approve the request from Tax Commissioner for tax relief on behalf of Robin Brooks. Second by Commissioner Carter.

Discussion: Commissioner Tillery noted that Tax Commissioner Amanda Lindsey has taken this matter as far as she can take it on her end and reminded the Board that they can not forgive more than three years. Commissioner Carter stated that is the point he was going to make adding the issue then becomes that the balance remains on the books as unclaimed taxes and due it being personal property, there is nothing to place a lien on for that amount. Tax Commissioner Lindsey explained that, due to restrictions with regard to personal property, any further clarification will need to come from the Tax Assessors Office.

Following discussion, Commissioner Martin amended his Motion to table the request in order to obtain further information on the matter from the Tax Assessors Office. Second by Commissioner Liles. Motion passed unanimously.

14. Consider agreement with LEADS for investigative purposes for the Polk County Police Department.

The Leads Service, formally known as BWI, was a free service to law enforcement for online searches of Pawn Shop and Scrap Yard inventories, etc. Beginning this year, Leads became a service for fee in the amount of \$4,151.00 for year one based upon a 3-year agreement during which the rate will increase 3% per year. Without an agreement, the rate will increase 7% per year. The agreement has been reviewed by the County Attorney and requires Board approval due to being a multi-year agreement. Funding for the service has been added in the Police Department's General Fund Budget for this year.

Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Thaxton to approve the agreement with LEADS for investigative purposes for the Polk County Police Department. Second by Commissioner Liles. Motion passed unanimously.

15. Consider MOU with the Juvenile Court for the creation of a Community Based Risk Reduction Program.

O.C.G.A 15-11-38 allows any court to order the establishment of a community-based risk reduction program. The proposed MOU, provided by Juvenile Judge Crystal Bice, creates a Community Based Risk Reduction Program to benefit the youth of Polk County. A multi-agency panel will be created to help address children and families that are at risk of becoming involved with Juvenile Court. The panel will develop and implement intervention actions or plans to divert children and their families from becoming involved in future cases.

(10/03/23 – Regular Meeting)

Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Carter to approve the MOU with the Juvenile Court for the creation of a Community Based Risk Reduction Program. Second by Commissioner Martin. Motion passed unanimously.

COUNTY MANAGER’S REPORT

1. September 2023 Finance Report.

County Manager Denton reviewed the September 2023 Finance Report. He reported that Revenues were at 7.6%, Expenses were at 19.5%, and Agency Allocations were at 15%.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Martin expressed his appreciation for the public participation, and voiced his support for Commissioner Tillery asking for continued prayers for him and his family.

Commissioner Carter echoed Commissioner Martin’s sentiments of support and prayers for Commissioner Tillery and family. He also mentioned the lack of positive media presence for the county, and suggested moving forward with filling the Public Information Officer position as soon as possible.

Commissioner Liles shared support and prayers for Commissioner Tillery and family. She recognized members of the Fire Department in attendance and expressed her appreciation for all members of the Fire Department.

Commissioner Thaxton reiterated the support and prayers for Commissioner Tillery and his family.

Commissioner Tillery thanked his fellow Board members as well as everyone else for their continued prayers and support.

Commissioner Floyd expressed appreciation for his fellow Commissioners on their hard work, and asked for continued support and prayers for Commissioner Tillery and family.

EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR PERSONNEL

Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Thaxton to approve entering into Executive Session for Personnel. Second by Commissioner Carter. Motion passed with Commissioners Carter, Liles, Thaxton and Tillery voting in favor. Commissioner Martin voted against.

RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Thaxton to reconvene the Regular Meeting. Second by Commissioner Carter. Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

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

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

HAL FLOYD, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

JAIME ARMSTRONG, COUNTY CLERK