

Town of Pollocksville
Regular Meeting
May 13, 2025

Present: James V. Bender, Jr. – Mayor

Guest List: Attached

Sherry Henderson - Commissioner

Ellis Banks – Commissioner

Maria Robles - Commissioner

Vic Bryan – Commissioner

Toni Floyd – Town Clerk

- I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Declaration of a Quorum
The Board of Commissioners for the Town of Pollocksville held its regular schedule meeting on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at the Pollocksville Town Hall. The meeting was open to public attendance as well as participation via Zoom. Mayor Bender called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. With four Commissioners present, we had a quorum.
- II. Introduction of New Business
- III. Approval/Adoption of Final Agenda
Commissioner Banks made the motion to approve and adopt the final agenda with a second from Commissioner Robles. All were in favor.
- IV. Public Comment
None
- V. Approval of Minutes of April 8, 2025 Meeting
Commissioner Henderson made the motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Bryan seconded the motion and all were in favor.
- VI. Presentations to the Board
 - A. Scott Godefroy, Rivers & Associates – Update on Paving Project: Mr. Godefroy reported that the paving project is completed and distributed a map and street listing of the town streets, which are included in the minutes. He discussed which streets had been added and/or deleted based on the \$425,000 approved for the project. The project came in under budget. Mr. Godefroy had a short video presentation showing the paving crew at work. Commissioner Henderson asked if there was a long-term warranty. Mr. Godefroy stated that the warranty was for one year. He presented the final bill to Mayor Bender, and it will be processed after the punch list is completed. Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve the Final Adjusted Change Order (FACO) which reflects the actual work and costs. Commissioner Robles seconded the motion and all were in favor.
 - B. Mike Barnette, McDavid Associates-Status of CDBG-NR program. The town has been notified that remaining CDBG-NR funds will be recaptured by the state in September. Grant funds were used to rehabilitate four houses in town. Others were selected but the owners chose not to participate in program. We do not have time to do a park project due to the prerequisites

required due to the beginning of the project, such as an environmental study. Mr. Barnette feels we will be better off to turn in this money and re-apply for new funds, which are available. We cannot buy playground equipment because it would be outside the regulations required of the grant. Also, Mayor Bender stated that the town does not meet the low-moderate income requirement for the construction of a park. Commissioner Henderson stated that she is disappointed because we have had the money five years and didn't get to spend it. Mayor Bender asked if we have to send back the money we received from release of liens? Mr. Barnette said that we do not, because we are a distressed community and we can send in a plan to use that program income. Mayor Bender would like to obtain two properties, located at the corner of Bell Street and Hudson Street, with the funds. Mr. Barnette also reminded us about the public CDBG-I meeting regarding the relocation of Pump Station #2. Commissioner Robles made the motion to hold the meeting on May 27, 2005 at 7:00 pm. Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion and all were in favor.

VII. Action Items

- A. Approval of FEMA-BRIC Contract: The Board was slated to execute this contract at an earlier meeting, but the original funding was cancelled. The town has received confirmation that the BRIC plan is going to transition to funding through the HGMP. Mayor Bender asked for approval to execute the contract once we get final approval of funding. Commissioner Henderson made a motion to allow the mayor to move forward with the contract with a second from Commissioner Bryan. All were in favor.

VIII. Reports

A. Mayor's Report – Mayor Bender:

1. Legislated grant: We originally had \$25,000 budgeted for street signs. We have a quote for about \$31,000. Mayor Bender also found out that stop signs at a state street intersection have to be a certain height and size. DOT has responsibility for and will replace those signs, erected on 4x4 poles. Removing the stop signs gets the quote down to about \$30,000. Commissioner Henderson made a motion to authorize Mayor Bender to contact DOT to replace their signs, about eleven signs in total. Commissioner Robles seconded the motion and all were in favor. We also need to replace speed signs, yield signs, and any other signs available through NC Correction Enterprises. The finance officer will get a quote from Correction Enterprise before the next meeting.
2. Eddie Jenkins did some work on Main Street, and has submitted a proposal for maintenance of the plantings on Main Street. The cost is \$12000 per year, or \$1000 per month. Commissioner Bryan made a motion to move forward with a contract. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Banks and all were in favor.
3. No work has been started on the Carbon Reduction Plan project, but we have been informed that bids will go out in June.
4. Mayor Bender has done several interviews about the loss of our FEMA funds for the BRIC project.
5. We will discuss the FEMA reimbursement in closed session.
6. The Fourth Street Drainage project has not been re-bid because we have not found anyone to bid yet.
7. Work is starting on the Water Treatment Plant Project.
8. The engineers have requested a 6-month extension for the WWTP project due to not being able to get materials.

9. The mayor received inquiries on the Mayor's listserv regarding what other municipalities are paying to counties for tax collection. He discovered that other municipalities are paying less than we are for the county to collect taxes. Mayor Bender has sent a letter to Jones County Manager Kyle Smith reporting this information.
 10. On April 27th, The Filling Station presented us with a framed copy of the article from "Our State" magazine.
 11. Mayor Bender was asked to make comments about the pending Jones County/Trent River flood stage. The county has received a \$100,000 grant from Public Safety to begin a study.
 12. Attorney Baxter is working on a new lease for old firehouse.
 13. Congressman Murphy called asking if we wanted to submit request for Community Funding in the 2026 appropriation. Mayor Bender asked for \$1.5 million for storm water drainage. The City of Havelock is in the middle of such as project and it was suggested that the mayor talk to them. He will let us know more as he obtains more information.
 14. The next Joint County Leadership meeting is July 29th at 6:00.
- B. Department of Public Works – Robby Tew and J.J. Chadwick: The ditch has been cleaned out around the school. Todd Meadows and Johnny Chadwick will be hanging the flags soon. Commissioner Bryan reported that Robby hoped to be back on June 1.
- C. Town Clerk/Finance Office – Toni Floyd
1. Check Register, BvA, Cash Report, Bank Reconciliation for April 2025 were distributed to the board prior to the meeting and will be included in the minutes book.
 2. Budget Amendments for approval-None
 3. Presentation of Proposed 2025-2026 Budget and Proposed Utility Rates: Mayor Bender stated that we will need to Call for a Public Hearing on June 10th. Commissioner Robles made a motion to announce and publicize the meeting, with a second from Commissioner Ellis. All were in favor.
 4. The Town Clerk reported that we have a resident who has not paid her past due taxes. Commissioner Robles made a motion to begin action for the collection of past due taxes. Commissioner Bryan seconded the motion and all were in favor.
 5. The Finance Officer reported that we had received our new computers and asked for approval to surplus the old computers and peripherals for recycling. Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve the surplus with a second from Commissioner Banks. All were in favor.
 6. Commissioner Henderson asked about the old police department guns that were previously declared surplus, but we still have them in storage. She suggested that we check with the community college about using them for law enforcement training.
 7. Mayor Bender read Leslie Muse's resignation to the board. Commissioner Banks made the motion to accept the resignation with a second from Commissioner Henderson. All were in favor.
- D. Beautification/Economic Development – Commissioner Barbee
1. None
- E. Planning and Zoning – Mayor Bender:
1. Update from Andy Thomas, Code Enforcement Officer: Mr. Thomas provided a list of actions taken so far, and some of the properties have already been mowed and cleaned. Mayor Bender suggested sending Todd Meadows to mow the Virginia King property. He also discussed the properties that have been demolished on Barrus Street. Mayor

Bender will ask the county manager to be sure to disconnect natural gas and to mow the grass while the county is still in possession of the properties.

- F. Attorney-David Baxter
 - 1. None

IX. Unfinished Business

- A. None

X. New Business

- A. None

XI. Public Comment

None

XII. Closed Session NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3)

Commissioner Robles made the motion to go into closed session. Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The motion to leave closed session was made by Commissioner Banks and Seconded by Commissioner Henderson. All were in favor.

As a result of the Closed Session, Commissioner Henderson made a motion to accept the FEMA arbitration agreement with the changes discussed. Commissioner Robles seconded the motion and all were in favor.

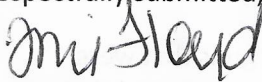
XIII. Announcements

Public Hearing on May 27, 2025 for the purpose of relocation pump station #2.
Town Board Meeting, Tuesday, June 10, 2025

XIV. Adjournment

Commissioner made the motion to recess the current meeting until May 27, 2025. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robles and all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Toni Floyd, Town Clerk

Approval Date 6/10/2025