

MINUTES OF THE HARMON FIELD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
Thursday, August 21, 2025

Chairman Warren Watson called the Harmon Field Board of Supervisors meeting to order at 6:00 PM at the Tryon Town Hall, McCown Room.

Board Members Present: Chairman Warren Watson; Vice-Chairman Lynn Cromer; Steve Sloan; and Stephen Nelon

Board Members Absent: Secretary-Treasurer Rick Covil;

Staff Present: Jim Fatland, Tryon Town Manager; Brad Gordon, Park Superintendent; and Meg Rogers, Town Secretary/Cashier,

Approve Minutes from August 5, 2025 regular meeting

The Minutes from the August 5, 2025 regular meeting of the Harmon Field Board of Supervisors were reviewed. Nelon made a motion to approve the Minutes from the regular meeting on August 5, 2025 as presented. Cromer seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

Approve Financial Report for July 2025

The July 2025 Harmon Field financial report was reviewed. Harmon Field had received \$87.20 (0.03% of the FY 2025-2026 budgeted revenues). Total Operating Expenditures were \$24,502.01 (7.48% of the FY 2025-2026 budgeted operating expenditures) and Capital Expenditures totaled \$445.38 (8.25% of the FY 2025-2026 budgeted capital expenditures). Total Expenditures were \$24,947.39 (7.50% of the FY 2025-2026 budgeted total expenditures). Running pre-audit fund balance as of July 31, 2025 was \$76,106.81.

Jim Fatland reported that the Beginning Fund Balance for FY 2025-2026 was unofficial pending the audit results. The annual audit would begin next week and the audited amount would be applied as soon as available. Because of an accounting timing issue, no Harmon Field Tax District revenue was included in the July 2025 report. Tax collections during July were received from Polk County in mid-August and were posted as of a date in August so those revenues would be shown on the August 2025 report. Fatland also noted that the annual insurance fee had been billed and paid in July 2025 for the upcoming year. Fatland intended to follow up with Polk County Manager Pittman about expediting the County's approved \$45,000 assistance payment to Harmon Field to get the fund balance back up. Chairman Watson stated he would like to see the Harmon Field Fund balance above \$100,000.

Sloan made a motion to approve the Harmon Field August 2025 financial report as presented. Nelon seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

2025 Polk County Toy Run Nov 29 Gym Rental Request

Gordon reported that the 2025 Polk County Toy Run had applied to rent the Harmon Field Gym for their event on November 29, 2025. Gordon was concerned about the Toy Run staff putting their barbecue equipment on the newly restore gym floor. Gordon proposed to ask Barry Gee, the event coordinator, to have the event staff put the cooking equipment area on the grass outside the gym or to put down protective sheeting under their cooking area to prevent grease or food damage to the new gym surface. Cromer made a motion to approve allowing the 2025

Polk County Toy Run to rent the Harmon Field Gym on November 29, 2025. Nelon seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

Park Status Update/Park Superintendent Report

Harmon Field Park Superintendent Gordon briefly went over his printed report for August 21, 2025.

Superintendent & Recovery Report

- Horse show ring closest to entrance was taken down and reinstalled by staff and Pace Land Management and Fencing, who did a great job and allowed cut in cost by using Harmon Field staff as labor.
- Playground was partially opened on August 15, 2025 at 3 pm with staff going through the playground to check that there were no visible safety hazards before opening. Blue Ridge Playgrounds repair/replacement of other playground structure was still pending.
- Open-air gym would be reopening on August 25, 2025 to allow more curing time for the new floor paint and time for staff to reinstall basketball goals and gym rules signs. Steve King reported that he had seen dogs being walked on the gym floor at night.
- Gordon spoke with Bailey Hipp who estimated completion of baseball field A repairs in mid-September.
- Fencing for the river soccer field should be delivered August 21 or 22, and installed the next week or so.
- Soccer goals for each age range were ordered and should be received in the next couple of weeks.
- The bridge over the Pacolet River was back open and the embankment repaired. Staff recommended adding fencing from the bridge to past the wing walls for safety of pedestrians.
- Gordon spoke with Bryson Jones who was hoping to have someone out in the next week or so, if the recent rain delays allowed, to clean up a few areas around the park and to broom the paved walking path along the river.
- Staff would be installing oval walking track signs along with a traffic bollard in the next week at the paved area onto the walking track to keep cars from driving on the track. Once the signs were up, a Nixle announcement would go out and a Facebook post to alert park patrons that dogs were no longer allowed on the soccer fields or oval walking track. The only place dogs could be at Harmon Field were the dog park or along the paved walking path along the river. Gordon spoke to Patty Lovelace with Polk County Animal Control and they would come out and help inform visitors of the new rules. Staff would also be purchasing signs that indicated No Pets for the soccer field fence, horse show rings and baseball fields. The open-air gym already had a rules sign.
- Staff were working on playground rules sign and Harmon Field rules sign.
- Staff were working with the lighting company to remove the electrical boxes that were damaged around the park, including the old concession stand, water pump area, screen picnic shed electrical and hog heaven area across the river.
- Fatland, Tim Daniels, and Gordon were working with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the town's consultant to get all projects in question into a 428 project that would allow use of the money for items not being rebuilt or purchased to go toward the community building restoration.
- Once the projects that had PO numbers were all complete, Gordon would work with Town Clerk Emily Dale and Town Manager Fatland to develop a repair schedule according to importance to determine what to fix next
- Gordon and Damon were working on a winter project list for items outside FEMA.

Fatland informed the Board that the State of North Carolina was offering a third cash flow loan at 0% interest and the Tryon Board of Commissioners had approved applying for \$107,000 loan from this program. It was recommended to open the soccer fields as-is as soon as possible with minimal repairs and delay sodding and irrigation improvements until after Fall soccer season was over. Repairs to baseball field A (Dallara Field) included more severe damages and was on the FEMA list. Baseball field B was not damaged, but needed maintenance. Cost to get baseball field B in shape was \$7,500 to include loads of infield dirt and laser grading that could be completed within a week or two per Gordon. Laser grading could be done on both Field A & B at the same time. Polk County Recreation/YMCA had no official baseball league program, but Landrum, SC was looking for practice baseball fields which would provide revenue for Harmon Field. Nelon made a motion to spend \$7,500 to fix baseball field B including infield dirt and laser grading. Sloan seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

The Board praised the rapid effectiveness of the Army Corps of Engineers in their cleanup of the Pacolet River at Harmon Field.

Update on Community Center Project

Fatland had prepared an agenda item for the Mayor and Town Commissioners meeting on August 19, 2025 to authorize a RFQ for architectural services for the Harmon Field Community Center Project. At their August 5, 2025 meeting, the Harmon Field Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the revised Harmon Field Master Plan and approved expediting the community center building renovation and moving forward with retaining an architect to design the 10,000 square-foot community center in advance of FEMA funding. Fatland stated that any funds spent on the architect before getting the grant award would be ineligible for reimbursement, but there was \$30,000 from an insurance settlement on past damage to the community center roof in the Harmon Field Fund that was available to pay for the architectural design. Fatland proposed that representatives from the Harmon Field Board of Supervisors, the Tryon Board of Commissioners, Tracie Greenwood, Town Manager Fatland, and the town's FEMA consultant serve as the committee to interview the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) applicants. Fatland stated that the draft RFQ would be sent to at least four firms to bid, two local firms, one firm in Asheville, NC and one in Greenville SC. According to the official bid process one envelope would be submitted with the proposal and a second envelope submitted with the project bid price. In North Carolina, proposal could not be selected based on bid amount only. Once the RFP proposals were received and submitted to FEMA, there was a six to eight month waiting period for FEMA approval to begin construction. Fatland notified the Board that the FEMA caseworker for Harmon Field and Tryon was being transferred which could slow down the FEMA approval process. Design costs could be reimbursed by FEMA and the NC 0% loan could help pay for the design until reimbursed. Possible layout considerations for the community center building were discussed briefly. The process would be to get the RFQ finalized then get the RFQ out to firms to submit proposals and bids.

The Board asked that the paved walkway from the end of the paved trail at Harmon Field Road be connected to the new expanded parking area and to the open-air gym. Nelon made a motion to extend the paved walking trail from the end at Harmon Field Road to the open-air gym. Sloan seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0

Other

- **Tryon Riding & Hunt Club Any & All Dog Show gym rental request** – Gordon reported that the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club (TRHC) had asked to rent the Harmon Field open-air gym for their 2025 Any & All Dog Show event on Sunday, November 2, 2025. Gordon stated that the current rules for the Harmon Field gym included that no dogs were allowed on the gym floor. Gordon was concerned that allowing the dog show at the gym set a bad precedent by violating the standard rules. Gordon recommended asking the TRHC to move the event back to the Harmon Field equestrian facility area where the Any & All Dog Show had historically been held. Moving the event back to the equestrian area would also allow TRHC members and event attendees to see first-hand the conditions and needs of the Harmon Field equestrian facility and raise awareness for future fundraising to restore the equestrian facility. The TRHC could indicate a rain-date for the event to cover weather issues. Cromer made a motion to ask the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club to move the 2025 Any & All Dog Show back to the Harmon Field equestrian facility for 2025 and going forward. Nelson seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.
- **Tropical Storm Helene Anniversary Gathering at Harmon Field** – Fatland reported that a group led by the Pastor of the Tryon Presbyterian Church had proposed to hold a one-year anniversary gathering to commemorate Tropical Storm Helene's devastating impact on Harmon Field and the surrounding area. Several similar gatherings would be held during that day at various impacted sites around Polk County. The group had asked to rent the Harmon Field open-air gym for this gathering on Saturday, September 27, 2025 from 5 to 8 pm. Watson made a motion to approve the reservation of the Harmon Field Gym for the Tropical Storm Helene Anniversary gathering with the Harmon Field Board of Supervisors as an event sponsor and to waive the rental fee for this event. Cromer seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.
- **Town Manager Fatland to extend his contract** – Fatland informed the Board that he had agreed to extend his contract as Tryon Town Manager so that he could assist with the continuing FEMA recovery process and the Saluda Grade Trail project. Fatland expressed his enjoyment in working with the Harmon Field Board of Supervisors to make Harmon Field the best it could be.
- **Saluda Grade Trail Update from Fatland** – Town Manager Fatland informed the Board that he had been asked to serve on the design selection committee for the South Carolina segment of the Saluda Grade Trail and would be working with them to include the segment through Tryon from the state line to Lockhart Street (above Rogers Park) in the design so that when the construction contract was awarded for the SC segment, the Tryon segment would be constructed and opened to the public sooner than the steep North Carolina segment up the Saluda Grade. The distance from the state line to the Lockhart Street railroad crossing was measured by Town Planning Director Tim Daniels as 8,333 feet long or 1.6 miles. The segment from Inman SC to the state line was 15 miles. Comparatively, that made the 1.6 mile segment, 9% of the combined total of 16.6 miles. Fatland had suggested that the Town of Tryon offer to pay 9% of the SC segment design contract cost so that the entire 16.6 mile segment would be included when the project was put out for construction bidding by the Saluda Grade Trail project group.

Next Meeting Date

The next regular meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, September 2, 2025, 6:00 pm at Tryon Town Hall, McCown Room.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned by Chairman Watson at 6:42 pm

Submitted By:

Approved:



**Meg Rogers, substituting for
Rick Covil
Secretary-Treasurer**



**Warren Watson
Chairman**