

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

8:30 AM

BUDGET SESSION

Second Floor Conference Room

County Commission

*Chairperson Todd McNeill
Vice Chair Jerry D. Powers
Commissioner Russell Killen
Commissioner Wes Greene
Commissioner Mike Eldreth*

BUDGET SESSION

Present: 5 - Chairperson Todd McNeill, Vice Chairman Jerry D. Powers, Commissioner Mike Eldreth, Commissioner Russell Killen and Commissioner Wes Greene

I. 8:30 AM - Meeting Called to Order at the Ashe County Courthouse

[PRES 25-86](#) 8:30 AM - Laura McPherson, Interim Co-Director of Libraries, Appalachian Regional Library, County Librarian, Ashe County Public Library

Laura stated that she was here to request a modest increase of \$3000 to the 2025-26 Proposed Budget allocation for the Ashe County Public Library. She stated that she was grateful for the 3% overall increase that is already included in the budget, and the request for an additional \$3000 would allow us to provide a full 3% Cost of Living raise for our staff.

Library

All Commissioners agreed on an additional \$3000.00 budget increase as requested by Laura McPherson Interim Co-Director of Libraries, Appalachian Regional Library County Librarian, Ashe County Public Library to provide a full 3% COLA for library staff.

[PRES 25-87](#) 9:00 AM - Kevin Anderson, Director Ashe County Parks and Recreation

Kevin spoke on the maintenance and repair of ball fields, buildings and grounds. He also talked on League Insurance for Youth Baseball and Youth Softball. He discussed with Commissioners that he'd like to install an Automatic Gate Operator System. He stated that even with all their efforts at night to ensure everyone has exited the park, someone often gets locked inside. He said this secure gate would open automatically from the inside only, helping to alleviate this reoccurring issue and staff having to return to the park after hours. Other items discussed with Commissioners were playground equipment, a new snow plow and the resurfacing of the tennis courts. Kevin stated that he had also applied for a grant from the NC Tennis Association and if received would cover a majority of the cost to resurface the courts. They discussed the need for new furniture at family central in the large conference room. This conference room is a multi-use space for all departments and citizens also. Kevin's final request to Commissioners was for a new full time position for Park Supervisor. Kevin stated he felt it was necessary with the recent park expansion, the park being open 7 days a week, additional facilities and increased activities. Commissioner Greene stated he'd like to see additional data supporting the need for the extra position. Kevin said that the comp-time his current staff has accumulated could attest to a portion of the data needed.

[PRES 25-88](#) 10:00 AM - Scott Hurley, Director Environmental Services

Scott began by discussing the condition of the two compactors located at the landfill. He said that currently one of the compactors was not operational at this time. He said the cost of a new compactor was over \$1 million. He presented a quote from Carolina CAT to completely rebuild the each compactor at a cost of less than half the price of a new one. He also talked about the condition of the Track Hoe/escavator at the landfill and the need to replace or rebuild it. He provided a quotes for each option. Scott then talked about the need for a space/building at the landfill for employees to eat lunch, and to store items. They currently only have a picnic table in the recycling area which is not clean and dusty. Scott and Commissioners discussed different options for a small prefab building and the need for dirt at the landfill.

Environmental Services (Collection)

No budget changes. Commissioners discussed disposal fees and all were in agreement on the following disposal fee increases: \$62.00 per ton commercial will go to \$65.00, \$52.00 per ton industrial LCID will go to \$55.00 and \$42.00 per ton commercial/industrial will go to \$45.00.

Environmental Services (Disposal)**MISC 25-15** 11:00 AM - Chris Lambert, Tax Administrator - ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW

At 11:02 AM Commissioners recessed and reconvened as the Board of E & R. Tax Administrator Chris Lambert was also present and stated that only one appeal had been filed. He stated that the individual that filed the appeal had not arrived for the scheduled meeting with the Board of E & R. Chris and the Board then reviewed the information and evidence on the individuals property tax and the appeal. After some discussion and no appearance by the tax payer that filed the appeal, the Board concurred with the Ashe County Tax Administration's property tax assessment. Chris stated he would send the individual a Notice of Decision. They then could appeal the Board's decision by filing a timely appeal with the North Carolina Property Tax Commission within 30 days. Vice Chairman Powers made the motion to adjourn the Board of Equalization and Review. Commissioner Killen seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

PRES 25-89 11:15 AM - Sheriff Phil Howell

Sheriff Howell along with staff, Jessica Vogler, Danny Houck, and Jeremy Williams had a lengthy discussion with Commissioners on ACSO vehicles and Enterprise leasing. Other items discussed were the Detention Center TV System, a request for four additional positions and a wage gap pay increase.

Governing Body

No changes were made.

Administration

No changes were made.

Finance

No changes were made.

Tax Administration

No changes were made.

PRES 25-90 2:00 PM - Dr. Eisa M. Cox, Superintendent Ashe County Schools

School Superintendent Dr. Eisa Cox and Amanda Coldiron Finance Officer for Ashe County Schools met with Commissioners to discuss the budget for Education. They requested additional funds for floor scrubbers, tree removal, gym speaker system, playground equipment, battery powered burnisher, football field lighting at the high school, a bus and computer lab upgrades (etc.). A lengthy discussion was held.

Legal

No changes were made.

Courts

No changes were made.

Board of Elections

No changes were made.

Register of Deeds

No changes were made.

Information Technology Services

No changes were made.

Inspections Department (Building Permits/Inspections; Fire Inspections)

No changes were made.

X. Adjournment

Citizens with disabilities requiring special needs to access the services or public meetings of Ashe County Government should contact the County Manager's Office three days prior to the meeting by calling (336) 846-5501.

Todd McNeill, Chairman

Missy Seivers
Clerk to the Board