

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Monday, April 7, 2025

9:00 AM

Commission Meeting Room

County Commission

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

BUSINESS SESSION

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

I. 9:00 AM - Meeting Called to Order at the Ashe County Courthouse

Chairman McNeill called the April 7th, 2025 meeting to order at 9:00 am.

II. Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Prayer

Commissioner Greene led the Pledge of Allegiance and Vice Chairman Powers offered the opening Prayer.

III. Approval of Consent Agenda

Commissioner Greene made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Killen seconded the motion, The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Powers, Commissioner Eldreth, Commissioner Killen and Commissioner Greene

[MIN 25-11](#) March 17th, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [4-7-2025 March 17th, 2025 Meeting Minutes](#)

IV. Adoption of Agenda

With the moving the LINEMAN APPRECIATION RESOLUTION to the top of the agenda Commissioner Killen made the motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Greene seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Adopted

For: 5 - Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Powers, Commissioner Eldreth, Commissioner Killen and Commissioner Greene

V. Public Comment

At 9:09 AM Chairman McNeill opened the floor for Public Comment.

Lisa Delaurentiis took the podium and spoke in length urging Commissioners to take action and seriously consider enacting a responsible and comprehensive leash law. She also cited many instances of unrestrained dogs running at large.

Judy Bare took the podium to share with everyone the Agriculture Expo that is being held on April 12th, 2025 from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM at the New Ashe County Agricultural Center. There will be an Antique Tractor & Truck Parade, Livestock, Demonstrations and over 30 Exhibitors. Everyone is welcome.

Having no other public comments from citizens in attendance Chairman McNeill closed the floor for Public Comment at 9:15 Am.

VI. Presentations

[RES 25-2](#) 9:03 AM - Nick Farmerie, Community Development Director & Assistant County Manager - Resolution to Adopt 457 Plan

Attachments: [4-7-2025 Resolution to Adopt the NC 457 Plan](#)

Nick Farmerie, Community Development Director & Assistant County Manager presented to the Board the Resolution to Adopt a 457 Plan. Nick explained that this is an additional option for employees. After some discussion Vice Chairman Powers made the motion to adopt the 457 Plan resolution. Commissioner Greene seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Adopted

For: 5 - Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Powers, Commissioner Eldreth, Commissioner Killen and Commissioner Greene

[PRES 25-45](#) 9:05 AM - Sheriff Howell - Position Establishment of Detention Center Liaison

Attachments: [4-7-2025 ACSO Request](#)

Sheriff Howell along with Captain Linda Carrow presented to the Board a request in regard to the Position Establishment of the Detention Center Liaison. This position had been previously approved by the Board. This request is for additional Opioid Settlement Funds in the amount of \$3,978.62 to cover the difference in benefits cost for the Opioid Settlement funded Detention Center Liaison position. The original request shows to have been \$66,505 and the number received from Kelsey Wagoner for salary and benefits is \$70,484.62. After a lengthy discussion Commissioner Killen made the motion to approve the additional funds. Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Powers, Commissioner Eldreth, Commissioner Killen and Commissioner Greene

[PRES 25-42](#) 9:08 AM - Lindsey Sullivan, MSW Health Strategist AppHealth - AppHealth Discussion of Opioid Settlement Funds

Attachments: [4-7-2025 AppHealth-Opioid Settlement Updates & Next Steps](#)

Lindsey Sullivan, MSW Health Strategist AppHealth gave the Board an update on their use of Opioid Settlement Funds and their next steps. This included summaries and updates of 2024-25 projects & activities and included upcoming project for FY 25-26.

No Action Taken

[PRES 25-46](#) 9:20 AM - Carrie Vargas, President Ashe County Farmers Market - ACFM Update

Carrie Vargas, President Ashe County Farmers Market gave the Board an update on the Farmers Market. She announced that the opening of the 26th year of the Farmers Market will be Saturday, April 12. She invited everyone to come to the first market of the season and enjoy fresh, locally grown produce, handmade goods, and delicious treats from your favorite vendors. The market opens at 8:00 AM and runs until 1:00 PM. She spoke on all the exciting things going on this year and announced Tina Hubbard as the new Market Manager for the Ashe County Farmers Market. She stated that Tina brings a wealth of experience and a deep passion for supporting local communities. Carrie spoke on the

markets budget and that they had done well and would not be asking the county for any funds this FY.

No Action Taken

RES 25-1 9:28 AM - Adam Stumb, County Manager - Resolution to Support Small Businesses

Attachments: [4-7-2025 Support Small Businesses Resolution](#)

Adam Stumb, County Manager and Travis Birdsell presented to the Board a Resolution to Support Small Businesses. Adam stated that similar resolutions have been approved in Watauga, and are scheduled for consideration in West Jefferson, Jefferson and Lansing. After a brief discussion Commissioner Eldreth made the motion to adopt the Resolution to Support Small Businesses. Commissioner Greene seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Adopted

For: 5 - Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Powers, Commissioner Eldreth, Commissioner Killen and Commissioner Greene

VI. PRES 25-43 9:32 AM - Adam Stumb, County Manager - SDR Notice to Proceed Update

Attachments: [4-7-2025 SDR Notice to Proceed Update](#)

Adam Stumb, County Manager presented to the Board the SDR Notice to Proceed. He stated that six months post hurricane, we are approaching the not to exceed limit for our contract with SDR. SDR has requested to increase that figure by \$1.9 million. He said while we hope this is the first and last increase, it does seem justified by the increased cost because SDR has increased the number of trucks in service and has changed operations from burning to chipping which will require transportation cost. After some discussion Vice Chairman Jerry Powers made the motion to approve the SDR Notice to Proceed. Commissioner Greene seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Powers, Commissioner Eldreth, Commissioner Killen and Commissioner Greene

GENERAL SESSION

RES 25-3 Lineman Appreciation Resolution

Attachments: [4-7-2025 Line Worker Appreciation Day Resolution](#)

Adam Stumb, County Manager presented to the Board the Lineman Appreciation Resolution. Also in attendance were linemen and staff from Blue Ridge Energies. Adam and Commissioners individually commended and thanked all for their hard work and dedication everyday but especially in the past seven months. Ashe County was severely impacted by Hurricane Helene, ice storms and damaging winds and local linemen along with hundreds of linemen from across the country worked 24/7 restoring power and making it safe for everyone. After some discussion Commissioner Greene made the motion to adopt the Lineman Appreciation Resolution. Vice Chairman Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Adopted

For: 5 - Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Powers, Commissioner Eldreth, Commissioner Killen and Commissioner Greene

[MISC 25-11](#) NC Forestry Service Letter of Support

Attachments: [4-7-2025 Forestry Service NC Letter of Support](#)

Adam Stumb, County Manager presented to the Board the NC Forestry Service Letter of Support. This is the letter requested last meeting by the commissioners in support of a budget request by the NC Forestry Service. After some discussion Commissioner Greene made the motion to approve the NC Forestry Service Letter of Support. Commissioner Eldreth seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Powers, Commissioner Eldreth, Commissioner Killen and Commissioner Greene

VII. Commissioner Comments

VIII. Announcements

IX. Executive Session

Chairman McNeill called the Executive Session to order at 11:05 AM. At 12:16 PM Commissioner Greene made the motion to adjourn Executive Session. Commissioner Killen seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Powers, Commissioner Eldreth, Commissioner Killen and Commissioner Greene

[ES 25-3](#) G.S. 143-318.11(4) Economic Development

[ES 25-4](#) G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) Attorney Consultation

X. Adjournment

At 12:16 PM Vice Chairman Powers made the motion to adjourn the April 7th, 2025 meeting. Commissioner Eldreth seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 5 - Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Powers, Commissioner Eldreth, Commissioner Killen and Commissioner Greene

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