

# Ashe County

150 Government Circle  
Jefferson, NC 28640



## Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, April 21, 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****I. 9:00 AM - Meeting Called to Order at the Ashe County Courthouse**

*Chairman McNeill called the April 21st, 2025 meeting to order at 9:00 AM.*

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

**II. Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Prayer**

*Commissioner Killen led the Pledge of Allegiance and Chairman McNeill 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 25-12](#) April 7th, 2025 Meeting Minutes

**Attachments:** [4-21-2025 April 7th, 2025 Meeting Minutes](#)

[PRES 25-47](#) Monthly Tax Report for March 2025

**Attachments:** [4-21-2025 Monthly Tax Report March 2025](#)

**IV. Adoption of Agenda**

*With the removal of Presentation 25-53 - Nick Farmerie, Community Development Director & Assistant County Manager - Authorization to contact with the Dennis Quad Show: Viewpoint, for Advertising by Chairman McNeill, Commissioner Greene made the motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Commissioner Killen 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 9:03 am Chairman McNeill opened the floor for Public Comment.*

*Pat Considine from Glendale Springs along with other supporters took the podium Pat stated that they are representatives of the advocacy group "Protect Our Fresh Air" that was organized in July 2015 to stop a polluting industry from building an asphalt plant in the Glendale Springs community. He said we are here today to say thank you, the Board, for supporting us and supporting our community and taking the legal battle all the way to the North Carolina Supreme Court. He thanked the Board for their time, their treasury and their patience in fighting this proven rogue business that pollutes the water, didn't pay their taxes, didn't pay their fines evidenced by their bankruptcy documentation. he stated*

*that now that they are licensed to build an asphalt plant next to a camp for terminally ill children, next to the new River valley, next to the heart of the tourism center in Glendale Springs, we all must be truly vigilant. They will pollute our water and our air. We must be vigilant and report their violations to the proper authorities and demand that they not be allowed to violate the law, we need the Board of Commissioners to continue to fight to protect community from pollution of Appalachian Materials will create. Thank you for your support.*

*Seeing no further movement from the citizens in attendance Chairman McNeill closed the public comment portion of the meeting.*

## VI. Presentations

**PRES 25-48** 9:05 AM - Tracie McMillan, DSS Director - Proclamation May 2025 Foster Care Appreciation Month

**Attachments:** [4-21-2025 Proclamation Declaring May 2025 Foster Care Appreciation Month](#)

*Tracie McMillan, DSS Director presented to the Board a Proclamation declaring the Month of May 2025 Foster Care Appreciation Month. After some discussion Commissioner Greene made the motion to approve the proclamation. 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

**PRES 25-49** 9:10 AM - Tracie McMillan, DSS Director - DSS Statistics for February 2025

**Attachments:** [4-21-2025 DSS Statistics for February 2025](#)

*Tracie McMillan, DSS Director presented to the Board the DSS Statistics for February 2025. Tracie stated you have the statistics in front of you, saying she'd be glad to answer any questions. She said "I wanted to let you know a little bit more about the Disaster Case Management work and she handed out the March 2025 newsletter and stated that it is really amazing how things circle back around. She spoke on the photograph that they had used at the beginning and just to really exemplify the brutality of the storm that put the house of an Ashe County citizen in the middle of the highway. The survivor was located, thankfully of that disaster and we were able recently to give her a camper from Allegheny County. Tracie stated that Chairman Todd McNeill was able to secure the camper from Allegheny County. Tracie said they appreciate all the resources that we've had and the 80+ campers that have been brought into the county from voluntary donations. FEMA has delivered "one" so without the 80+ campers that have been given by wide variety of places, I don't know what we would have been able to do for temporary housing for Ashe County citizens waiting for campers. Tracie also stated that the FEMA deadline expired April 7th, 2025, but there's a grace period of 60 days after that April 7th deadline for people who have had some kind of a crisis and couldn't get it done by April 7th 2025. She said it's still not too late to be under that grace period if they meet the conditions to go ahead and apply for FEMA.*

**No Action Taken**

**PRES 25-50** 9:15 AM - Tom Bregger - Airport Advisory Board Update

Tom Bregger, Airport Advisory Board along with Eric Payne, Airport Manager, were present to give the Board an update on the Ashe County Airport. Tom discussed taxes and airport income. He also discussed many of the operations and services for Med-Flights, Law Enforcement and fire fighting. A lengthy discussion was held on the many functions and new additions at the Ashe County Airport.

**No Action Taken**

**PRES 25-51** 9:20 AM - David Wayne, NCDOT Engineer - NCDOT Helene Update

David Wayne, NCDOT Engineer presented to the Board a NCDOT Helene Update. He stated there were 1140 sight designated for repair in Ashe County. He defined "sight" as a location where the cost of repair would be \$5000 or more. He stated that almost 500 of those sites have been completed. He spoke in length on specific projects. He said that 33.1 million has been spent on repairs so far in Ashe County, with much more to go. A total of 70 bridges have been repaired with 3 remaining closed and 21 pipes have been replaced.

**No Action Taken**

**PRES 25-52** 9:30 AM - Lonnie Jones - Cemetery Committee Update

Lonnie Jones along with Jerry Brown with the Cemetery Committee gave the Board an update on things happening with the Cemetery Committee. Lonnie talked about the many uses of the Ground Penetrating Radar and that they've located 1154 cemeteries in Ashe County. Jerry spoke on the committees need for an enclosed trailer. After a brief discussion Commissioner Killen made the motion to authorize a purchase order for up to \$4,000 to purchase an enclosed trailer for use by cemetery committee to transport the GPR and related supplies. And that the trailer to be housed on county property. Appropriations to come from the Public Buildings line in the current budget. 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

**PRES 25-53** 9:40 AM - Nick Farmerie, Community Development Director & Assistant County Manager - Authorization to contact with the Dennis Quad Show: Viewpoint, for Advertising.

**Attachments:** [4-21-2025 Budget Reported By Fund-Expenditure, Viewpoint with Dennis Quaid Table of Contents and Project Information](#)

*Removed for a later date.*

**No Action Taken**

**PRES 25-54** 9:50 AM - Nick Farmerie, Community Development Director & Assistant County Manager - Budget Work Session Schedule Discussion

Nick Farmerie, Community Development Director & Assistant County Manager was on hand to discuss the upcoming Budget Work Session and Schedule. He stated that they have been holding department head meetings in the previous week and will be through the week of May 2nd, 2025. He said we plan on having the budget ready to be presented at the May 19th, 2025 meeting and we would be requesting that beginning after the June 2nd, 2025 meeting the Board would enter into budget work sessions and have it ready for the June 16th, 2025 Board meeting. Commissioner Eldreth stated that he felt the Board

*should have a public hearing before going into the budget session to give the public an opportunity to voice any budget concerns prior to the sessions. Chairman McNeill stated that we would schedule an extra public hearing on June 2nd, 2025 prior to going into budget sessions. Chairman McNeill also reminded everyone that the budget sessions are also open to the public. All were in agreement.*

**PRES 25-55** 9:55 AM - John Kilby, County Attorney - Consideration of Open Litigation - Ashe County Planning Board & Appalachian Materials

*John Kilby, County Attorney discussed the Litigation - with Ashe County Planning Board & Appalachian Materials. John stated that the asphalt litigation it has now been resolved by the Supreme Court and Ashe County is now obligated to issue Appalachian Materials their permit and also to withdrawal the pending appeal we have for issuance of the water permit and issue that as well in a reasonable amount of time. After some discussion Commissioner Powers made the motion that the Board withdrawal and dismiss its appeal as to the issuance of the water permit as ordered by North Carolina Supreme Court. 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

### GENERAL SESSION

**PRO 25-1** North Carolina Guardian ad Litem Child Advocate Month Proclamation

**Attachments:** [4-21-2025 NC Guardian ad Litem Child Advocate Month Proclamation](#)

*Chairman McNeill read allowed the North Carolina Guardian ad Litem Child Advocate Month Proclamation. Commissioner Eldreth made the motion to adopt the proclamation. Commissioner Killen seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**Adopted**

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

### VII. Commissioner Comments

### VIII. Announcements

### IX. Executive Session

### X. Adjournment

*At 10:20 AM Vice Chairman Powers made the motion to adjourn the April 21st, 2025 meeting. 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

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.