

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Monday, August 4, 2025

9:00 AM

Wilkes Community College Community 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 August 4th, 2025 Regular Session Meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Present: 4 - Chairperson Todd McNeill, Vice Chairman Jerry D. Powers, Commissioner Russell Killen and Commissioner Wes Greene

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Mike Eldreth

II. Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Prayer

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

III. Consent Agenda

Vice Chairman Powers made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Killen seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 4 - Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Powers, Commissioner Killen and Commissioner Greene

[MIN 25-24](#) July 21, 2025 Regular Session Minutes

Attachments: [8-4-2025 July 21, 2025 Regular Session Minutes](#)

[APP 25-10](#) Regional Library Board Appointment: Dr. James Bumgarner

Attachments: [8-4-2025 Recommendation Letter](#)

IV. Adoption of Agenda

With the addition of the Resolution Designating Applicant Agent presented by Patty Gambill, Emergency Management Coordinator Vice Chairman Powers made the motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Commissioner Killen seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 4 - Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Powers, Commissioner Killen and Commissioner Greene

V. Public Comment**VI. Presentations**

[PRES 25-99](#) 9:05 AM - PUBLIC HEARING - Judson Blevins, HCCOG - 2025 Community Development Block Grant / Neighborhood Revitalization

Attachments: [8-4-2025 Citizen Participation Plan](#)
[8-4-2025 Housing Rehabilitation Assistance Flyer](#)
[8-4-2025 CDBG-NR Information](#)

Judson Blevins with the High Country Council of Governments was present today for the Public Hearing and spoke on the Community Development Block Grant - Neighborhood Revitalization program. He stated that this plan describes how the County of Ashe will involve citizens in the planning, implementation, and assessment of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The funds must be used for projects which benefit low and moderate-income persons and aids in the elimination and prevention of slums and blight. The program is intended to assist governments in understanding neighborhood improvement programs. The regulations give ultimate responsibility for the design and implementation of the program to local elected officials and require that citizens be given an opportunity to serve in a key advisory role to these elected officials.

Citizen Charles Stafford from Fleetwood spoke saying that the Department of commerce, phase one, identified 25 contractors that were to utilize approximately \$1 billion to either repair or replace existing structures that were damaged by Helene. He then asked how that initiative compares to the Community Development Block Grant - Neighborhood Revitalization program?

Judson stated that it was his understanding that these programs run concurrent. Also that no one person would be able to receive funds from both programs. If money is received from one then you would not be eligible to receive funds from the other.

After some questions and comments from the commissioners, Commissioner Greene made the motion to accept the Citizen Participation Plan and to proceed with the application process for CDBG-NR. Commissioner Killen seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Chairman McNeill then closed the Public Hearing at 9:14 am.

Approved

For: 4 - Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Powers, Commissioner Killen and Commissioner Greene

PRES
25-100

9:08 AM - Patty Gambill, Emergency Management Coordinator - Budget Amendment

Attachments: [8-4-2025 Emergenct Mgt Budget Amendment](#)

Patty Gambill, Emergency Management Coordinator presented to the Board a budget amendment for \$106,112 for FEMA reimbursement for water points damaged during Helene. After some discussion Commissioner Greene made the motion to increase the appropriation for the department of Emergency Management from \$550,007 to \$656,119; this increased appropriation of \$106,112 to be made from eligible reimbursable project funds from FEMA. Vice Chairman Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Also in addition Patty presented the Board with the Resolution Designating Applicant Agent. Vice Chairman made the motion to approve the Resolution Designating Applicant Agent. Commissioner Killen seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 4 - Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Powers, Commissioner Killen and Commissioner Greene

PRES
25-101

9:10 AM - Tracie McMillan, DSS Director - DSS Statistics June 2025

Attachments: [8-4-2025 DSS Statistics June 2025](#)

Presentation 25-101 moved to the August 18th, 2025 Board of Commissioners meeting (agenda) due to Tracie McMillan being on vacation in the current week.

Continued

PRES
25-102

9:15 AM - Adam Stumb, County Manager - Opioid Settlement Agreements:

1. Purdue Pharma Plan Acceptance
2. Government Entity Settlement Agreement (GESA)
3. Nine Defendant Settlement Agreement
4. Acceptance of Sandoz Settlement Agreement

Attachments: [8-4-2025 Opioid Settlement Summary](#)

Adam Stumb, County Manager presented to the Board Opioid Settlement Agreements. The Purdue Pharma Plan Acceptance, the Government Entity Settlement Agreement (GESA), the Nine Defendant Settlement Agreement and the Acceptance of Sandoz Settlement Agreement. Adam stated that the national opioid settlement continues to expand, adding several additional defendants including, Purdue Pharma and the Sackler Family. This adds approximately \$9.2 Billion to the settlement. The firms working this settlement for local governments across the Country have requested Board action for us to take advantage of these funds.

Adam stated that the current settlement payment for Ashe County sits at \$4.0 million over 18 years. This settlement will add to that figure; however, the exact amount had not been calculated. Commissioner Killen made the motion to approve the Board Opioid Settlement Agreements. Commissioner Greene seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 4 - Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Powers, Commissioner Killen and Commissioner Greene

PRES
25-103

9:20 AM - Adam Stumb, County Manager - (Kelsey Wagoner) Employment Study

Attachments: [8-4-2025 Evergreen Solutions, LLC Employment Study](#)

Kelsey and Adam presented drafts of proposals that looks at right staffing for each county department. Saying this is similar to the pay study that was previously completed, a consultant would compare out current departments and staffing with like sized county governments. This could give us valuable insight into our current staffing levels but could also give us some guidance on staffing for our new EMS department. After some discussion the consensus was to proceed with the Employment Study.

No Action Taken

PRES
25-104

9:25 AM - Adam Stumb, County Manager - Cashflow Loan

Attachments: [8-4-2025 Contract - State Cashflow Loan](#)

Adam stated that the State Treasurer is offering the 2nd cash flow loan for hurricane effected local governments. We have accepted the first loan (unused) and will recommend acceptance of the second. This could potentially help with cash flow regarding the Riverview project depending on what direction we go. There had been talk of making this a forgivable loan, however we have not heard that mentioned recently. After some discussion Vice Chairman Powers made the motion to approve the 2nd Hurricane Helene cashflow loan. Commissioner Killen seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 4 - Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Powers, Commissioner Killen and Commissioner Greene

GENERAL SESSION

VII. Commissioner Comments

VIII. Announcements

IX. Executive Session

Chairman McNeill called the Executive Session meeting to order at 9:50 am. At 10:53 am Vice Chairman Powers made the motion to return to Open Session. Commissioner Green seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Resulting from a portion of Executive Session Commissioner Greene made the motion to approve the eight (8) Hazard Mitigation Grant applications that are eligible. Commissioner Killen seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 4 - Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Powers, Commissioner Killen and Commissioner Greene

[ES 25-10](#) G.S. 143-318.11(5) Property

[ES 25-11](#) G.S. 143-318.11 (4) Economic Development

X. Adjournment

Commissioner Greene made the motion to adjourn today's meeting at 11:08 am. Commissioner Killen seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 4 - Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Powers, 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