

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, May 5, 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 May 5th, 2025 Regular Session meeting of the Ashe County Board of Commissioners to order at 9:00 am.

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Wes Greene

II. Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Prayer

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

III. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Commissioner Killen made the motion to approve the May 5th, 2025 Consent Agenda. Vice Chairman Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

Excused: 1 - Commissioner Greene

[MIN 25-13](#) April 21st, 2025 Meeting Minutes

[Attachments:](#) [5-5-2025 April 21st, 2025 Meeting Minutes](#)

[APP 25-6](#) Ashe Workforce Development Board Appointments & ReAppointments

[Attachments:](#) [5-5-2025 Ashe WDB Appointments & ReAppointments Request](#)

[APP 25-7](#) JCPC ReAppointments

IV. Adoption of Agenda

With the addition of an Executive Session for Attorney Consultation Vice Chairman Powers made the motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Killen seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Adopted

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

Excused: 1 - Commissioner Greene

V. Public Comment

At 9:03 am Chairman McNeill opened the floor for the Public Comment portion of the meeting. Alan Briggs took the podium and gave positive comments and gratitude for the

river cleanup efforts by the Army Core of Engineers.
Seeing no further movement from those in attendance, Chairman McNeill closed the Public Comment portion of the meeting at 9:08 am.

VI. Presentations

PRES 25-56 9:04 AM - Tracie McMillan, DSS Director - DSS Statistics for March 2025

Attachments: [5-5-2025 DSS Statistics March 2025](#)

Tracie McMillan, DSS Director presented to the Board the DSS Statistics for March 2025. Tracie discussed the Adult Services numbers and she also stated that the Foster Care numbers are holding steady. Tracie also spoke on the Hospitality House of Northwest N.C. She said that the Hospitality House of Northwest N.C. housed 247 people last year, taking them from homelessness to a home.

No Action Taken

PRES 25-57 9:07 AM - Tracie McMillan, DSS Director - Data Sharing Memorandum of Agreement

Attachments: [5-5-2025 Data Sharing MOA](#)

Tracie McMillan, DSS Director presented to the Board for approval the Data Sharing Memorandum of Agreement between the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and Ashe County. This establishes the agreement between the parties regarding the County's access to and use and disclosure of, all confidential data and information provided by the Agency to the County, for purposes of administering North Carolina's public assistance and public service programs. After a brief discussion Vice Chairman Powers made the motion to approve the Data Sharing MOA. Commissioner Killen seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

PRES 25-58 9:12 AM - Kevin Anderson, Director of Parks & Rec and Carol Coulter, Parks & Rec Advisory Board - Recommendation for Fundraising Entity

Attachments: [5-5-2025 Proposal-Feasibility Study & Fundraising Consultant Services for Ashe County Recreation Center Project](#)

Michael Lee, Parks & Rec Advisory Board presented to the Board a recommendation for a Fundraising Entity. After interviewing, "Creative Fundraising" is the Committee's unanimous recommendation for the fundraising entity to move forward with on feasibility and fundraising studies. After some discussion Commissioner Eldreth made the motion to approve "Creative Fundraising" for the feasibility and fundraising studies.

Commissioner Killen seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

PRES 25-59 9:22 AM - Kitty Honeycutt, Chamber of Commerce - Ashe Bash Update

Kitty Honeycutt, Chamber of Commerce was present to give an Ashe Bash Update. Kitty stated that this will be the 5th year celebration of Ashe Bash. Starting at 6:00 pm on

Saturday June 7th, 2025, here on the Courthouse steps, International Bluegrass Music Association multi-award winners Darin & Brooke Aldridge will kick off the evening with the melodious bluegrass and gospel earning the group national attention and over 50 appearances at the Grand Ole Opry. Secondly the group Scythian, with a blend of Celtic and Appalachian roots music will be also scheduled to play. Kitty invited everyone to come out and have a great time.

No Action Taken

PRES 25-60 9:26 AM - John Cothren, County Extension Director, Wilkes & Interim CED, Ashe County - Budget Item Request Approval

Attachments: [5-5-2025 NC CoOp-Ashe Quote](#)

John Cothren, Interim CED, Ashe County presented to the Board a Budget Item Request for their approval to purchase a 2025 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 Crew Cab 4X4 for the NC Cooperative Extension Ashe County Center. After some discussion Vice Chairman Powers made the motion to approve the budgeted purchase. Commissioner Eldreth seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

PRES 25-61 9:30 AM - Chip Patterson - SDR Contract - Not to Exceed Amount Increase

PRES-25-61 and PRES 25-62 were canceled as formatted and Adam Stumb, County Manager and Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill discussed debris contracts with the board. Adam said that due to performance issues with the current debris contractors in addition to continued cost overruns, we are asking to turn over the roadside debris contract to the state emergency management for administration. Patty stated that both SDR and Debris Tech have asked for increases in their contracts and still are unable to give us clear ending dates or road completion dates. She said both of those companies have reached their maximum amount and she said we're here to request approval to take over management of the operations. She said this would be a much smoother way to do it and that the amount of increase that they requested had the finance office concerned about cash flow. Josh Patterson with SDR was also present to answer any questions. After a lengthy discussion Vice Chairman Powers made the motion to transfer administration of roadside debris contract to the State of North Carolina and approve the Memorandum of Agreement. Commissioner Killen seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

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

PRES 25-62 9:34 AM - Angelia Cruthirds - Debris Tech - Not to Exceed Amount Increase

Presentation canceled.

No Action Taken

PRES 25-63 9:38 AM - Adam Stumb, County Manager - Environmental Services Building Update

Attachments: [5-5-2025 RFQ Ashe County Environmental Services Building](#)

Adam stated they had advertised for assistance on design of the new environmental services building and only received one proposal, this being from Vannoy Construction. He said with the Board's consent, we will meet with Vannoy to discuss the scope of the project, and cost for design. After that, we will return with a contract to begin design work. Adam stated that a formal vote isn't necessary if all were in agreement to move forward with Vannoy Construction on design for the new Environmental Services building. All commissioners were in agreement.

PRES 25-64 9:50 AM - Patricia Calloway, Executive Director, Generations Ashe - Update on Generations Ashe

Patricia Calloway, Executive Director, Generations Ashe gave a lengthy presentation on Generations Ashe and some serious ongoing workforce issues they are facing. Generations Ashe provides a In-Home Aide Program, Community Alternatives Program for Disabled Adults, Nutrition, Senior Center, Adult Day Health Center, Child Development Center, Assisted Living & Memory Care and Ashe Senior Village. County Manager Adam Stumb and Chairman McNeill asked that the Board meet in Executive Session with Patricia Calloway, Executive Director, Generations Ashe to discuss with John Kilby a proposed agreement between the County and Generations.

GENERAL SESSION

VII. Commissioner Comments

VIII. Announcements

MISC 25-12 Following today's meeting the Board will visit Ashe Memorial Hospital

IX. Executive Session

At 10:44 am Vice Chairman Powers made the motion to enter into Executive Session. Commissioner Eldreth seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
Approved

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

X. Adjournment

At 11:42 am Commissioner Killen made a motion to return from Executive Session and to adjourn the May 5th Regular Session Meeting. Vice Chairman Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.
Approved

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

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.