

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

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

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

Vice Chairman Powers led the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Greene 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: 5 - Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Powers, Commissioner Eldreth, Commissioner Killen and Commissioner Greene

[RES 25-4](#) Resolution for the Disposal of Surplus Property

Attachments: [7-7-2025 Resolution for the Disposal of Surplus Property](#)

[APP 25-8](#) Ashe County Public Library Advisory Board Appointments

Attachments: [7-7-2025 Library Advisory Board Appointment Request](#)

[APP 25-9](#) Farmland Preservation Board re-appointments

Attachments: [7-7-2025 Farmland Preservation Board Appointment Request](#)

[MIN 25-17](#) June 2nd, 2025 Budget Session Minutes

Attachments: [7-7-2025 June 2, 2025 Budget Session Minutes](#)

[MIN 25-18](#) June 3rd, 2025 Budget Session Minutes

Attachments: [7-7-2025 June 3, 2025 Budget Session Minutes](#)

[MIN 25-19](#) June 4th, 2025 Budget Session Minutes

Attachments: [7-7-2025 June 4, 2025 Budget Session Minutes](#)

[PRES 25-94](#) June 16th, 2025 Regular Session Minutes

Attachments: [7-7-2025 June 16, 2025 Regular Session Minutes](#)

[MIN 25-20](#) Executive Session Minutes March 17, 2025

[MIN 25-21](#) Executive Session Minutes May 19, 2025

[MIN 25-22](#) Executive Session Minutes May 5, 2025

IV. Adoption of the Agenda

Commissioner Greene made the motion to adopt the July 7, 2025 Agenda. 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

Chairman McNeill opened the floor for Public Comment at 9:02 am.

Judy Bare from Jefferson and a member of the Agricultural Center Advisory Committee took the podium. She invited the Commissioners, staff and public to the Grand Opening - Ribbon Cutting for the Ashe County Agricultural Center on Friday, July 18th, 2025 at 2:00 pm. Judy said they were really excited to have everyone to come out and the new facility. She said that Taylor Hope Miller will be providing entertainment and there would also be some speakers.

No further comments were offered by those in attendance.

Chairman McNeill then closed the Public Comment portion of today's meeting at 9:04 am.

VI. Presentations

[RES 25-5](#) 9:04 am - Sheriff Howell - Resolution Awarding Badge and Sidearm to Retiring ACSO Lieutenant Randy Lewis

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

[7-7-2025 Resolution Awarding Badge and Servicearm to Retiring Lt. Randy Lewis](#)

Jeremy Williams, Captain ACSO was present today to present the Resolution Awarding Badge and Sidearm to Retiring ACSO Lieutenant Randy Lewis. Jeremy spoke highly on Randy's 28 years of service to the Ashe County Sheriffs Office and his 37 years total in law enforcement. After a brief discussion Vice Chairman Powers made the motion to adopt the Resolution Awarding his Badge and Sidearm to Retiring ACSO Lieutenant Randy Lewis. 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 25-95](#) 9:09 am - Kelsey Wagoner, HR Coordinator - Personnel Policy Committee Recommendations

Attachments: [7-7-2025 County of Ashe Educational Benefits Policy](#)
[7-7-2025 Addition to Educational Benefits Policy](#)

Kelsey Wagoner, HR Coordinator presented to the Board Personnel Policy Committee Recommendations. The first change was a wording change in the "Leave Without Pay" policy. It now reads: "An employee who is on leave without pay status on the day preceding a holiday is not eligible to earn holiday pay unless the employee works on the holiday." Kelsey then presented the second revision to the Personnel Policy / Abuse of Sick Leave. She stated that it now reads: "Abuse of sick leave privilege shall be reason for disciplinary action. A physician's certificate is required for any use of sick leave longer than five (5) days, other than the death of an immediate family member. She stated that it has been extended from 3 days to 5 days. A physician's certificate from a virtual care or in-person physician is required for any use of sick leave longer than five (5) days other than the death of an immediate family member. Employees may be required to provide a physician's certificate from an in-person physician after three (3) additional working days if they initially provided a physician's certificate from a virtual care physician. After some discussion Commissioner Eldreth made a motion to approve the change to the Personnel Policy. Commissioner Greene seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Kelsey also stated changes made to the Educational Benefits Policy on reimbursement. After some discussion. Commissioner Eldreth made the motion to approve changes made to the Educational Benefits Policy on reimbursement. 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 25-96 9:14 am - Adam Stumb, County Manager - Solicitation of New Transportation Projects (2028-2037 STIP)

Attachments: [7-7-2025 Solicitation of New Transportation Projects 2028-2037 STIP](#)

Adam stated that each year the High County Rural Planning Organization and NCDOT request that we submit new transportation projects to be considered in the upcoming State Transportation Improvement Plan. He said typically, Ashe can submit 3 projects per mode of transportation (highway, pedestrian and aviation) Each County in our region will submit their projects for consideration and they will all be scored against other project from our region. He said while projects may score well regionally, state funding may dictate which projects advance. Last year, no projects from Ashe County advanced. He then spoke on the projects that are being recommended after meeting with NCDOT, Jefferson and West Jefferson. After some discussion Vice Chairman Powers made the motion to approve the transportation projects to be considered. 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

MISC 25-26 9:19 am - Commissioner Mike Eldreth - Middle School Roof Discussion

Commissioner Eldreth began by saying that the Middle School roof repair project has been delayed is because the commissioners had not decided on which option they wanted to go with. He stated he felt a decision needed to be made so that the project would not be delayed further. Chairman McNeill stated what can we do right now, saying that he didn't want to be the reason things were not progressing. After a brief discussion

that also included input from Dr. Eisa Cox, Vice Chairman Powers made the motion that they go with the single ply option that had been previously presented to them. 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

[MISC 25-24](#) Adam Stumb, County Manager - Recognition of Employees Years of Service

Attachments: [7-7-2025 Employees Years of Service List](#)

Adam & Commissioners congratulated and praised this years employees and their years of service. Adam also read each employees name.

[MISC 25-25](#) NACo Voting Delegate Selection for Ashe County

Chairman McNeill stated that he will be attending the National Association of Counties (NACo) 90th Annual Conference in the City and County of Philadelphia, PA. A consensus vote from the Board electing him as the Ashe County Voting Delegate is needed. He stated that during this meeting, NACo members will elect 2025-2026 officers, set our national policy agenda and conduct other association business. After a brief discussion Vice Chairman Powers made the motion to elect Chairman McNeill as the Ashe County Voting Delegate. 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

VII. Commissioner Comments

VIII. Announcements

IX. Executive Session

Vice Chairman Powers made the motion to enter in to Executive Session at 9:42 am. Commissioner Killen seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Commissioner Powers made the motion to return from Executive Session at 10:08 am. 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 25-7](#) G.S. 143-318.11 (5) Property

X. Adjournment

Vice Chairman Powers made the motion to adjourn the July 7th, 2025 Regular Session meeting at 10:09 am. 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

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.