

Jones County Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2025, 7:00 PM

Jones County Agricultural Building
110 Market Street
Trenton, NC 28585

Commissioners Present: Vice-Chairman Charlie Dunn Jr., Commissioner Michael Haddock, Commissioner James Harper, Commissioner April Aycock, Commissioner Charlie Gray

Commissioners Absent: Chairman Frank Emory, Commissioner Sondra Ipock-Riggs

Officials Present: Kyle Smith, County Manager, Angelica Hall, Clerk, Ross Hardeman, County Attorney, David Mallard, Recreation Director, Jennifer King, Deputy Director of Administration, Adrian Smith, Health Director, John Bender, Economic Developer, Ryan Mills, Emergency Services Director

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chairman Charlie Dunn Jr.

2. Invocation

Vice-Chairman Charlie Dunn Jr.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Public Comment Period

None

5. Approval of Agenda

Motion made by: Commissioner Charlie Gray

Seconded by: Commissioner April Aycock

Motion to Approve with the addition of Item 6.10.

Passed Unanimously

6. Presenters

6.1. Long Term Recovery

Ms. Ryan Mills, EM Director, and Kristy Kulberg lead a discussion on the Long-Term Recovery Committee, outlining the committee's goals, purpose, and structure. The discussion focused on how the committee can best support coordinated recovery efforts, strengthen partnerships, and ensure long-term community resilience following disasters.

6.2. Federal Government Shutdown Update

Ms. Jennifer King, Deputy Director of Administration, provided a brief update on the current federal government shutdown and its potential impacts on county programs and operations.

6.3. NC East Alliance

Mr. Kyle Smith, County Manager, informed the Board that Jones County recently joined the NC East Alliance through the 10-10-15 Membership Program. NC East Alliance offers annual micro-grants of up to \$15,000 for:

K-12 Education
Community Development
Economic Development
Workforce Development
Lifestyle Marketing

Mr. Smith informed the Board that Bianca Shoneman, Vice President of Community Development, would attend the November 3rd BOC meeting to talk more about what joining NC East Alliance means for Jones County.

6.4. Resolution Approving Conveyance of Real Property to Volunteer Fire Department

Mr. Kyle Smith, County Manager, presented the Board with a Resolution Approving Conveyance of Real Property to Volunteer Fire Department.

Upon adoption, this resolution approves the conveyance of a 3.39-acre portion of the real property described in Deed Book 290, Page 391 to Comfort Volunteer Fire Department.

Motion made by: Commissioner Charlie Gray

Seconded by: Commissioner April Aycock

Motion to Approve Resolution approving
Conveyance of Real Property to Volunteer Fire
Department.

Passed Unanimously

6.5. Architectural and Engineering Services Selection – Jones County Public Works Building

Mr. Kyle Smith, County Manager, informed the Board that the County was soliciting Statements of Qualifications (SOQs) from qualified architectural and engineering firms for the design of a new 10,000 SF Public Works Building in Trenton, NC. The project includes a pre-engineered steel facility with multiple covered shelters, roll-up doors, and related site improvements. Services will include full design, permitting support, and limited construction administration. RFQ's are due by 11:00 AM on Friday, October, 17, 2025.

Staff reviewed and ranked submitted RFQ's on Monday, October 20, 2025, and prepared a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Smith informed the Board that the recommendation is the Walker Group.

Motion made by: Commissioner Charlie Gray

Seconded by: Commissioner James Harper

Motion to Approve the recommendation of the
Walker Group.

Passed Unanimously

6.6. Water/Facilities Maintenance Technician Position

Mr. Kyle Smith, County Manager, informed the Board that two positions recently became vacant: Part-Time Landfill Operator and Facilities Maintenance Supervisor (Both General Fund positions). One has been filled by way of creating a Water/Facilities Maintenance Technician position (50/50 split General Fund v. Water Fund). This is a request to advertise another Water Facilities Maintenance Technician position (50/50 split General Fund v. Water Fund).

Motion made by: Commissioner Michael Haddock

Seconded by: Commissioner Charlie Gray

Motion to Approve the request to advertise
another Water Facilities Maintenance Technician

position.

Passed Unanimously

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6.7. HVAC Unit Replacement — Civic Center

Mr. Kyle Smith, County Manager, informed the Board that the lowest quote provided to replace one of the main HVAC units at the Civic Center was \$30,639.98, provided by All Weather Mechanical, Inc. The recommended motion would be to approve this work, not to exceed \$30,639.98. This project is included in the Capital Improvements Plan.

Motion made by: Commissioner Charlie Gray

Seconded by: Commissioner James Harper

Motion to Approve the work, not to exceed
\$30,369.98.

Passed Unanimously

6.8. Roof Repair - Civic Center

Mr. Kyle Smith, County Manager, informed the Board that the lowest quote provided to repair the "breezeway canopy" and "membrane" where the roof joints at the Small and Large Auditoriums is \$10,160, provided by Curtis and Curtis, Inc. The recommended motion would be to approve this work, not to exceed \$10,160.

Motion made by: Commissioner James Harper

Seconded by: Commissioner Michael Haddock

Motion to Approve the work, not to exceed
\$10,160.

Passed Unanimously

6.9. Parcel 449791454700 & 449791229300 Update

Mr. Kyle Smith, County Manager, informed that Board that the County Attorney has reviewed case law with regard to the proposed plans for the subject property parcels, advising the County to reconsider other options.

Two Options to move forward:

1. Facilitate a land transaction with a general contractor/developer that would perform a flip with the subject properties.
2. Act via the local Nuisance Abatement Ordinance.

This is information only.

6.10. Resolution Supporting The Rural Infrastructure Program Grant Application

Mr. Kyle Smith, County Manager, provided the Board with a Resolution to support the Rural Infrastructure Program Grant Application, Hwy 58 Wastewater Force Main and Pump Station Improvements Project.

Motion made by: Commissioner James Harper

Seconded by: Commissioner Charlie Gray

Motion to Approve the Resolution as presented.

Passed Unanimously

7. Manager's Comments

- The next Board of Commissioners meeting will be Monday, November 3, 2025 at 7 PM.
- On August 6, 2025, Governor Stein signed HB 125, known as the Continuing Budget Operations. Section 3.6(b) sets the employer salary-related contributions effective July 1, 2025, and separates the 2.4% for the Public Employee Health Benefit Fund. As a Local Governmental employer participating in the North Carolina State Health Plan, for active employees, the 2.4% will be added to our contribution rate on October 1 and going forward. Three retro-invoices will be issued for the months of July, August and September. These invoices will be due in full by the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2026. UPDATE: N.C. Gen. Stat. § 135-48.47(e) reads, to me, as if the "opt-out" period for employers in the NC State Health Plan has come and gone, and is irrevocable unless changed through NC Law.
- On Monday, November 3, 2025, Jones County will hold two ribbon-cutting ceremonies for capital improvement projects nearing completion. The first ceremony celebrates the grand opening of Jones County Emergency Services, EMS Division, Station 2. This ceremony will begin at 10:30 AM. The address to Station 2 is: 9061 Hwy 17, Pollocksville, NC 28573. The second ceremony celebrates the renovation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This ceremony will begin at 1:30 PM. The address to the EOC is: 794 Hwy 58 S, Trenton, NC 28585.
- The Fourth annual WATERS Summit will be held in Wilmington, NC on Wednesday 12 November at Wendall Daniels Hall, Cape Fear Community College. The American Flood Coalition will be hosting an event the evening, with key leaders expected to attend their event as well.
- 2026 NACo Legislative Conference is Saturday, Feb. 21, 2026 - Tuesday, February

24, 2026 in Washington, DC. Please let me know if you would like to attend this conference.

8. County Attorney's Comments

None

9. Commissioner's Comments

None

10. Public Comment Period

None

11. Closed Session: Attorney-Client Privilege

11.1. Closed Session — § 143-318.11.(a)(3)

Motion made by: Commissioner April Aycock

Seconded by: Commissioner Charlie Gray

Motion to go into Closed Session.

Passed Unanimously

Motion made by: Commissioner Charlie Gray

Seconded by: Commissioner Michael Haddock

Motion to Approve to go out of Closed Session.

Passed Unanimously

12. Adjournment

Motion made by: Commissioner Charlie Gray

Seconded by: Commissioner Michael Haddock

Motion to Adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

Passed Unanimously

[MIN_SIGNATURES]