

Jones County Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2025, 7:00 PM

Jones County Agricultural Building
110 Market Street
Trenton, NC 28585

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

Commissioners Absent: 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

2. Invocation

Chairman Frank Emory

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

Passed Unanimously

6. Presenters

6.1. Jones County Extension

Mrs. Samantha Bennett, Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development, and Luiza Toutah provided the Board with an update. Ms. Toutah informed the Board that she would be attending the NCACC Annual Conference as the Jones County 4-H Delegate Representative.

6.2. Jones County Libraries Update

Ms. Melanie Morgan, Director of Libraries, provided the Board with an update on the programs and statistics of the four public libraries in the county. Ms. Morgan also spoke with the Board about the temporary closure of the Comfort Library, due to urgent repairs required to the facility, before the public and employees can safely access the facility.

6.3. 2024-25 Health Department YTD Service Report

Ms. Adrian Smith, Health Director, provided the Board with an overview of the 2024-25 Health Department YTD Service Report.

6.4. 2024-25 Health Department YTD Financial Report

Ms. Adrian Smith, Health Director, provided the Board with an overview of the 2024-25 Health Department YTD Financial Report.

6.5. 2024-25 Health Department Budget Amendments

Ms. Adrian Smith, Health Director, provided the Board with an overview of all Health Department Budget Amendments for FY 2024-25 and requested approval.

Motion made by: Commissioner Charlie Gray

Seconded by: Commissioner James Harper

Motion to approve as presented.

Passed Unanimously

6.6. 2024-25 Health Department Communicable Disease Report

Ms. Adrian Smith, Health Director, provided the Board with an overview of the year-to-date Communicable Disease Report for FY 2024-25 and requested approval of the report.

Motion made by: Commissioner April Aycock

Seconded by: Vice-Chairman Charlie Dunn Jr.

Motion to Approve as presented.

Passed Unanimously

6.7. 2024-25 Animal Bite/Rabies Exposure Report

Ms. Adrian Smith, Health Director, provided the Board with an overview of all reported animal bites and rabies exposures for FY 2024 - 25.

6.8. Hope Recovery Peer Support Agreement

Ms. Adrian Smith, Health Director, provided the Board with the Hope Recovery Peer Support Agreement for approval.

Motion made by: Commissioner Charlie Gray

Seconded by: Commissioner James Harper

Motion to Approve as presented.

Passed Unanimously

6.9. Resolution - Hope Recovery

Ms. Adrian Smith, Health Director, provided the Board with a Resolution - Hope Recovery for approval.

Motion made by: Commissioner April Aycock

Seconded by: Commissioner Michael Haddock

Motion to Approve as presented.

Passed Unanimously

6.10. Maysville Police Department Physicals Agreement

Ms. Adrian Smith, Health Director, presented the Board with the Maysville Police Department Physicals Agreement for approval.

Motion made by: Commissioner April Aycock

Seconded by: Vice-Chairman Charlie Dunn Jr.

Motion to Approve as presented.

Passed Unanimously

6.11. Post Overdose Response Team Program Agreement with Carolina East Foundation

Mr. Kyle Smith, County Manager, informed the Board that Jones County and Carolina East Foundation have engaged in positive discussions to develop a partnership through Carolina East Foundation's PORT program. Mr. Smith provided the Board with preliminary agreements. Mr. Smith also informed the Board that the County Attorney was working to make a few changes following a final call that took place with the Carolina East Foundation team. The proposed commitment of Jones County's reserved Opioid Settlement funds would be \$40,000 a year, for a minimum of two years.

6.12. Fire Pump at Techcon Way

Mr. Kyle Smith, County Manager, informed the Board that the County has worked to keep the Fire Pump that feeds Coastal Beverage Company Inc. in Pollocksville up and operational according to the needs at Coastal Beverage Company Inc. Jones County has negotiated a transfer of the equipment to Coastal Beverage Company Inc. The Fire Pump is located on property parcel # 543635473000.

Motion made by: Commissioner April Aycock

Seconded by: Vice-Chairman Charlie Dunn Jr.

Motion to declare the property parcel
#54363547300 surplus property.

Passed Unanimously

6.13. Storm Staging Agreement

Mr. Kyle Smith, County Manager, provided the Board with a storm staging agreement. This agreement is with Duke Energy and would grant permission to use a portion of County-owned property as a "Storm Staging Site" during and after a disastrous storm event that creates numerous power outages.

Motion made by: Commissioner Charlie Gray

Seconded by: Commissioner Michael Haddock

Motion to Approve as presented.

Passed Unanimously

6.14. Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Application Update

Ms. Jennifer King, Deputy Director of Administrations, provided the Board with an update on the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Application.

6.15. HCCBG Budget Adoption

Ms. Jennifer King, Deputy Director of Administrations, presented the Board with the HCCBG Budget Adoption.

Motion made by: Commissioner James Harper

Seconded by: Commissioner Michael Haddock

Motion to Approve as presented.

Passed Unanimously

6.16. Senate Bill 391

Mr. Kyle Smith, County Manager, provided the following information to the Board pertaining to Senate Bill 391:

Section 15: G.S. 136-32 provides a time period during which political signs may be placed in State highway right-of-way. The time period begins the 30th day before the beginning date of early voting and ends on the 10th day after the primary or election day. This section would prohibit the Department of Transportation from scheduling mowing in any right-of-way where the placing of political signs is permitted during the time period prescribed in G.S. 136 -32. It would further prohibit the Department from scheduling mowing in any highway right-of-way during the month of May.

SB 391 condenses the time during which mowing can take place in the right-of-way in the state of NC. At the discretion of the Board of Commissioners, this may be a bill worth opposing. We do receive several calls annually about grass heights in the right-of-way area. This bill may make that problem even worse.

6.17. USDA Farm Service Agency Update

Mr. Kyle Smith, County Manager, informed the Board that he has been working with the local FSA board member to relocate USDA FSA back to Jones County. FSA is currently jointly shared with Onslow County and if they were to relocate back to Jones County, they would be housed in the Jones County Business Center.

6.18. Property Investment

Mr. Kyle Smith, County Manager, informed the Board of potential property investment opportunities.

6.19. Review of Animal Services Agreement

Mr. Kyle Smith, County Manager, provided the Board with a Memorandum of Agreement for review between Duplin County and Jones County for the transportation and boarding of dogs and cats that are lost, strays, abandoned, or which have been lawfully taken into custody pursuant to animal abuse or neglect investigations from within Jones's defined jurisdiction limits to the Duplin County Animal Shelter.

6.20. Parcel 444569571300 Survey

Mr. Kyle Smith, County Manager, informed the Board that work began with a surveyor to perform a boundary survey and division map for parcel #444569571300 (Comfort Ball field). Comfort Volunteer Fire Department is interested in the larger area that will be divided. The easement gives the County access to the communications tower on the property, while maintaining ownership of that small area. There was discussion by the Board and the recommendation was to give the land to Comfort Volunteer Fire Department and let them handle dividing out to the other landowner.

6.21. Parcel 449791454700 & 449791229300

Mr. Kyle Smith, County Manager, informed the Board that with the County planning projects directly across the road from parcel #449791454700 and #449791229300, he followed up to see if the current owners of the parcels would be willing to sell in an effort to clean up this area. Mr. Smith provided the Board with the following information on the parcels: Purchase Price of 145 High School Lane: \$15,500 and Purchase Price of 109 High School Lane: Transaction can't occur until June 2026. Current owners are willing to sell. There was discussion by the Board, and they recommended that the manager continue to do research on properties.

6.22. Vehicle Lease Agreement

Mr. Kyle Smith, County Manager, presented the Board with a one-year lease agreement at an annual rate of \$1 for a vehicle that would be assigned to the

Sheriff's Office. The vehicle is a 2024 Ford Mustang. There was discussion by the Board in reference to the unfitting of the vehicle.

Motion made by: Commissioner April Aycock

Seconded by: Vice-Chairman Charlie Dunn Jr.

Motion to Approve and amend the contract to state that any vehicle unfitting paid for by the County shall remain property of the County and must be returned once that vehicle is not in use any longer.

Passed Unanimously

7. Manager's Comments

- The first BOC meeting in September will be on the second Monday of the month, September 8, 2025. The first Monday is a designated holiday, Labor Day.
- The 118th NCACC Annual Conference is August 21-23, 2025, in Greenville, NC. If you are registered to attend, I will send more information to you directly.
- The 2025 Jones County Heritage Festival is set for September 26–27, bringing a weekend full of music, parade, fun, and community to Trenton. For more information or to enter the parade: jcheritagefestival.com
- Jones County has entered an Artificial Intelligence Contract with Polimorphic. We are currently utilizing a ChatBox on the County website to streamline answers to commonly asked questions. The contract is in a trial period that will extend through December 31, 2025.
- Jones County is now accepting bids for Inmate Meals. Bids must be received no later than 1:00 PM on September 2, 2025.
- The 5th Annual Back to School Bash was a success, serving 240 kids (another record-breaking number).
- The Fourth annual WATERS Summit will be held in Wilmington, NC on Wednesday 12 November at Wendall Daniels Hall, Cape Fear Community College.

8. County Attorney's Comments

None

9. Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Charlie Dunn Jr. requested an update on the Joint Industrial Park.

10. Public Comment Period

None

11. Closed Session - Attorney-Client Privilege 143-318.11(a)(3)

Motion made by: Commissioner Michael Haddock

Seconded by: Commissioner April Aycock

Motion to Approve to go into Closed Session

Unanimously

Motion made by: Vice-Chairman Charlie Dunn Jr.

Seconded by: Commissioner James Harper

Motion to Approve to go out of Closed Session

Passed Unanimously

12. Adjournment

Motion made by: Commissioner Charlie Gray

Seconded by: Vice-Chairman Charlie Dunn Jr.

Motion to Adjourn at 9:10 pm

Unanimously

[MIN_SIGNATURES]