

Jones County Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting Minutes

September 8, 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 Sondra Ipock-
Riggs, Commissioner James Harper, Commissioner April Aycock,
Commissioner Charlie Gray

Commissioners Absent:

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

Commissioner Mike Haddock

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Public Comment Period

None

5. Approval of Agenda

Motion made by: Commissioner James Harper

Seconded by: Commissioner Michael Haddock

Motion to Approve as presented

Passed Unanimously

6. Presenters

6.1. Recognition of Wanda Scott – NC Frontline Employee of the Year

On August 21, 2025, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services announced that Ms. Wanda Scott, a valued member of the Jones County Department of Social Services, was selected as the **North Carolina's Frontline Employee of the Year**. This prestigious award recognizes Ms. Scott's outstanding dedication, professionalism, and commitment to serving the citizens of Jones County. Her tireless efforts exemplify the values of DSS and highlight the vital role frontline employees play in supporting families and individuals in need.

6.2. Flood Study Project Presentation

Mr. Jonathan Hinkle, Water Resources Group Leader/Senior Associate, presented the final Flood Study product to the Board of Commissioners.

6.3. Jail Meal Bids

Mr. Jarman informed the Board that the lowest bid was submitted by Legacy, located in Warsaw, NC, at \$3.99 per meal. However, he expressed concerns about using this company due to poor communication and the absence of references. Instead, Mr. Jarman recommended continuing with Sub-Attack, LLC, the only other bidder, whose price was \$6.15 per meal. He requested the Board's approval of this recommendation.

Motion made by: Commissioner April Aycock

Seconded by: Commissioner Sondra Ipock-Riggs

Motion to Approve the recommendation to approve a contract with Sub-Attack, LLC for the jail meals.

Passed Unanimously

6.4. OneBox Resolution

Ms. Adrian Smith, Health Director, informed the Board that the staff is

requesting approval to purchase 25 OneBox systems for Jones County using opioid settlement funding. The OneBox is a wall-mounted emergency resource kit designed to guide individuals step-by-step through responding to an opioid overdose. Each unit will be stocked with naloxone (not included with purchase) along with a built-in video screen that automatically plays clear instructions on how to administer the medication and provide aid until first responders arrive. These systems will be strategically placed at key locations across the county.

Motion made by: Commissioner Charlie Gray

Seconded by: Commissioner James Harper

Motion to Approve as presented.

Passed Unanimously

6.5. Post Overdose Response Team Agreement with Carolina East Foundation and Resolution

Ms. Adrian Smith, Health Director, 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. The proposed commitment of Jones County's reserved Opioid Settlement funds would be \$40,000 a year, for a minimum of two years.

Motion made by: Commissioner Charlie Gray

Seconded by: Vice-Chairman Charlie Dunn Jr.

Motion to Approve the Post Overdose Response Team Agreement with Carolina East Foundation and Resolution as presented. Commissioner Sondra Ipock-Riggs voted NO on this motion.

Passed

6.6. Jones County Community Closet Update

Mrs. Jennifer King, Deputy Director of Administrations, provided the Board with an update on the Community Closet: Jones County Health and Human Services is pleased to share that the Community Closet served 650 individuals across five counties during its most recent opening. This initiative has quickly become a valuable "share our resources" program. To keep this resource sustainable and impactful, we plan to open the Closet every other month moving forward so it can continue to serve our residents and surrounding communities effectively.

6.7. Emergency Services Departmental Update

Mrs. Ryan Mills, Emergency Services Director, provided an update to the Board of Commissioners on the following initiatives/projects: the County-wide Fire Study, the draft Fire Ordinance(s), the implementation of the Quick Response Vehicle (QRV) and the CDBG-NR program.

7. Approval of Items on Consent Agenda

7.1. Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes for August 4, 2025 and Work Session Minutes for August 18, 2025

7.2. HCCBG Budget

The HCCBG budget for Jones County was previously presented and approved. Since Jones County serves as the lead agency for Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) funding, the Board must also approve the portion allocated to Coastal Community Action (CCA).

The CCA allocation includes \$6,799 in grant funds, along with a local match of \$756.

7.3. Acceptance of Senior Center General Purpose Funding

Request approval to accept Senior Center General Purpose funding from the Eastern Carolina Council (ECC) in the amount of \$3,657, with a required local match of \$1,219. This allocation is unchanged from last year's funding.

7.4. Brock Mill Pond Enhancements Project Ordinance

This Item is removed from the Consent Agenda and is Item 8.1- New Business.

7.5. FEMA Lease Renewals

Renewals for FEMA lot leases:
240 Manning Lane Pollocksville - Jeffrey Gwynn
1870 Oak Grove Road Pollocksville - Roger Boyd
1398 Plantation Road Trenton - Jeffrey Gwynn

7.6. Re-appointment of Tax Administrator- Assessor/Collector

Mr. Fleming Jeffress' initial two-year appointment as Jones County Tax Administrator (Assessor/Collector) will expire October 2, and he is eligible for re-appointment. The Board re-appointed Mr. Jeffress for another term as required by statute.

7.7. Southern Health Partners Agreement

Annual Service Agreement with Southern Health Partners to provide Jail Nurse Services. The new agreement covers October 1, 2025 — September 30, 2026.

7.8. Amendment to FY 2026 Fee Schedule

The amended fee schedule removes meter tampering penalties from the FY 2026 Water Department fee schedule according to the following article: <https://canons.sog.unc.edu/2025/08/local-government-utilities-not-authorized-to-charge-meter-tampering-penalties>. Although local governments cannot impose their own penalties for meter tampering, they still have several lawful ways to respond. G.S. 14-151 offers two options: criminal prosecution and civil recovery. And local government utilities may also recover the actual cost of repairing or replacing damaged equipment. Reimbursement can be pursued in addition to either enforcement option.

7.9. Budget Amendments #9-10

Consent Agenda Approval

Motion made by: Commissioner Charlie Gray

Seconded by: Commissioner Michael Haddock

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda.
Removing Item 7.4, which is Item 8.1 — New
Business.

Passed Unanimously

8. New Business

8.1. Grant Project Ordinance — Brock Mill Pond Enhancements Project

Mr. Blake Batcherlor, Finance Officer, presented the Grant Project Ordinance — Brock Mill Pond Enhancements Project for approval.

Motion made by: Commissioner Sondra Ipock-Riggs

Seconded by: Commissioner April Aycock

Motion to Approve as presented.

Passed Unanimously

8.2. Letter Supporting the FEMA Act

Mr. Kyle Smith, County Manager, provided the Board with a letter acknowledging Jones County's support of the FEMA Act (H.R. 4669). The bill will soon head to the U.S. House for a vote. Mr. Smith provided the key wins in the bill, which include: Transitioning FEMA's Public Assistance Program from a reimbursement to a grant model, with the opportunity for grants to be made directly to counties, Streamlining environmental and historic preservation reviews, Creating a universal disaster application for disaster survivors, Restructuring FEMA's pre-disaster mitigation program by moving it to a formula-based grant, Creating a Public Assistance dashboard with information for each major disaster declaration.

Motion made by: Commissioner Michael Haddock

Seconded by: Commissioner Sondra Ipock-Riggs

Motion to Approve

Passed Unanimously

9. Manager's Comments

- The next BOC work session meeting will be on September 22, 2025, at 7 PM.
- 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.
- I recently attended a forum at the UNC SOG with the Town Manager and a Commissioner from the Town of Maysville. The forum included discussion around local housing needs and options to work towards affordable developments, including information on funding, financing, partnerships, and more.
- I'm working with JCPS on including a brochure highlighting our local public school system in an upcoming utility bill. This is an effort to market some of the positive things happening within our local school district. We will work directly with the two towns that perform their own utility billing so that the brochure reaches those residents.

10. County Attorney's Comments

The LGC will meet tomorrow, September 9, 2025, to consider the packet submitted by the County.

11. Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Mike Haddock requested the Board move forward with scheduling a meeting to discuss the Flood Study.

12. Public Comment Period

None

13. Closed Session § 143-318.11.(a)(3)

13.1. Attorney-Client Privilege

Motion made by: Commissioner Michael Haddock

Seconded by: Commissioner Sondra Ipock-Riggs

Motion to go into Closed Session

Passed Unanimously

Motion made by: Commissioner Michael Haddock

Seconded by: Commissioner April Aycock

Motion to Approve go out of Closed Session

Passed Unanimously

14. Adjournment

Motion made by: Vice-Chairman Charlie Dunn Jr.

Seconded by: Commissioner April Aycock

Motion to Approve the BOC Meeting for October 20, 2025, time be changed to 6:00 pm.

Passed Unanimously

Motion made by: Commissioner April Aycock

Seconded by: Commissioner Charlie Gray

Motion to Adjourn - 8:45 pm

Passed Unanimously

[MIN_SIGNATURES]