

Jones County Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2026, 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 Charlie Gray

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner April Aycock

Officials Present: Kyle Smith, County Manager, Angelica Hall, Clerk, Ross Hardeman, County Attorney, Blake Batchelor, Finance Officer, Jennifer King, Deputy Director of Administration, Ryan Mills, Emergency Management Director

1. Call to Order

Chairman Frank Emory

2. Invocation

Vice-Chairman Charlie Dunn Jr.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Public Comment Period

None

5. Approval of Agenda

Motion made by: Commissioner James Harper

Seconded by: Vice-Chairman Charlie Dunn Jr.

Motion to Approve

Passed Unanimously

6. Presenters

6.1. Family and Consumer Sciences Agent Update

Ms. Sarah Ware, Jones County Cooperative Extension FCS Agent, provided the Board with a program update.

6.2. County Extension Director & Field Crops Agent Update

Jacob Morgan, Jones County Cooperative Extension Director & Field Crops Agent, provided the Board with a program update.

7. Approval of Items on Consent Agenda

7.1. Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes June 1, 2026, Budget Work Session June 8, 2026, Work Session June 15, 2026, Special Meeting June 30, 2026

7.2. FEMA Lot Lease

Renewal of lease - Jennifer King/Linda Gray - 164 Manning Lane

7.3. Board Appointment - Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

Appointment of John Baker, Family Mentor/Certified Peer Support Specialist, to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) for a two-year term to expire July 13, 2028. Mr. Baker will fill the Substance Abuse Professional vacancy on this board.

7.4. Amendment - Resolution Authorizing Opioid Settlement Funds

7.5. Budget Amendments #1 - 2

Motion made by: Commissioner James Harper

Seconded by: Commissioner Michael Haddock

Motion to Approve Consent Agenda as presented.

Passed Unanimously

8. New Business

8.1. Collection Report: July 1, 2025 — June 30, 2026

Kelly Corey, Deputy Tax Administrator, provided the Board with the Tax Collections Report for July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026.

8.2. Annual Settlement 2025

Kelly Corey, Deputy Tax Administrator, provided the Board with the Annual Settlement 2025.

Motion made by: Commissioner Charlie Gray

Seconded by: Commissioner Sondra Ipock-Riggs

Motion to Approve as presented.

Passed Unanimously

8.3. Releases July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

Kelly Corey, Deputy Tax Administrator, provided the Board with the Releases for July 1, 2025 — June 30, 2026, for approval.

Motion made by: Commissioner Michael Haddock

Seconded by: Commissioner James Harper

Motion to Approve as presented.

Passed Unanimously

8.4. Update on the Volunteer EMS Lease agreements for the following agencies: Maysville EMS, Comfort EMS, Pollocksville EMS.

Ryan Mills, Emergency Management Director, provided the Board with the Maysville EMS, Comfort EMS, and Pollocksville EMS lease agreements to be updated for FY 26–27 year. These documents are in place to remain in compliance with Medicare and Medicaid standards for EMS billing purposes.

Motion made by: Commissioner Sondra Ipock-Riggs

Seconded by: Vice-Chairman Charlie Dunn Jr.

Motion to Approve as presented.

Passed Unanimously

8.5. Phillips Crossroads EMS updated Contract

Ryan Mills, Emergency Management, informed the Board of the transition of Phillips Crossroads EMS from an ambulance service to a Quick Response Vehicle (QRV) service. The attached contract was updated to reflect those changes.

Motion made by: Commissioner James Harper

Seconded by: Commissioner Michael Haddock

Motion to Approve as presented.

Passed Unanimously

8.6. VHF Paging System Upgrade Contract

Ryan Mills, Emergency Management Director, presented the Board with a request to approve a VHF Paging System upgrade contract. Ms. Mills provided the Board with a quote in the amount of \$119,020.83 for the equipment and service.

Motion made by: Commissioner Charlie Gray

Seconded by: Commissioner James Harper

Motion to Approve as presented.

Passed Unanimously

8.7. Urgent Repair Program 2027 - Approval of Policies

Jennifer King, Deputy Director of Administration, submitted the Urgent Repair Program 2027 policies for Board approval. The attached policies have

been reviewed and approved by the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency (NCHFA). Board approval is requested for the formal adoption and implementation of these policies.

Motion made by: Commissioner James Harper

Seconded by: Commissioner Michael Haddock

Motion to Approve as presented.

Passed Unanimously

8.8. Jones County JCPC Funding Plan

Jennifer King, Deputy Director of Administration, requested the Board's consideration for approval of the Jones County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) FY 2026–2027 County Funding Plan for submission to the North Carolina Department of Public Safety. This plan allocates the County's annual JCPC funding to support juvenile intervention and prevention services, and it includes the required local match as well as administrative funding. Approval will authorize the submission of the funding plan in compliance with state requirements.

Motion made by: Vice-Chairman Charlie Dunn Jr.

Seconded by: Commissioner James Harper

Motion to Approve as presented.

Passed Unanimously

8.9. Approval of Child Care Subsidy Priority and Waiting List Policy

Jennifer King, Deputy Director of Administration, requested Board approval of the Jones County Child Care Subsidy Priority and Waiting List Policy as required by the North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE). This policy establishes local priorities for serving eligible families and outlines procedures for managing a waiting list in

circumstances where child care subsidy funding, staffing, or available child care spaces are limited. Approval will authorize the Governing Board Chair to sign the policy on behalf of the County.

Motion made by: Commissioner Charlie Gray

Seconded by: Vice-Chairman Charlie Dunn Jr.

Motion to Approve as presented.

Passed Unanimously

8.10. 2026 Civic Excellence in Innovation Award

Jennifer King, Deputy Director of Administration, informed the Board that Jones County will receive a Civic Excellence in Innovation Award for the Jones County Community Closet. This nomination was submitted by Mrs. King. Award recipients will be recognized and celebrated during the NCACC Annual Conference at the Opening Ceremonies on Thursday, August 20th.

8.11. Federal Grant Administration Proposed Changes

Jennifer King, Deputy Director of Administrations, requested the Board consider approval of a comment letter to the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regarding proposed revisions to the Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200) governing federal financial assistance. The letter outlines concerns that several proposed regulatory changes could significantly increase administrative burdens, create financial uncertainty, delay project implementation, and disproportionately impact small rural counties. It requests clarification, practical implementation guidance, and consideration of the unique operational challenges faced by local governments while reaffirming Jones County's commitment to responsible stewardship of federal grant funds.

Motion made by: Commissioner Michael Haddock

Seconded by: Commissioner James Harper

Motion to Approve as presented.

Passed Unanimously

8.12. Resolution Requesting That The Jones County Board Of Elections Hold A County Alcoholic Beverage Election

Kyle Smith, County Manager, requested that the Board adopt a resolution formally requesting the Jones County Board of Elections to conduct a mixed beverage election in accordance with the relevant procedures outlined in Article 6 of Chapter 18B of the North Carolina General Statutes.

8.13. Jones County ABC Board Term Alignment

Kyle Smith, County Manager, requested the Board approve the following: realigning ABC Board member terms so that all terms conclude on the last day of June. This adjustment will stagger board members across a three-year term timeline. This recommendation was provided to the Jones County ABC General Manager by the NC ABC Commission.

Motion made by: Commissioner James Harper

Seconded by: Commissioner Michael Haddock

Motion to Approve as presented.

Passed Unanimously

8.14. Agreement for Consulting Services

Mr. Kyle Smith, County Manager, requested the Board's approval for an agreement concerning Consulting Services. Should the Board approve this agreement, it will engage Jones County with King and Co. LLC for lobbying services at both the state and federal levels, to be provided for a flat monthly fee of \$3,000. The timing of this request is critical due to the current federal budget cycle, as projects included in Congressional Directed Spending Requests are advancing to the Appropriations Committee for review and

comment. The previous engagement with King and Co. LLC was limited to state lobbying for Jones County.

Motion made by: Commissioner Michael Haddock

Seconded by: Commissioner James Harper

Motion to Approve as presented.

Passed Unanimously

8.15. Brock Mill Pond Recreational Enhancement Project Award & Owner/Contractor Agreement

Kyle Smith, County Manager, presented the Board with the Brock Mill Pond Recreational Enhancement Project Award and the Owner/Contractor Agreement for approval. The project is awarded to Farrior & Sons, Inc., which submitted the lowest bid of \$938,000. After value engineering, the total contract price was adjusted to \$870,000. The recommendation is to award the work to Farrior & Sons, Inc. and approve the Owner/Contractor Agreement.

Motion made by: Commissioner Charlie Gray

Seconded by: Commissioner James Harper

Motion to Approve as presented. Commissioner Sondra Ipock-Riggs voted NO on this Motion.

Passed

9. Manager's Comments

9.1. Manager's Comments

- The next regular scheduled Board of Commissioners meeting will be on

Monday, August 3, 2026 @ 7:00 PM.

- The next Board of Commissioners work session meeting will be on Monday, August 17, 2026 @ 7:00 PM.
- The NACo Annual Conference is quickly approaching. The County Manager and a few board members will leave on Thursday, July 16th, to attend the conference.
- The NCACC Annual Conference is August 20-22, 2026, in Durham County. There is still time to register if you wish to attend.
- Appropriations directly impacting Jones County through the recent passing of the state budget and SB 257:
 - \$125,000 for Maysville Fire & EMS for new and upgraded equipment.
 - \$3,569,383 for the construction of a new NCDOT Maintenance Yard, bringing jobs and long-term infrastructure support to Jones County.
 - \$125,000 for Maysville Fire & EMS for new and upgraded equipment.
 - \$100,000 for critical communications equipment upgrades to help keep our emergency services connected.
 - \$20,000 for water and sewer improvements.
 - \$30,000 for a Veterans Services Officer (VSO) to help ensure our local veterans receive the care, benefits, and support they have earned.
- The next County-hosted Joint Leadership Meeting with elected officials will be on Tuesday, July 28, 2026, at 6:00 PM. The meeting will take place at the Jones County Civic Center.
- Three new historical markers have been installed on the Jones County Courthouse grounds through a partnership with Visit Kinston, highlighting Revolutionary War events that took place in Jones County as part of the America 250 commemoration. A public ribbon-cutting and unveiling ceremony is tentatively planned for August 17th, with participation from the Jones County Historical Society and the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR). Stay tuned for event details as plans are finalized.

10. County Attorney's Comments

Ross Hardeman, County Attorney, requested a Closed Session in accordance to NC GS 143.318.11(a)(3).

11. Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Sondra Ipock-Riggs expressed her concerns about the roads in the county.

12. Public Comment Period

Ms. Stacy Jones of Maysville, NC, appeared before the Board to express concerns regarding a broken water line that she stated has remained unrepaired for an extended period. She expressed concern that the leak may be causing damage to the pavement and could become a safety hazard if not addressed. Ms. Jones also spoke about a neighboring property located on the opposite side of her father's residence, stating that it has become an unauthorized junkyard. She expressed concerns about trash scattered throughout the property, describing it as an eyesore and stating that no one should have to live beside such conditions.

13. Closed Session

Motion made by: Commissioner James Harper

Seconded by: Vice-Chairman Charlie Dunn Jr.

Motion to go into Closed Session NC GS
143.318.11(a)(3).

Passed Unanimously

Motion made by: Commissioner Sondra Ipock-Riggs

Seconded by: Commissioner Charlie Gray

Motion to Motion to go out of Closed Session.

Passed Unanimously

14. Adjournment

Motion made by: Commissioner Sondra Ipock-Riggs

Seconded by: Commissioner Charlie Gray

Motion to Adjourn at 8:45 pm.

Passed Unanimously

[MIN_SIGNATURES]