

Jones County Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2026, 6:00 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 April Aycock

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner James Harper, Commissioner Charlie Gray

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

1. Call to Order

Chairman Frank Emory

2. Invocation

Chairman Frank Emory

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Public Comment Period

K.C. Crawford, Maysville, spoke in support of the proposed 3% Fire Protection Service District tax. He encouraged the Board to approve the proposal, stating that it would help reduce homeowners' insurance rates.

Matthew Berg expressed opposition to the Board's decision to vote down the proposed 3% Fire Protection Service District tax and requested that the Board retain the \$18,000 appropriation in the budget.

Jean McGig spoke regarding the Fire Protection Service District.

Michael Jordan stated that the funds spent on the fire study were well invested and noted that establishing a Fire Protection Service District was one of the recommendations included in the study. He stated that 14 counties in North Carolina have already implemented similar districts. Mr. Jordan expressed concern that, if a service district is not established, the tax rate may need to increase by approximately 4 cents, compared to the proposed 3-cent Fire Protection Service District tax. He questioned whether fire departments may eventually have to reduce services if additional funding is not secured. He also noted that many grants require local matching funds and stated that he believed County staff had done a good job of providing information to the public and responding to questions throughout the process.

5. Approval of Agenda

Motion made by: Commissioner Michael Haddock

Seconded by: Vice-Chairman Charlie Dunn Jr.

Motion to Approve as presented.

Passed Unanimously

6. FY 2026 - 2027 Budget Review

There was discussion by the Board.

Commissioner Sondra Ipock-Riggs expressed concern that establishing a Fire Protection Service District would not place a limit on future funding. She stated that she supports funding the fire departments but believes the public should

have the opportunity to vote on the matter if a Fire Protection Service District is to be established.

Commissioner April Aycock stated that the existing Fire Tax was approved for a reason and that the fire departments should continue receiving County funding. She commented that, if additional funding is needed, the departments should consider utilizing the Fire Tax. She also stated that she would not support eliminating County funding for the fire departments.

Chair Frank Emory stated that the Board needed to develop a plan that all members could support moving forward.

Commissioner April Aycock recommended reducing the proposed 2.6% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to 2.0%. She stated that she would like to maintain the current tax rate, continue funding the fire departments as in the past, and use fund balance, if necessary, to balance the budget.

Commissioner Charlie Dunn Jr. recommended maintaining the funding for the fire departments as in the past.

Commissioner Mike Haddock stated that reductions could be made in some departmental budgets but believed the proposed budget was good. He expressed concern about reducing the proposed 2.6% cost-of-living adjustment, stating that it serves as an incentive for employee retention and helps reduce turnover.

The Board directed the County Manager to revise the proposed budget by identifying approximately \$202,482 in reductions or other available funding sources while maintaining the current tax rate while keeping the funding for the fire departments.

7. Manager's Comments

None

8. Commissioner's Comments

9. Adjournment

Motion made by: Commissioner Michael Haddock

Seconded by: Vice-Chairman Charlie Dunn Jr.

Motion to Adjourn

Passed Unanimously

[MIN_SIGNATURES]