



Rutherford County

Meeting Minutes - Final

Board of Commissioners

Monday, April 6, 2026

6:00 PM 289 N. Main St. Rutherfordton NC 28139 Commission
Chambers

I. Call to Order

Chairman King called the April 6, 2026 meeting of the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners to order.

Present: 5 - Commissioner Donnie Haulk, Commissioner Alan Toney, Commissioner Michael Benfield, Commissioner Hunter Haynes and Commissioner Bryan King

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. David Guy led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Agenda Approval

Commissioner Michael Benfield moved to approve the agenda. Vice Chairman Alan Toney seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Aye: 5 - Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Haynes and Commissioner Haulk

Nay: 0

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda Items approved were:

- A. ID-26-4423 Minutes of February 26, 2026 Special County Commissioners' Meeting
- B. ID-26-4422 Minutes of March 2, 2026 County Commissioners' Meeting
- C. ID-26-4435 Minutes of March 26, 2026 Special County Commissioners' Meeting
- D. ID-26-4424 Tax Refunds and Releases

Refund amount totaling \$5,059.61

Releases greater than \$100 totaling \$15,278.65

Releases less than \$100 totaling \$320.88

(A copy of these tax refunds and releases is typed in the Minute Book.)

Vice Chairman Alan Toney moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Michael Benfield seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Aye: 5 - Commissioner Haynes, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner King and Commissioner Haulk

Nay: 0

- A. [ID 26-4423](#) Minutes of February 26, 2026 County Commissioners' Special Meeting
Attachments: [20260226 Minutes.pdf](#)
- B. [ID 26-4422](#) Minutes of March 2, 2026 County Commissioners' Meeting
Attachments: [20260302Minutes.pdf](#)
- C. [ID 26-4435](#) Minutes of March 26, 2026 County Commissioners' Special Meeting
Attachments: [20260326 Special Meeting Minutes.doc](#)
- D. [ID 26-4424](#) Tax Refunds and Releases - April, 2026
Attachments: [Tax Refunds Releases April 2026.pdf](#)

IV. Commissioners/Appointments

- A. [ID 26-4429](#) National Day of Prayer Proclamation
Attachments: [National Day of Prayer Proclamation.pdf](#)
- Vice Chairman Toney presented a National Day of Prayer Proclamation for the Board's consideration and moved its passage.*
- A motion was made by Vice Chairman Toney and seconded by Commissioner Haulk to approve proclamation. The motion carried by the following vote:**
- Aye:** 5 - Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Haynes and Commissioner Haulk
- Nay:** 0
- B. [ID 26-4436](#) Resolution Recognizing April 12 - 18, 2026 as National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week
Attachments: [Telecommunications Week.pdf](#)
- In recognition of the important contribution of telecommunications personnel in the public safety community, Communications' Director Scott Schiefelbein asked that the Board recognize the second week in April as NPSTW (National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week). A resolution depicting this request was presented.*
- A motion was made by Vice Chairman Toney and seconded by Commissioner Benfield to approve resolution. The motion carried by the following vote:**
- Aye:** 5 - Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Haynes and Commissioner Haulk
- Nay:** 0

V. New Business

- A. [ID 26-4430](#) Budget Amendments - April 2026

Attachments: [Copy of Budget Amendments 4-6-26.pdf](#)

Finance Director Paula Roach presented budget amendments for the Board's consideration.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Toney and seconded by Commissioner Benfield to approve budget amendments. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Haynes and Commissioner Haulk

Nay: 0

B. [ID 26-4431](#) 2026 Audit Contract

Attachments: [Rutherford County FY26-FY28 Proposal.pdf](#)
[Rutherford County Eng Letter 2026.pdf](#)
[Rutherford County Audit Contract 2026.pdf](#)

Finance Director Paula Roach presented 2026 Audit Contract with Gould Killian CPA Group for the Board's consideration.

A motion was made by Commissioner Benfield and seconded by Vice Chairman Toney to approve contract with Gould Killian CPA Group. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Haynes and Commissioner Haulk

Nay: 0

C. [ID 26-4434](#) North Carolina Department of Transportation Right-of-Way Acquisition Offer

Attachments: [Offer Letter Revised.pdf](#)
[FRM5-S \(002\).pdf](#)
[Gencor-CADD Map Revised 2-5-2026.pdf](#)
[Gencor-Plan Sheet 13 Colored Revised.pdf](#)

Planning and Public Works Director Danny Searcy said the North Carolina Department of Transportation had presented an offer to purchase property described in Deed Book 2067, page 516, Rutherford County Registry that contains approximately 5.109 acres of which approximately 0.007 acres is being acquired as right of way, leaving approximately 5.102 acres remaining on the right with access to West Main Street (US 221A). Also being acquired is a Permanent Utility Easement containing approximately 0.062 acres.

The total contingent offer (\$25,250.00) includes payment for the improvements and appurtenances described as Asphalt, Concrete Curb & Gutter.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Toney and seconded by Commissioner Haulk to approve offer. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Haynes and Commissioner Haulk

Nay: 0

D. [ID 26-4426](#) Lease with Jingoli Power, LLC

Attachments: [Lease - Notice of Intended Lease of Ten Years or Less for April 6 Resolution April 6 - final](#)
[Lease Proposed - Jingoli Power LLC - Final](#)
[Henson Road Easement Survey](#)

County Attorney Richard Williams told the Board that a notice has been published that the County intends to enter into a lease with Jingoli Power, LLC for 15.36 acres of the 103.67-acre parcel owned by Rutherford County known as Henson Road Property. (Address 311 Henson Road, Tax Parcel 1610404). The proposed lease has a term of 60 months with the option to renew for an additional term of two years with annual rent payments to be \$27,000 per month for a total annual rent of \$324,000. A resolution approving the proposed lease was presented for the Board's consideration.

A motion was made by Commissioner Haulk and seconded by Commissioner Benfield to approve resolution. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Haynes and Commissioner Haulk

Nay: 0

VI. Commissioner Reports

A. [ID 26-4433](#) Tourism Development Authority Report

Attachments: [Tourism Development Authority April 2026 Commissioner Meeting.pdf](#)

Tourism Development Authority Director Don Cason provided the quarterly update on the TDA for the Board's information.

VII. Closed Session

A. **ID 26-4425** Closed Session - ATTORNEY CLIENT NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3)

At 6:50 pm, Commissioner Michael Benfield moved to go into Closed Session for a discussion with the County Attorney. The County Manager, the Deputy Clerk to the Board, and the County Attorney, would be included in the session.

A motion was made by Commissioner Benfield and seconded by Vice Chairman Toney to go into Closed Session. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Haynes and Commissioner Haulk

Nay: 0

ID 26-4437 Agenda item - Remnant Defendent

A Resolution authorizing participation in opioid settlements and execution of all required documents for 'Remnant Defendants' was presented by County Attorney Richard Williams for the Board's consideration.

A motion was made by Commissioner Haulk and seconded by Commissioner Benfield to approve the resolution. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Haynes and Commissioner Haulk

Nay: 0

VIII. Information

A. [ID 26-4428](#) Tax Collector's Report - April, 2026

Attachments: [Tax Collector Report April 2026.pdf](#)

IX. Adjournment

Vice Chairman Toney made a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Toney and seconded by Commissioner Benfield to adjourn. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Haynes and Commissioner Haulk

Nay: 0