



**Rutherford County Office Building
289 N. Main Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139**

**Rutherford County
Board of Commissioners
Minutes of April 7, 2025**

**Monday, April 7, 2025
6:00 PM**

I. Call to Order

Chairman King called the April 7, 2025 meeting of the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners to order.

Present: Chairman Bryan King, Vice Chairman Alan Toney, Commissioner Michael Benfield, Commissioner Hunter Haynes, and Commissioner Donnie Haulk.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Board of Education Member Angel King led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Agenda Approval

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

Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Haynes, and Commissioner Haulk.

II. Special Recognition

A. ID-25-4115 Proclamation Honoring World War II Veteran John Thomas Hill

Veterans Service Director Susan Hall introduced World War II Veteran John Thomas Hill who will celebrate his 100th birthday on April 17, 2025. John Thomas Hill is a Rutherford County native who returned to his native county after being honorably discharged from the US Navy on January 5, 1946. A proclamation honoring John Thomas Hill was presented for the Board's consideration.

Vice Chairman Toney moved to approve the resolution presented. Commissioner Benfield seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Haynes, and Commissioner Haulk.

Noes: None

**Resolution Honoring WWII Veteran
John Thomas Hill**

WHEREAS, Rutherford County Native John Thomas Hill entered the US Navy on September 2, 1943; and

WHEREAS, John Thomas Hill served in WWII aboard the aircraft carrier USS Saratoga in the Pacific as a cook; and

WHEREAS, John Thomas Hill was honorably discharged from the US Navy on January 5, 1946; and.

WHEREAS, John Thomas Hill was awarded the American Theatre Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Medal, and the Victory Medal for his WWII service; and

WHEREAS, John Thomas Hill returned to Rutherford County after his US Navy service and has continued to live in his native county throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, John Thoms Hill will celebrate his 100th birthday on April 17, 2025 in his native Rutherford County.

THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners wish to honor John Thomas Hill's military service on his centenary birthday by declaring April 17, 2025 as

John Thomas Hill Day in Rutherford County.

BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED by the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners that the entire community hereby offer its admiration, congratulations, and very best wishes to John Thomas Hill on his 100th birthday.

Approved this the 7th day of April, 2025.

RES 25-007

B. ID-25-4107 Proclamation for Line Worker Appreciation Day

Chairman King said a request was received from Mr. Craig Debrew, Local Government and Community Relations Manager for Duke Energy, asking that April 18 be declared by the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners as Line Worker Appreciation Day in Rutherford County. Chairman King recognized line workers from Duke Energy, Rutherford Electrical Membership Corporation, and the Town of Forest City. A copy of a proclamation declaring April 18 as Line Worker Appreciation Day was presented for the Board's consideration.

Commissioner Benfield moved to approve the proclamation. Commissioner Haynes seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Haynes, and Commissioner Haulk.

Noes: None

**LINE WORKER
APPRECIATION DAY**

WHEREAS, on April 10, 2013, a resolution was passed in the United States Senate to recognize April 18 annually as National Lineman (Line Worker) Appreciation Day; and

WHEREAS, the profession of the electrical line worker is steeped in personal, family, and professional tradition; and

WHEREAS, line workers are often first responders during storms and other catastrophic events, working to make the scene safe for other public safety officials, and to expedite the return of vital electrical power to our communities; and

WHEREAS, these brave men and women work with thousands of volts of electricity high atop power lines 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, risking and sometimes losing their lives to keep electricity flowing; and

WHEREAS, line workers are often faced with dangerous conditions, far from their families, as they work to construct and maintain energy infrastructure throughout the State of North Carolina and the United States; and

WHEREAS, line workers must use their technical knowledge, physical strength and ingenuity to achieve success in challenges they face every day; and

WHEREAS, the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners thanks these skilled and heroic line workers who brave hurricanes, ice storms, snow storms, floods, and other natural disasters to maintain our community's energy grid.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Bryan A. King, Chairman of the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim Friday, April 18, 2025 as "Line Worker Appreciation Day" in Rutherford County.

This the 7th day of April, 2025.

PROC 25-001

II. Public Comments

Ms. Alexandria Langley said the schools are the heart of Rutherford County communities. As a committed advocate for children, she asked that the Board support school funding.

Mr. Conner Hensley asked that the Commissioners approve the requested budget of the Board of Education as he developed his trade in Rutherford County schools.

Realtor Courtney House said potential home buyers ask for references for schools so she could see Rutherford County residents moving if school funding is not available.

Ms. Keisha Kirby advised committed school funding will make a difference in children's lives in the future.

Ms. Tina Carr asked why Chimney Rock and Lake Lure have access to private property debris removal and the remainder of the County does not.

Mr. Thomas Turner pointed out that an investment in education is an investment in flourishing citizenry.

Ms. Jennifer Robertson said teachers serve in so many roles and take from their personal budget to supply needs in the classroom.

According to Ms. Rachelle West, she is someone who has experienced the power of education.

Mr. Jarrett Guffey spoke regarding extending the rail trail to Ellenboro which he opposes. The fact that some schools do not have school resource officers also concerned Mr. Guffey.

Mr. Julie Pittman who was Teacher of the 2018 Year advocated for schools and teachers.

Ms. Malissa Metcalf believed the county needs to invest more in education.

Mr. Bryson Thompson and Mr. Brian Thompson said schools offer a lot of options to students as they prepare for their future.

Ms. Danielle Williams stated her support for the Rutherford County school system.

Ms. Chelsea Gray advised that educational attainment reduces the crime rate. Costly mistakes can be caused by underfunding schools.

As a parent of a student athlete, Michele Flynn expressed her concern regarding how reduced school funding would impact her child.

Mr. Corey Hinkle advocated for the schools and their need for funding.

Mr. Grant Bailey said Rutherford County schools was a big part of his family's decision to move to Rutherford County.

Mr. Alice McCluney cited excerpts from the Rutherford County Government audit and asked that funds be used for schools.

Ms. Megan Mathis asked what children in Lake Lure would do if some schools are closed.

Mr. John Bridges said teachers are leaving Rutherford County schools for better paying districts.

Mr. David Hensley expressed his concern for the direction education is going.

Mr. Adam Yelton said teachers show up every day and give their best.

Mr. Tommy Dick who has a 4th grade student at Sunshine Elementary expressed his support for this school.

Ms. Amy Kemper advocated for funding for Rutherford County schools.

M. Jeff Valio said he was not qualified to speak about specific recommendations, but he stated his support for Mt. Vernon/Ruth,

Ms. Eva Rogers had a concern for teachers who are carrying too great a load.

Mr. Gary Scruggs advised that the County needs strong schools to attract families.

Ms. Jan Fishcam did not speak.

Mr. Larry Skipper asked where the sales tax approved in 2018 is being spent. He believes in more transparency.

Mr. Tyler Schultz asked why Chimney Rock and Lake Lure have the PPDR Program, but other portions of the County do not.

Mr. Jerrica Bailey who owns a farm in Rutherford County expects his tax dollars to support schools.

Mr. Ken Chapman also advocated for schools.

Ms. Jessica Godfrey asked that the Board do their part to see the education is fully funded.

Mr. Casey Brown urged the Board of Commissioners to do what is right.

Ms. Christine Hagen who is a grandparent raising grandchildren supported the schools.

Ms. Amanda Casillas spoke about her concern for books in school libraries that are inappropriate.

Mr. Tony Smith, a retired educator, wants children to have opportunities so they will continue to live in Rutherford County.

Ms. Allison Flynn said schools should be free from a political agenda.

Ms. Jennifer Silvers said schools do more than educate.

Rev. Garren Hill thanked the Commissioners for hearing the speakers.

Ms. Julie Fincher spoke about the safety of schools for some students as it is sometimes the only place they feel protected.

Mr. Stuart Bean spoke on behalf of Farm Bureau, a company that advocates for education.

Ms. Annie Dance said the entire County of Rutherford need to the opportunity of PPDR.

III. Public Hearing

A. ID-25-4103 Public Hearing – Project Cold

At 6:10 P.M. Chairman King opened the public hearing to listen to comments regarding the approval of an industrial development grant in support of a new manufacturing operation, code named Project Cold. A resolution was presented for the Board's consideration approving the project.

Economic Development Director Birgit Dilgert told the Board that the new company, Project Cold, is considering establishing operations in Forest City. The proposal includes creating 88 new full-time jobs within the first three years, with an average salary of \$50,411 along with an investment of approximately \$6,450,000. The industrial development grant would be equal to fifty percent (50%) of personal property taxes paid once certain thresholds are achieved and could extend for up to five years provided jobs, investment, and wage levels are met and maintained.

There were no others who wished to speak.

At 6:13 P.M. Chairman King closed the public hearing.

Vice Chairman Toney moved to approve the resolution presented. Commissioner Haulk seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield,
Commissioner Haynes, and Commissioner Haulk.

Noes: None

**RESOLUTION TITLE: TO APPROVE ENTERING INTO A LOCAL INDUSTRIAL
GRANT IN SUPPORT OF PROJECT COLD, CONSIDERING A LOCATION IN
RUTHERFORD COUNTY.**

WHEREAS, an industrial prospect, code named Cold, proposes a location in Rutherford County that will result in the creation of 88 new full-time jobs and an investment of at least \$6,450,000 over three years, increasing employment and business prospects within Rutherford County; and

WHEREAS, the proposed investment by the company, code named Cold, will result in a net increase in property value and taxable property within Rutherford County; and,

WHEREAS, the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners, after providing the required public notice of at least ten (10) days before the hearing, has held a public hearing to consider approving a local industrial grant in support of Project Cold; and,

WHEREAS, in these difficult economic times, this investment in Rutherford County and its citizens is recognized and commended by the Board of Commissioners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners supports this industrial recruitment project, code named Cold, and will enter into a local industrial grant with the company.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chairman or County Manager, working with the County Attorney and County staff, to draft, and negotiate a local industrial grant, in support of Project Cold, equal to fifty percent (50%) of personal property taxes paid for up to five (5) years provided jobs, investment and wage levels are met and maintained and authorizes the Chairman or County Manager to execute all documents necessary in support of the grant.

Adopted this the 7th day of April, 2025.

RES 25-008

IV. Consent Agenda

Vice Chairman Toney moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Benfield seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Haynes, and Commissioner Haulk.

Noes: None

Consent Agenda Items approved were:

- A. ID-25-4110 Minutes of March 3, 2025 County Commissioners' Meeting**
- B. ID-25-4109 Tax Refunds and Releases**
 - Refund amount totaling \$1,407.68
 - Releases greater than \$100 totaling \$6,179.55
 - Releases less than \$100 totaling \$23.91
 - (A copy of these tax refunds and releases is typed in the Minute Book.)

V. Commissioners/Appointments

- C. ID-25-4121 Resolution Recognizing April 13 – 19, 2025 as National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week**

Communications' Director Scott Schiefelbein presented a resolution in recognition of the important contribution of telecommunications personnel in the public safety community. He requested that the Board approve the resolution which would recognize April 13-19, 2025 as National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week.

Vice Chairman Toney moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Haulk seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Haynes, and Commissioner Haulk.

Noes: None

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 13-19, 2025 AS
NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATOR WEEK**

WHEREAS, the National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week event was originally established by Patricia Anderson of the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office in California in 1981; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the week is to celebrate and show thanks and appreciation for all those individuals who serve the public through public safety communications; and

WHEREAS, this second week of April has been set aside to honor and recognize telecommunicator personnel and all the work they do each day.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS that the week commencing April 13, 2024, and concluding April 19, 2025, shall be recognized as National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week in Rutherford County.

Adopted this the 7th day of April 2025.

RES 25-009

D. ID-25-4106 Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation

Social Services Director Delores Hunt told the Board that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, a tradition formally established in 1983 after decades of efforts by children's advocates who pushed to create and change laws to protect those most vulnerable in society. Director Hunt presented a proclamation proclaiming April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Rutherford County and requested that the Board consider its approval.

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

Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Haynes, and Commissioner Haulk.

Noes: None

Child Abuse Prevention Month 2025 Proclamation

WHEREAS, children are our nation's most vulnerable members as well as our most valuable resources, helping to shape the future of Rutherford County, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, positive childhood experiences (PCES)—such as loving caregivers and safe, stable, and nurturing relationships—can help mitigate trauma and the negative impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACES), promoting the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children; and

WHEREAS, childhood trauma can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects throughout an individual's lifetime and impact future generations of their family; and

WHEREAS, childhood trauma, including abuse and neglect, is a serious issue that affects every community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and

WHEREAS, children who live in families with access to concrete economic and social supports are less likely to experience abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, prevention is possible due to the partnerships created by organizations such as Family Support Services, local law enforcement, and countless others dedicated to curbing child abuse; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that to solve the public health issue of abuse and neglect, we must work together to change hearts and mindsets through storytelling, sharing, and collaborative efforts, center the needs of families, break down biases and barriers, and inspire action from both expected and unexpected partners in prevention; and

WHEREAS, we are committed to advancing equitable, responsive, and effective systems that ensure all children and families are healthy and thriving; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the importance of prioritizing children and investing in more prevention initiatives such as home visiting, family-strengthening policies, economic supports, and community-based child abuse prevention programs at the national, state, and local levels;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim April as **Child Abuse Prevention Month** in Rutherford County and urges all citizens to recognize this month by building a narrative of hope for children and families. Together, we can create a community where every child can grow up happy, healthy, and safe with hope for their future.

Adopted this 7th day of April, 2025

PROC 25-002

E. ID-25-4111 National Day of Prayer Proclamation

Vice Chairman Toney read the National Day of Prayer Proclamation and moved passage of it. Commissioner Benfield seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Haynes, and Commissioner Haulk.

Noes: None

A Proclamation

By the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners

Whereas, from the earliest days of our county's history, people have turned to Almighty God for help and guidance; and

Whereas, in times of national crisis when the country is striving to strengthen the foundations of peace and security, citizens stand in special need of divine support; and

Whereas, the Congress, by a joint resolution approved on April 17, 1952 (66 Stat. 64), has provided that the President "shall set aside and proclaim a suitable day each year, other than a Sunday, as a National Day of Prayer, on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation"; and

Whereas, the first Thursday of May has been designated, by the Congress of the United States, as the National Day of Prayer; and

Whereas, the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners recognizes that distinction; and

Whereas, the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners recognizes the need for our citizens to join in this prayer effort; and

Now, therefore, be it hereby resolved that the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners encourages Rutherford County citizens to unite in prayer on May 1, 2025.

Adopted this the 7th day of April, 2025.

PROC 25-003

F. ID-25-4101 Appointment to Social Services Board

A vacancy occurred on the Social Services Board. The vacancy was advertised, and applications were accepted. Three applications were received.

Commissioner Haulk moved to appoint Ms. Sydney Pellegrini to the Social Services Board to a term ending June 30, 2028. Commissioner Haynes seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Haynes, and Commissioner Haulk.

Noes: None

G. ID-25-4100 Appointments to Forest City Board of Planning and Adjustment Representing Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ)

Two terms of office on the Forest City Board of Planning and Adjustment as representatives of the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) expired on April 3, 2025.

In 2004 the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners deferred the appointment of members to this board to the Town of Forest City. In the meantime, the Forest City Unified Development Ordinance has been updated, and the updated ordinance does not address deferment.

The vacancies were advertised, and applications were accepted. Mr. Charles Flack applied for reappointment to this board. The Forest City Council has approved the reappointment of Mr. Flack. Mr. Jack Elliott has applied for appointment. The appointment of Mr. Elliott will be on the Forest City Council April 21 agenda.

Commissioner Benfield moved to appoint Mr. Charles Flack to the Forest City Board of Planning and Adjustment Representing Extraterritorial Jurisdiction to a term ending June 30, 2028. Vice Chairman Toney seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield,
Commissioner Haynes, and Commissioner Haulk.
Noes: None

H. ID-25-4098 Appointment to Transit Advisory Board

A vacancy has occurred on the Transit Advisory Board due to a retirement. This position must be filled by a Social Services employee involved in Medicaid Transportation. Ms. Susan Epley who meets the criteria has applied for appointment.

Commissioner Benfield moved to appoint Ms. Susan Epley to the Transit Advisory Board to a term ending June 30, 2026. Commissioner Haynes seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield,
Commissioner Haynes, and Commissioner Haulk.
Noes: None

I. ID-25-4102 Appointment to Partners Behavioral Health Management Board

A vacancy will occur on Partners Behavioral Health Management Board on June 30, 2025. County Manager Steve Garrison has served as a designee of the County Commissioners for two 3-year terms. Because this appointment is term limited, a one-year lapse is required. Per the Partners Health Management Board Bylaws, one County Commissioner or designee from each county in the catchment area will be a member of the Partners Behavioral Health Management Board. A County Commissioners shall be deemed to be serving in an ex-officio capacity. The Board may choose to advertise the vacancy, accept applications, and make an appointment at a future meeting.

Commissioner Benfield moved to appoint Commissioner Hunter Haynes to the Partners Behavioral Health Management Board. Commissioner Haulk seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield,
Commissioner Haynes, and Commissioner Haulk.
Noes: None

VII. Old Business

A. ID-25-4123 Management and Operations Agreement with Heart of the Foothills

County Manager Steve Garrison presented a proposed agreement with Heart of the Foothills Animal Services for the purpose of providing animal control services including operation of the animal control facility beginning July 1, 2025 for a term of three (3) years.

Vice Chairman Toney made a motion to authorize the County Manager and the County Attorney to negotiate terms of the agreement and authorize the County Manager, Finance Officer, County Attorney, Clerk to the Board, and other County officials to sign and execute all documents in support of this action. Commissioner Benfield seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Haynes, and Commissioner Haulk.

Noes: None

B. ID-25-4117 GOVDEAL Auction for Rutherford County Property Sold – 0 Old Caroleen Road

At the February 3, 2025 meeting, the Board by resolution authorized the electronic auction of 0 Old Caroleen Road in Forest City owned by the County. The auction has ended, and the high bid was received from Patrick Wembolua in the amount of \$4,550.00 plus administrative fees of \$341.25 for a total amount of \$4,891.25. A resolution was presented for the Board's consideration that the high bid be accepted for Parcel Number 1642933, 0 Old Caroleen Road, Forest City, as described more fully in Plat recorded in Plat Book 27, Page 261, ("the Plat"), Rutherford County Registry, to which plat reference is hereby made for a more full and accurate description.

Being the same and identical property conveyed to Rutherford County by Commissioner's Deed recorded in Book 811 at Page 389, Rutherford County Registry.

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

Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Haynes, and Commissioner Haulk.

Noes: None

**Resolution High Bid for Certain Tract of Real Property
Sold by Electronic Auction**

WHEREAS, on February 3, 2025, Rutherford County authorized an electronic auction at www.govdeals.com for that certain parcel of real property showing as 0 Old Caroleen Road, Forest City, NC 28043, as shown and described hereinbelow, that is surplus to its needs; and

WHEREAS, Rutherford County conducted said electronic auction at www.govdeals.com beginning March 4, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., and ending March 25, 2025, at 9:00 p.m., for that said parcel of real property; and

WHEREAS, high bid of \$4,550.00 was submitted for the said parcel of real property by Patrick Wembolua.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF RUTHERFORD COUNTY APPROVES THE FOLLOWING:

1. The Board of Commissioners of Rutherford County accepts the high bid of \$4,550.00 from

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Patrick Wembolua for that same said certain parcel of land being more particularly described as follows:

Situate, lying and being in Cool Springs Township, Rutherford County, North Carolina, and being all that tract situate on the east side of Old Caroleen Road (SR 1901) and reflecting as "Reserved for Utility Use (Water Tank)" containing 0.220 acres on that plat of survey by Professional Surveying Services, Nathan Odom, Registered Land Surveyor, dated February 28, 2005, and bearing map number 21828, and recorded in Plat Book 27 at Page 261, Rutherford County Registry, reference to which is hereby made for a full and complete metes and bounds description.

Subject to any and all easements, setbacks and restrictions of public record.

*Also being identified as Parcel ID#1642933, Rutherford County Tax Office.
Address: 0 Old Caroleen Rd.*

Being the same and identical property conveyed to Rutherford County by Commissioner's Deed recorded in Book 811 at Pages 389, Rutherford County Registry.

2. The Chairman of the Board of Commissioners shall be authorized to execute any instruments necessary to convey the said property described herein in accordance herewith.

ADOPTED this the 7th day of April, 2025.

RES 25-010

VII. New Business

A. ID-25-4105 JCPC Funding Allocation for Fiscal Year 2025-202

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Chairman Paul Holden presented the recommended Juvenile Crime Prevention Council funding for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Program Provider	DPS-JCPC Funding	County Cash MatchLocal Cash MatchLocal InKind	State/ Federal	Funds	Total	% Non DPS- JCPC Program Revenues
¹	JCPC Admin	\$6,650	\$6,650			
²	Kids at Work! Rutherford Aspire Youth & Family	\$59,628	\$11,951	\$71,579	17%	
³	Project Challenge	\$72,744	\$14,549	\$87,293	17%	
⁴	Psychological Services - Rutherford Repay	\$10,001	\$2,300	\$12,301	19%	
⁵	Temporary Shelter Services - Rutherford Repay	\$9,937	\$2,140	\$12,077	18%	

Commissioner Benfield moved to approve the funding allocation for JCPC. Commissioner Haynes seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield,
Commissioner Haynes, and Commissioner Haulk.

Noes: None

B. ID-25-4116 Budget Amendments – April 2025

Finance Director Paula Roach presented budget amendments for the Board's consideration. Also, an amendment to the School Transportation Facility Project Ordinance was presented which would complete the project.

Vice Chairman Toney moved to approve the budget amendments. Commissioner Benfield seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield,
Commissioner Haynes, and Commissioner Haulk.

Noes: None

Budget Amendments		
April 7, 2025		
	Expense	Revenue
GENERAL FUND		
Sheriff - Jail Family Support/Reunification Program Expenses	\$ 1,100	
Donations - Sheriff Jail Family Support Program		\$ 1,100
*Donations received for family reunification program at the jail		
Rutherford Center - HVAC	\$ 28,416	
Fund Balance Appropriated - HVAC Plan		\$ 28,416
*replacement units		
Veterans - Purchases with Donations	\$ 1,600	
Veterans - Donations		\$ 1,600
*donations received		
College - Capital Improvements	\$ 20,623	
Contribution from College Capital Reserve		\$ 20,623
*replace HVAC in the LLC Bldg and consultation services to diagnose a building envelop issue causing water damage in the Foundation		
Contribution to DSS from General Fund	\$ 319,665	
Fund Balance Appropriated		\$ 319,665
*county contribution for foster care services		
DSS FUND		
State Foster Care Program	\$ 496,155	
IVE Foster Care Program	\$ 306,000	
Kinship Foster Care Program	\$ 20,775	
State Foster Care Program Revenues		\$ 248,078
IVE Foster Care Program Revenues		\$ 244,800
Kinship Foster Care Program Revenues		\$ 10,388
Contribution from General Fund - Programs		\$ 319,665
*adjust budget to current spending estimates for FYE2025; State/Kinship 50/50 State/County; IVE Foster Care 80/20 State/County		
Disaster Rental Assistance	\$ 73,000	

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Disaster Rental Assistance Revenues		\$ 73,000
Disaster Adult Essential Services	\$ (50,000)	
Disaster Adult Essential Services Revenues		\$ (50,000)
*adjust to funding authorizations		
COLLEGE CAPITAL RESERVE		
Transfer to General Fund	\$ 20,623	
Reserved for Future Projects	\$ (20,623)	
*replace HVAC in the LLC Bldg and consultation services to diagnose a building envelop issue causing water damage in the Foundation		
E911 FUND		
E911 - Capital Outlay and Equipment	\$ 275,000	
Fund Balance Appropriated		\$ 275,000
*appropriate funds for console replacements and other equipment		
SOLID WASTE FUND		
Disposal Equipment - Excavator	\$ 207,047	
Solid Waste Tipping Fees		\$ 207,047
*appropriate Helene related tipping fees to replace excavator at transfer station due to increased usage		

Commissioner Benfield moved to approve the Isothermal Community College Budget Amendment – Foundation Diagnosis. Vice Chairman Toney seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Haynes, and Commissioner Haulk.

Noes: None

Commissioner Benfield moved to approve the amended School Transportation Maintenance Facility Ordinance. Vice Chairman Toney seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Haynes, and Commissioner Haulk.

Noes: None

COUNTY OF RUTHERFORD
2023 Financing – School Transportation Maintenance Facility
Ordinance No. 2019-09-03
Adopted July 10, 2023
Amended April 7, 2025

Be it hereby ordained by the Board of Commissioners of Rutherford County, North Carolina, that pursuant to Section 13.2, Chapter 159 of the General Statues of North Carolina, the following project ordinance is adopted.

SECTION 1: The project authorized is the construction of the School Transportation Maintenance Facility.

SECTION 2: The Rutherford County staff is hereby directed to proceed with the project within the terms of the budget contained herein.

SECTION 3: The following revenues and resources are anticipated to be available to complete the project activities:

2023 Private Placement	\$15,000,000
Contribution – School Capital Reserve – Debt Service Fund	
1,132,938	

Transportation Maintenance Facility – School Capital Projects – Total	\$16,132,938
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SECTION 4: The following amounts are appropriated for the project activities:

2023 Private Placement – School Capital Project – Transportation Maintenance Facility	
Professional Services – Architect/Engineering Design	\$1,132,938
Construction	13,145,090
Contingency	421,297
Fixtures/Furnishings/Equipment & Technology	1,333,613
Costs of Issuance	<u>100,000</u>
2023 Private Placement – School Capital Projects – Total	\$16,132,938

Section 5. The Finance Officer is hereby authorized to set up and maintain the project within the School Capital Projects Fund.

Section 6. The Finance Officer is hereby directed to report quarterly on the financial status of each project element in Section 4 and on the total revenues received or claimed.

Section 7. The Finance Officer is directed to include a detailed analysis of past and future costs and revenues on this project in every budget submission made to this board.

Section 8. Copies of this project ordinance shall be made available to the Finance Officer for direction in carrying out this project.

Adopted this the 10th day of July, 2023.

Amended this the 7th day of April, 2025.

PROJ ORD 25-001

C. ID-25-4119 Grant Project Ordinance – Helene Disaster Response and Recovery

Finance Director Paula Roach said staff is requesting the Board to adopt the grant project ordinance in accordance with Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina to establish a budget for projects related to the Helene Hurricane Disaster Response that will be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) Public Assistance Programs. Through its Public Assistance Program (PA), FEMA provides Federal grant assistance for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and the restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly owned facilities. The amounts reflected in the ordinance and budget

amendment are estimates, to be modified as expenditures are recorded and funds are received. A grant project ordinance is requested at this time since work is expected to be a multi-fiscal year project.

NOTE: Budget Amendments as approved through February 3, 2025 for these FEMA related activities were as follows:

FEMA-4827 PROJECT BUDGET - NC TS HELENE	
NC TS Helene - Salaries Overtime/Benefits	\$ 400,000
Emergency Management - Fuel/Supplies/EOC and Operations Support	\$ 150,000
NC TS Helene - Debris Removal Hauling and Monitoring	\$ 20,000,000
Land Use Agreements for Temporary Debris Sites	\$ 40,000
NC TS Helene - Waterway Debris Removal and Monitoring **	\$ 3,125,000
FEMA-4827 NC Tropical Storm Helene Reimbursement	\$ 23,715,000

Commissioner Benfield moved to adopt the grant project ordinance and approve the budget amendment to establish a budget for projects related to the Helene Hurricane Disaster Response as presented. Commissioner Haulk seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Haynes, and Commissioner Haulk.

Noes: None

COUNTY OF RUTHERFORD
Project Ordinance for
Tropical Storm Helene Disaster Response and Recovery
Ordinance No. 2025-04-07
Adopted April 7, 2025

Be it hereby ordained by the Board of Commissioners of Rutherford County, North Carolina, that pursuant to Section 13.2, Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following grant project ordinance is adopted:

SECTION 1: The ordinance is to establish a budget for projects related to the Helene Hurricane Disaster Response (FEMA Disaster 4827) that will be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance Program and North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) Public Assistance Program. Through its Public Assistance Program (PA), FEMA provides Federal grant assistance for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and the restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly owned facilities. (Although FEMA typically covers 75% of the eligible costs, the federal government increased the cost share in North Carolina for the Helene disaster to 100% for the first 180 days of the incident period. Following that period, the program will be 90% federal and 10% state cost share). Expenses may be eligible for FEMA and NCEM reimbursement in the following categories:

Emergency Work

Category A: Debris Removal -- Expenses related to clearing debris from public property, including roads, parks, and other infrastructure.

Category B: Emergency Protective Measures -- Costs for actions taken to protect public health and safety, such as: search and rescue operations; sheltering and evacuation; and medical care and emergency response.

The following amounts are appropriated for the eligible projects and authorized for expenditure: Project Description	FEMA Category	Appropriation from FEMA & NCEM Public Assistance Grants
Debris Removal – Right of Way (hauling, removal/disposal, and monitoring costs and land use rental agreements for temporary debris sites)	A	\$33,000,000
Debris Removal – Waterway	A	\$11,000,000
Debris Removal – Land Use Agreements for Temporary Debris Sites	A	\$50,000
Emergency Protective Measures – overtime/benefits, fuel, supplies and operational support	B	\$550,000
Park & Recreation Facilities – rail trail debris removal and repairs	F	\$50,000
Buildings & Equipment – various county properties, warning sirens and equipment repairs (if not covered by insurance)	G	\$350,000
Subtotal – Project Costs		\$45,000,000
Management Costs (capped at 5% of FEMA project costs)	Z	\$2,250,000
TOTAL		\$47,250,000

Permanent Work

Category C: Roads and Bridges -- Repairs and restoration of transportation infrastructure, including highways, streets, and bridges.

Category D: Water Control Facilities -- Restoration and repair of drainage systems, levees, and other flood control measures.

Category E: Public Utilities -- Restoration of water, wastewater, electrical systems, and other essential public utilities.

Category F: Parks, Recreational Facilities, and Other -- Repair or replacement of parks, recreational areas, and public spaces.

Category G: Buildings and Equipment -- Repairs or replacements of public buildings, such as schools, community centers, and related equipment.

Administrative Work

Category Z: Management Costs -- Administrative costs related to the overall management of disaster response and recovery efforts, which are capped at a certain percentage of eligible project costs.

Section 2: The following amounts are appropriated for the eligible projects and authorized for expenditure:

Section 3: The following revenues are anticipated to be available to complete the projects:

FEMA/NCEM Public Assistance Program Grant Funds \$47,250,000

Section 4: As initially adopted, all appropriations and funds herein are estimates only, to be modified as expenditures (retroactive to the date of the first declaration of emergency by the County) are recorded and funds are received.

Section 5: The Finance Officer is hereby directed to maintain sufficient specific detailed accounting records to satisfy the requirements of the grantor agency and the grant terms and conditions.

Section 6: The Finance Officer is hereby directed to report the financial status of the projects to the governing board on a quarterly basis.

Section 7: Copies of this grant project ordinance shall be furnished to the Finance Officer and to the Clerk to Board of Commissioners.

Section 8: This grant project ordinance expires when final FEMA reimbursements are received related to FEMA Disaster 4827 and all FEMA audits are completed.

Adopted this the 7th day of April, 2025.

PROJ ORD 25-002

D. ID-25-4120 State Cashflow Loans for Disaster Response Activities

Director Roach advised that The General Assembly created the \$100 million cashflow loan program under the Disaster Recovery Act of 2024, which was passed Dec. 11, 2024. Its goal is to help local governments whose communities were devastated by Hurricane Helene while they wait for federal money to arrive. Administration of the program was assigned to DST. Rutherford County is eligible for a state cashflow loan based upon the FEMA Public Assistance Project Worksheets with NCEM as of February 2025. Rutherford County's Round One Allocation is \$1,836,665.98. In order to accept the loan, the County must execute the following and return to the NC Treasurer's Office:

1. Adopt the resolution approving the unit's assumption of the loan obligation by entering into the Loan Agreement.
2. Execute Loan Agreement and Promissory Note.
3. Complete wire form to Department of State Treasurer so funds can be sent to the County.

Management recommended adopting the resolution and authorizing county officials to execute the loan.

Vice Chairman Toney moved to adopt the resolution. Commissioner Haulk seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield,
Commissioner Haynes, and Commissioner Haulk.

Noes: None

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE NORTH CAROLINA CASHFLOW LOAN AGREEMENT
AND PROMISSORY NOTE**

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, in connection with the State of North Carolina cashflow loan program (Loan Program) authorized by the Disaster Recovery Act of 2024, Session Law 2024-53 (as amended by Session Law 2024-57), the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer has been working with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety-Division of Emergency Management (NCEM), the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC), and the North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM) to formulate a working plan for the disbursement of cashflow loans aimed at assisting local governments affected by Hurricane Helene; and

WHEREAS, local governments wishing to participate in the Loan Program are required to execute a Cashflow Loan Agreement and Promissory Note with the State of North Carolina, by and through the North Carolina Department of the State Treasurer; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY OF RUTHERFORD,
NORTH CAROLINA:**

1. That the Cashflow Loan Agreement and Promissory Note provided by the North Carolina Department of the State Treasurer are hereby approved.
2. That the Manager, Clerk, or Authorized Representative of a Tribal Government is authorized to execute the attached agreements (or those substantially equivalent thereto) and such other agreements and actions as necessary to receive disaster recovery loan funding from the State of North Carolina.

Adopted this the 7th day of April, 2025.

RES 25-011

**E. ID-25-4118 Resolution Recognizing and Approving a Rutherford County Official
America 250 NC Committee**

Planning and Public Works Director Danny Searcy told the Board that a number of counties in North Carolina have formed American 250 NC Committees to plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States and North Carolina's integral role in that event. There is a \$10,000 grant available through the State of North Carolina for the activities of the committee. The deadline had passed for applying for the grant, but it is believed that the legislature will still honor any requests from committees that have been formed prior to April 10, 2025. A resolution forming a Rutherford County committee was presented for the Board's consideration.

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

Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield,
Commissioner Haynes, and Commissioner Haulk.

Noes: None

**Resolution of Rutherford County
Recognizing and Approving of the Rutherford County
Official American 250 NC Committee**

A resolution of Rutherford County, North Carolina, supporting the America 250 NC committee for the United States semi quinentennial (AMERICA 250 NC).

WHEREAS, Roy Cooper, Governor of North Carolina created AMERICA 250 NC to plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States and North Carolina's integral role in that event and the role of its people on the nation's past, present, and future: and

WHEREAS, AMERICA 250 NC has a mission to engage ALL North Carolinians and ALL 100 counties through their many signatures and officially recognized programs, projects, and events over the commemoration by inspiring future leaders and celebrating North Carolina's contributions to the nation over the last 250 years; and

WHEREAS, by adoption of America 250 NC's mission, Rutherford County Committee is officially formed to achieve the goals of America 250 NC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Rutherford hereby endorses AMERICA 250 NC and its mission; and

RESOLVED, the County of Rutherford officially establishes an AMERICA 250 NC Committee made up of a diverse group of citizens to work with AMERICA 250 NC on any and all activities. The participants of the County Committee will be strictly voluntary roles and there will be no compensation for participation.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Rutherford legislative delegation and the AMERICA 250 NC Committee.

Adopted this the 7th day of April, 2025.

RES 25-012

F. ID-25-4108 2027 Wampler-Eanes Service Contract for Revaluation of Commercial Properties Only

Representing Revenue Director Richard Lawson, Mr. Paul Bridges, Appraisal Supervisor, asked that the Board consider approving the 2027 Wampler-Eanes Service Contract for Revaluation of Commercial Properties Only. A copy of the contract had been provided to the Board.

Vice Chairman Toney moved to approve the 2027 Wampler-Eanes Contract for revaluation of commercial properties in Rutherford County. Commissioner Benfield seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield,
Commissioner Haynes, and Commissioner Haulk.

Noes: None

G. ID-25-4114 2025 Goals Update/Review

Mr. Alan Toney II, Community & Economic Development Director of Foothills Regional Commission, provided an update on the goals set by the Board of Commissioners at their goals' setting meetings on February 11 and February 13. Those goals were:

Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location/Natural Beauty • County employees (dedicated) First responders (public safety) • Stability of leadership team • Education system/Community College/Specialized talents/1 Robotics team • TDA 	Weaknesses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce issue/skills gap/ Education (lack of teachers) • Utilities • Emergency services (facilities) • Housing availability
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Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location (for tourism and the aging community) • US 74 (infrastructure) • Internet (broadband) • Skills development • Farmland/agriculture expansion • Tourism • Community college • Airport • Manufacturing • Trade skills • Federal focus • Partnerships • Re-entry programs • Housing 	Threats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance abuse • Economic crisis due to Helene • Long-term impacts (Helene) (Landfill) • Aging workforce • Tier 1/generational poverty • Natural disasters
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Priorities from the Rutherford County Commissioners:

1. Capacity impacts from Hurricane Helene
2. Clarity in the budget – providing information on funding sources
3. School Safety
4. Emergency Services
5. Economic Development

Goal 1: Determine the overall impact of Hurricane Helene on the economic health of Rutherford County

On September 27th, 2025, Rutherford County was struck by Hurricane Helene, leading to significant property damage and loss of life. The impact was most felt in the Lake Lure and Chimney Rock area, however, every home in the county was impacted by power outages and residents and businesses throughout the county were impacted. This seismic event has the potential to impact on the overall economic health of Rutherford County, the capacity of local governments, and the future long-term health of the local economy and the health of Rutherford County Government and the municipal governments within.

Governing Body Goal	Staff Work Plan	Staff Milestones	Staff Timeline
Determine the overall economic impacts from Helene	The revenue department will analyze any potential revenue impacts and report them to the Board of Commissioners.	Provide a report with the commissioners summarizing the revenue impact of Helene's damage and potential future impacts on tax revenue.	June 2025.
	Economic Development & Tourism will begin reviewing and analyzing data concerning economic trends post Helene.	Economic Development & Tourism will provide a report to the Board of Commissioners concerning the current impacts and forecasted future impacts of Helene.	December 2025.

Goal 2: Improve clarity and transparency in the budgeting process.

Transparency in the budgeting process is key for every local government. Currently Rutherford County publishes their entire budget and line items on their website and does an effective job of communicating the budget and budget objectives to the public. This project would improve this process even further and ensure that the County budget is as transparent as possible and understandable to as many people as possible.

Governing Body Goal	Staff Work Plan	Staff Milestones	Staff Timeline
Provide an easy to read and understand annual report.	Review current finance staff capacity and determine the finance staff capacity needs.	Provide a report to the Commissioners providing staff capacity needs if any.	January 2026.
	Provide an annual finance report showcasing the revenue, expenditures, and County goals. This should be an image-based document.	The County manager and finance department will provide this report for the next fiscal year.	June 2026.

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Goal 3: School Safety

School safety is a top priority for the Rutherford County Commissioners, while Rutherford County has limited legal authority for the RCS, partnerships can assist in fulfilling these needs. Rutherford County has approved all positions for School Resource Officers at all RCS.

Governing Body Goal	Staff Work Plan	Staff Milestones	Staff Timeline
Improve overall school safety	Mr. Haynes plans to partner with key community organizations to create a taskforce to seek funding for full-time School Resource Officers.	Mr. Haynes will report to the rest of the Board on the status of the taskforce and will ask members and determine meeting times.	July 2025.
	The Rutherford County Board of Commissioners has committed to delineating School Resource Officers as a line item in the next annual budget.	The County manager and finance department will provide this recommendation for the FY26 annual budget.	June 2025.

Goal 4: Emergency Services Infrastructure

After Helene, this showcased the need for an improved Emergency Management facility. During Helene, EM had to use the Senior Center for staging and displaced seniors, who were also in significant need post Helene.

Governing Body Goal	Staff Work Plan	Staff Milestones	Staff Timeline
Construct a new Emergency Management Facility	1. Determine the feasibility of partnering with The Town of Spindale on the joint construction of this facility.	Staff will work with The Town of Spindale to determine the feasibility of the joint construction of the facility.	December 2025
	3. Determine funding sources and funding opportunity	Staff will determine the best funding fits, obtain estimates, and begin conversations with funders.	December 2025
	5. Procure an architect to design the new facility.	Staff will follow Rutherford County's procurement policies to procure an architecture firm.	3 months
	7. Construction & Bidding	The County Project Manager will work with the architect on bidding the project and the project manager will oversee construction.	21 months

Goal 5: Economic Development

Economic Development is a top priority for the Rutherford County Commissioners and is key for the future of Rutherford County and addressing poverty is in the North Carolina constitution. A new industrial shell building would stimulate jobs and opportunities for Rutherford County.

Governing Body Goal	Staff Work Plan	Staff Milestones	Staff Timeline
Develop an industrial shell building	1.Determine a location for the site of a new industrial shell building. This could also mean the site of a new industrial park, if deemed necessary	2.Staff will partner with the EDC and local municipalities to determine the best location for a new shell building to stimulate manufacturing jobs in Rutherford County	December 2025
	3.Determine funding sources and potential partnerships for funding this project	4.The EDC will determine the size and cost of the shell building, the partnerships, and secure the necessary capital stack necessary for the building	June 2026
	5.Procurement, Design, and Construction	6.The EDC and partners will procure, design, and construct the new industrial shell building at the site to be determined.	24 months

IX. Closed Session

A. ID-25-4112 ATTORNEY CLIENT NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3)

Vice Chairman Toney moved to go into Closed Session for discussion with the County Attorney under N.C.G.S. 143-318.aa(a)(3). The County Manager and the Clerk to the Board would be included in the session. Commissioner Benfield seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Haynes, and Commissioner Haulk.

Noes: None

9:21 P.M. The Board went into Closed Session.

9:37 P.M. The Board returned to Regular Session.

XI. Adjournment

At 9:28 P.M. Vice Chairman Toney made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Benfield seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

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Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield,
Commissioner Haynes, and Commissioner Haulk.

Noes: None

Bryan A. King, Chairman

Alan Toney, Vice Chairman

ATTEST:

Clerk to the Board