



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

**Rutherford County
Board of Commissioners
Minutes of November 3, 2025**

**Monday, November 3, 2025
6:00 PM**

I. Call to Order

Chairman King called the November 3, 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

Mike Gavin, Senior Director of Marketing and Communications at Isothermal Community College, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Agenda Approval

Commissioner Benfield moved to approve the agenda. 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

II. Public Comments

Mr. Nick Jongeblood spoke publicly on issues related to animal welfare and public records.

III. 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-25-4305** Minutes of October 6, 2025 County Commissioners' Meeting
- B. **ID-25-4311** Tax Refunds and Releases
Refund amount totaling \$4,554.04
Releases greater than \$100 totaling \$38,006.40
Releases less than \$100 totaling \$1,731.16
(A copy of these tax refunds and releases is typed in the Minute Book.)

IV. Commissioners/Appointments

A. **ID-25-4304** Appointments to Rutherford County Boards and Commissions

A list of terms that will expire on December 31, 2025 on several Rutherford County boards/commissions was included in the agenda.

A motion was made by Commissioner Benfield to advertise the vacancies, accept applications, and make appointments at a future meeting. 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

V. Commissioner Reports

A. **ID-25-4313** Recognition of Trinity Christian School Girl's Varsity Volleyball Team

The Rutherford County Board of Commissioners proudly recognized and honored the Trinity Christian School Girls' Varsity Volleyball Team and Head Coach Lindsay Guffey for their outstanding achievement in capturing the CSAA Division IV State Championship on October 24, 2025. Their dedication, teamwork, and perseverance exemplified excellence both on and off the court.

B. ID-25-4312 Federal Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery

Stephanie McGarrah, Deputy Secretary for Community Revitalization at the North Carolina Department of Commerce, discussed the federal Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program along with Renew NC Single-Family Housing Program. She provided details on single-family housing opportunities and gave a brief overview of four additional programs (Multi-Family Housing Program, Workforce Housing for Ownership, Economic Revitalization Program, Community Infrastructure Program) available to Hurricane Helene survivors in Rutherford County.

C. ID-25-4317 New Isothermal Community College Career Commons Space Proposal

Isothermal Community College President Margaret Annunziata presented a conceptual vision for a new Career Commons Space at ICC for the Board’s information. This space will provide a welcoming hub for students and community members to explore careers, build job skills, and connect with local employers, while strengthening partnerships between education, business, and the community. The college reports that they have experienced growth of 13% from 2021-2022 through 2024-2025 academic years so the college is considering their facility needs to prepare our community members with the knowledge and skills necessary to enter careers that provide family-sustaining wages in the labor market.

VI. New Business

A. ID 25-4315 Budget Amendments – November 2025

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

Commissioner Benfield moved to approve the budget amendments. 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

Budget Amendments		
November 3, 2025		
	Expense	Revenue
GENERAL FUND		
Grassroots Expenses	\$ 3,399	
Arts & Science Council Grant		\$ 3,399
*new grant received to support grassroots grant programs		
Sheriff - Reading Project	\$ 520	
Sheriff Donations for RIOT Program		\$ 520
*donations received		

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	Expense	Revenue
Sheriff - purchases with donations	\$ 2,829	
Sheriff Donations		\$ 2,829
*donations received		
Library - Program Supplies	\$ 1,000	
NC Library Association Grant		\$ 1,000
*grant received to purchase gaming system and art/program supplies for teens		
College - Capital Improvements	\$ 87,000	
Contribution from College Capital Fund		\$ 87,000
*appropriate funds for network wiring, Verkada security cameras and door access for the renovated library		
COLLEGE CAPITAL FUND		
Contribution to General Fund	\$ 87,000	
Fund Balance Appropriated		\$ 87,000
*appropriate funds for network wiring, Verkada security cameras and door access for the renovated library		
AIRPORT FUND		
Airport - Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 11,500	
Insurance Proceeds		\$ 11,500
*insurance proceeds received for lightning damages		
GRANT FUND		
EMS - Equipment	\$ 19,500	
RHI Legacy Grant		\$ 19,500
*grant received for Intravenous Infusion Pumps		
SOLID WASTE		
Capital Outlay - Equipment	\$ 251,200	
Commercial Tipping Fees		\$ 251,200
*appropriate funds for wheel loader replacement; two older machines will be traded-in at \$23k each		
Professional Services - Mulching	\$ 9,000	
Commercial Tipping Fees		\$ 9,000
*appropriate funds for mulching on site		

B. ID-25-4281 EMS Equipment Lease

Finance Director Paula Roach and EMS Director Kaleb Johnson presented for the Board's consideration lease documents from Stryker related to replacing Emergency Services equipment – 10 PowerPro2 Stretchers and 12 LifePak35 Cardiac Monitors. The approved budget included funding to lease new equipment. All equipment quoted reflected contract pricing through SAVVIK Buying Group – Contracts RFB#2024-06 and RFB#2024-04. The lease will be a 49-month agreement with an option to purchase. Equipment quoted has been recommended by the EMS staff and will be compatible with other related equipment. Pricing includes maintenance and warranty coverage for a five-year period and trade-in allowances have been included for the old equipment.

A motion was made by Commissioner Benfield to authorize the County Manager and the County Attorney to negotiate terms of contract and authorize the County Manager, Finance Officer, Clerk to the Board, and other County officials to sign and execute all documents in support of this action. 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

C. ID-25-4307 Operation Green Light

Veterans' Services Director Susan Hall told the Board that the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers are supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans in November, 2025. Rutherford County Commissioners participated in Operation Green Light in 2023 and 2024. By shining a green light, county governments and residents will let veterans know that they are seen, appreciated, and supported. A resolution was provided for the Board's consideration declaring Rutherford County's participation in Operation Green Light.

Commissioner Haulk 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 Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans

WHEREAS, the residents of Rutherford County have great respect, admiration, and the utmost gratitude for all the men and women who have selflessly served our country and this community in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of those who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Rutherford County seeks to honor individuals who have made countless sacrifices for freedom by placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and

WHEREAS, veterans continue to serve our community in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, religious groups, civil service, and by functioning as County Veterans Service Officers in 29 states to help fellow former service members access more than \$52 billion in federal health, disability and compensation benefits each year; and

WHEREAS, approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian communities annually; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 20 percent increase of service members will transition to civilian life in the near future; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that 44-72 percent of service members experience high levels of stress during transition from military to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, active military service members transitioning from military service are at a high risk for suicide during their first year after military service; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties encourages all counties, parishes, and boroughs to recognize Operation Green Light for Veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Rutherford County appreciates the sacrifices of our United States military personnel and believes specific recognition should be granted; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, with designation as a Green Light for Veterans County, Rutherford County hereby declares from November 3rd, 2025 through Veterans Day, November 11th, 2025 a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifices of our men and women in uniform transitioning from active service; therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, that in observance of Operation Green Light, Rutherford County encourages its citizens in patriotic tradition to recognize the importance of honoring all those who made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom by displaying green lights in a window of their place of business or residence from November 3rd through the 11th, 2024.

Adopted this the 3rd day of November, 2025.

RES 25-039

VII. Closed Session

A. ID-25-4316 INDUSTRIAL LOCATION NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4)

At 7:11 P.M. Commissioner Haulk moved to go into Closed Session for a discussion regarding industrial location. The County Manager, the Deputy Clerk to the Board, the Economic Director, the Planning Director, and the Finance Director would be included in the session. 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

7:11 P.M. - The Board went into Closed Session.

7:30 P.M. - The Board returned to Regular Session.

VIII. Adjournment

At 7:35 Vice Chairman Toney made a motion to adjourn. 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

Chairman, Board of Commissioners

Vice Chairman, Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Clerk, Board of Commissioners