



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

Rutherford County

Board of Commissioners

Minutes of Special Meeting of April 22, 2025

**Tuesday, April 22, 2025
5:30 PM**

I. Call to Order

Chairman King called the April 22, 2025 special meeting of the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners to order.

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

Isothermal Community College Board of Trustees Chairman James Hutchins called the meeting of the Isothermal Community College Board of Trustees to order.

A. 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.

Noes: None

II. New Business

A. ID-25-4133 Budget Meeting with Rutherford County Board of Commissioners and Isothermal Community College Board of Trustees

President Margaret Annunziata thanked the Board of Commissioners for their support for Isothermal Community College in the work that the college does for the community. She stated that the college has seen the second year of significant increases in enrollment with a 10% increase last year and an additional 5% increase this year.

The budget request from Isothermal Community College had an increase over the previous year of \$236,462 (7.81%). This is due to repairs to facilities, electricity costs, and insurance which includes

cyber insurance.

A new health and science center is being constructed on the Isothermal Community College campus. In securing that project, the first focus was seeking funds from sources other than Rutherford County as the tremendous needs in Rutherford County were recognized. General Assembly appropriations and fund raising yielded a majority of the costs; however, to prepare for the skills the students will need, there is a \$4,000,000 shortfall. For these needs, it was requested that the Board consider a \$4,00,000 appropriation from the ¼ cent sales tax for capital construction for public education for both Rutherford County schools and Isothermal Community College.

In addition, a facility study was completed by state facility auditors to ensure that Isothermal Community College buildings are safe. This facility study revealed projects totaling \$49,766,681 are needed. These projects were prioritized with the priorities showing that showed approximately \$4,000,000 would be needed in the upcoming fiscal year from the ¼ cent sales tax. Dr. Annunziata said the project needs from the study had been put into three levels. Level 1 totaled approximately \$24,000,000, Level 2 totaled approximately \$12,000,000 and Level 3 totaled \$13,000,000.

Isothermal Community College Finance Chairman Dave Hunt reported that there was a savings in personnel costs because a third-party janitorial team will be providing services rather than Isothermal Community College employees.

Chairman King advised that the ¼ cent sales tax was a funding stream for educational capital needs that could mean the County could avoid having to raise property tax for these needs; however, the sales tax is being used for debt service so the capacity will need to be determined.

Chairman King thanked the Isothermal Community College Board for the dialogue and the teamwork.

Chairman Hutchins declared the meeting of the Isothermal Community College Board of Trustees adjourned.

B. ID-25-4131 Budget Amendment to Utilize Isothermal Community College Capital Outlay Funds for Utility Line Relocation

Finance Director Paula Roach presented a budget amendment for consideration to allocate funds from the Isothermal Community College (ICC) capital outlay assigned fund balance for the relocation of an underground utility line. This action is a necessary preparatory step for the forthcoming construction of the new Health & Science Building on the ICC campus. The budget amendment is for Phase 1. Phase 2 will be presented at a later date and will total approximately \$350,000. These funds will be from the County Capital Reserve Fund for Isothermal Community College. Approximately \$700,000 is added each year to this reserve fund.

Commissioner Haynes moved to approve the budget amendment. 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 22, 2025		
General Fund	Expenses	Revenue
College – Capital Improvements	\$180,000	
Contribution from College Capital Reserve		\$180,000
Phase 1 – remove brick wall to transformer/contractor investigate transformers, install loggers and weld hinges on existing electrical 12kv vaults/install temporary powerline around the build site until the old lines can be terminated and removed – work needed to address high voltage lines that must relocated for the new health and sciences center. Phase 2 funding will be requested at a later date for the new electrical infrastructure including replacement transformers and permanent lines.		
College Capital Reserve		
Transfer to General Fund	\$180,000	
Reserved for Future Projects	(\$180,000)	
Phase 1 – remove brick wall to transformer/contractor investigate transformers, install loggers and weld hinges on existing electrical 12kv vaults/install temporary powerline around the build site until the old lines can be terminated and removed – work needed to address high voltage lines that must relocated for the new health and sciences center. Phase 2 funding will be requested at a later date for the new electrical infrastructure including replacement transformers and permanent lines.		

C. ID-25-4134 NC Department of Public Safety Designation of Applicant's Agent Resolution

Emergency Management Assistant Jonathan Maness told the Board that the NC Department of Public Safety (NCDPS) requires a Designation of Applicant's Agent resolution in order for Emergency Management/Fire Marshal Frankie Hamrick to submit a request for grant funding. The funding would support the proposed new EMS/EOC facility. A resolution designating County Manager Steve Garrison as the Primary Agent and Fire Marshal Hamrick as the Secondary Agent 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
Designation of Applicant's Agent
North Carolina Division of Emergency Management
Disaster Number 4827 (FEMA Helene)

BE IT RESOLVED BY the governing body of the Organization (a public entity duly organized under the laws of the State of North Carolina) that the above-named Primary (Steve Garrison) and Second (Frankie Hamrick) Agents are hereby authorized to execute and file applications for federal and/or state assistance on behalf of the Organization for the purpose of obtaining certain state and federal financial assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief & Emergency Assistance Act, (Public Law 93-288 as amended) or as otherwise available.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above-named agents are authorized to represent and act for the Organization in all dealings with the State of North Carolina and the Federal Emergency Management Agency for all matters pertaining to such disaster assistance required by the grant agreements and the assurances printed on the reverse side hereof.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT the above-named agents are authorized to act severally.

PASSED AND APPROVED this the 22nd day of April, 2025.

D. ID-25-4135 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Between Rutherford County North Carolina and the State of North Carolina Emergency Management Agency Regarding Tropical Storm Helene Private Property Debris Removal

A draft of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Rutherford County North Carolina and the State of North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) for debris removal from private property that is due to Tropical Storm Helene was presented for the Board's information. County Attorney Richard Williams said the presented document was not the final document. There are some terms that have not been settled. Finance Director Paula Roach advised that this was the first step of the project.

Commissioner Benfield moved to authorize the County Manager and the County Attorney to negotiate terms of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) 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. 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

E. ID-25-4132 iWorQ Agreement for County Garage

Information Technology Director Jai Doherty presented a proposed multi-year agreement with iWorQ for the purpose of an inventory and vehicle management system.

Commissioner Haynes moved 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

IV. Adjournment

At 6:11 P.M. Commissioner Benfield made a motion to adjourn. Vice Chairman Toney 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

Chairman, Board of Commissioners

Vice Chairman, Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Clerk, Board of Commissioners