



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

**Rutherford County  
Board of Commissioners  
Minutes of March 4, 2024**

**Monday, March 4, 2024  
6:00 PM**

**I. Call to Order**

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Chairman King called the March 4, 2024 meeting of the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners to order.

**Present: Chairman Bryan King, Vice Chairman Alan Toney, Commissioner Michael Benfield, Commissioner David Hunt, and Commissioner Greg Lovelace.**

**A. Pledge of Allegiance**

Chamber of Commerce Director Cindy Cobb led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**B. Agenda Approval**

**Commissioner Lovelace moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Hunt seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:**

**Ayes:** Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Hunt and Commissioner Lovelace.

**Noes:** None

**II. Public Comments**

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Mr. Eric Gorny asked the Commissioners to consider lowering the tax rate as his taxes had risen approximately 72% with no improvements to his land. He believed that the tax rate should have been lowered so that his outlay would have been the same amount as it was prior to the revaluation.

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### III. Consent Agenda

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**Commissioner Lovelace moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Hunt seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:**

**Ayes:** Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Hunt and Commissioner Lovelace.

**Noes:** None

**Consent Agenda items approved were:**

**A. ID 24-3711 Minutes of Commissioners' Meeting of February 5, 2024**

**B. ID 24-3705 Tax Refunds and Releases – March 4, 2024**

Refund amount totaling \$2,842.67

Releases greater than \$100 totaling \$12,328.13

Releases less than \$100 totaling \$462.11

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

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### IV. Commissioners/Appointments

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**A. ID-24-3712 Resolution Recognizing April as Isothermal Community College Month and April 20 as “Paint the Community Isothermal Blue” Day**

In recognition of the important contribution of community and technical colleges to the total educational system, in 1985 Congress authorized and requested President Ronald Reagan to issue Proclamation 5418 establishing a National Community College Month. Isothermal Community College President Margaret Annunziata requested that the Board recognize April 2024 as Isothermal Community College Month and April 20, 2024 as “Paint the Community Isothermal Blue” Day

**Commissioner Hunt moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Lovelace seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:**

**Ayes:** Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Hunt and Commissioner Lovelace.

**Noes:** None

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2024 AS  
ISOTHERMAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE DAY  
AND APRIL 20 AS  
“PAINT THE COMMUNITY ISOTHERMAL BLUE” DAY**

**WHEREAS**, the more than 1,300 community and technical colleges, public and private, in the United States have contributed enormously to the richness and accessibility of American higher education. Nearly half of all undergraduate college students in the Nation today are enrolled in community colleges; and

**WHEREAS**, by providing educational opportunities at costs and locations accessible to all who are qualified, community and technical colleges have greatly enhanced the opportunity for every ambitious student, young or old, to enter a postsecondary school program. As community-based institutions, our schools provide varied programs and offer specialized training for more than 1,000 occupations; and

**WHEREAS**, the economic impact of Isothermal totals \$112 million annually in Rutherford and Polk counties with 2,373 jobs supported; and

**WHEREAS**, this community is served well by Isothermal Community College, which provides technical training, workforce development programs and college transfer opportunities in more than 90 areas of study, along with cultural opportunities through Continuing Education, the Foundation Performing Arts and Conference Center, and WNCW 88.7 FM; and

**WHEREAS**, Isothermal Community College has institutional resources including the Powers Promise and other scholarship programs that allow virtually every resident in Rutherford and Polk counties to attend Isothermal tuition-free; and

**WHEREAS**, Isothermal students, faculty and staff have received numerous state and national recognitions, and faculty and staff serve the global higher education community on state and national boards; and

**WHEREAS**, on Saturday, April 20, the college will host a community celebration that will include fun events for community members of all ages on the Spindale Campus called "Paint the Campus Isothermal Blue," and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of the important contribution of community and technical colleges to our total educational system, in 1985 the Congress authorized and requested President Ronald Reagan to issue Proclamation 5418 establishing a National Community College Month.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, We, the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners recognize April 2024 and Saturday, April 20, respectively, as

**Isothermal Community College Month and "Paint the Community Isothermal Blue" Day**

Adopted this the 4<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

**B. ID-24-3706 Appointment to Farmland Preservation Advisory Board**

Mr. Harley Lattimore had agreed to serve an additional term on the Farmland Preservation Advisory Board. Vacancies on this board have been advertised and applications accepted.

**Vice Chairman Toney moved to appoint Mr. Lattimore to the Farmland Preservation Advisory Board to a term ending December 31, 2026. Commissioner Benfield seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:**

**Ayes:** Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Hunt and Commissioner Lovelace.

**Noes:** None

**V. New Business**

**A. ID-24-3813 Budget Amendments**

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

**Commissioner Hunt moved to approve the budget amendments. Commissioner Lovelace seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:**

**Ayes:** Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Hunt and Commissioner Lovelace.

**Noes:** None

<b>Budget Amendments</b>		
<b>March 4, 2024</b>		
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>		
Senior Center - Purchases with Donations	\$ 4,000	
Senior Center Donations		\$ 4,000
*donations received		
Senior Games	\$ 750	
Donations - Senior Games		\$ 750
*donations received		
Senior Center - SHIIP Program	\$ 2,391	
SHIIP Program Revenues		\$ 2,391
*received for senior health insurance information program		
Library - Postage	\$ 1,050	
Library Passport Fees		\$ 1,050
*appropriate fees received for related costs		
College - Capital Improvements	\$ 24,760	
Contribution from College Capital Reserve		\$ 24,760
*tree removal along DOT right-of-way along College Avenue near the west side of the campus entrance		
<b>COLLEGE CAPITAL RESERVE</b>		
Transfer to General Fund	\$ 24,760	
Reserved for Future Projects	\$ (24,760)	
*tree removal along DOT right-of-way along College Avenue near the west side of the campus entrance		

**B. ID-24-3714 FY 2024 Audit Contract/Engagement Letter**

Finance Director Paula Roach advised that Gould Killian CPA Group, PA provided a three-year proposal in the spring of 2022 for audit services for Rutherford County for FY22, FY23 and FY24. The contract not to exceed the price of \$82,500 for FY24 included up to four major programs. Any additional major programs would be \$5,000 each. An engagement letter for audit services for Rutherford County and an audit contract were presented for the Commissioners' consideration.

**Commissioner Hunt moved to approve the audit contract as presented. Vice Chairman Toney seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:**

**Ayes:** Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Hunt and Commissioner Lovelace.

**Noes:** None

**C. ID-24-3707 Senior Center's Title VI Plan**

Senior Center Director Tammy Aldridge told the Board that the North Carolina Department of Transportation requires the County's governing board to approve the Title VI plan for the Senior Center for their 5310 Purchase of Service Grant. The document has been reviewed and approved by NC DOT Title VI Officer. A copy of the Title VI plan was presented for the Board's consideration.

**Commissioner Lovelace moved to approve the Title VI plan for the Rutherford County Senior Center. Commissioner Benfield seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:**

**Ayes:** Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Hunt and Commissioner Lovelace.

**Noes:** None

**D. ID-24-3653 Resolution Awarding Detective Adrienne Wallace's Side Arm and Badge**

Sheriff Ellenburg requested that the Board approve a resolution in accordance with G.S. 20-187.2 awarding Detective Adrienne Wallace's service side arm and badge to her for the sum of \$1.00. Detective Wallace, who has served in the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office since December 10, 2014 retired on January 1, 2024.

**Commissioner Lovelace 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 Hunt and Commissioner Lovelace.

**Noes:** None

**Resolution Acknowledging the Service of  
Detective Adrienne Wallace  
and Awarding Her Service Side Arm and Badge to Her**

**WHEREAS**, Detective Adrienne Wallace served Rutherford County Sheriff's Department since December, 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, Detective Wallace served law enforcement on both a local and state level and served honorably and with integrity in her position as a Detective with the Criminal Investigative Division during her career with the Rutherford County Sheriff's Department.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Rutherford, in accordance with NC General Statute 20-187.2, do hereby award Detective Wallace her service side arm (Glock, Model 48, Serial Number BWMP919) and badge in exchange for the consideration of \$1.00.

Approved this the 4<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

**E. ID-24-3654 Resolution Awarding Lieutenant Allen Hardin's Side Arm and Badge**

Sheriff Ellenburg also requested that the Board approve a resolution in accordance with G.S. 20-187.2 awarding Lieutenant Allen Hardin's service side arm and badge to him for the sum of \$1.00. Lieutenant Hardin, who has served in the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office since May of 1998 retired on January 1, 2024.

**Commissioner Hunt 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 Hunt and Commissioner Lovelace.

**Noes:** None

**Resolution Acknowledging the Service of  
Lieutenant Allen Hardin  
and Awarding His Service Side Arm and Badge to Him**

**WHEREAS**, Lieutenant Allen Hardin served Rutherford County Sheriff's Department since May of 1998; and

**WHEREAS**, Lieutenant Hardin served honorably and with integrity in his position as a Lieutenant.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Rutherford, in accordance with NC General Statute 20-187.2, do hereby award Lieutenant Hardin his service side arm (Glock, Model 19, Serial Number BDMN951) and badge in exchange for the consideration of \$1.00.

Approved this the 4<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

**VI. Adjournment**

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**At 6:17 P.M. Vice Chairman Toney made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Lovelace seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:**

**Ayes:** Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Hunt and Commissioner Lovelace.

**Noes:** None

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Chairman, Board of Commissioners

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Vice Chairman, Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

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Clerk, Board of Commissioners