



Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting

March 10, 2025

MINUTES

The March 10, 2025 Warren County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Angelena Kearney Dunlap, followed by a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance. Those in attendance were Commissioners Victor Hunt, Bertadean Baker, Tare Davis, and Al Cooper. Others in attendance were County Manager Crystal Smith and County Attorney Shiekell Richardson.

1. ADOPT SUGGESTED AGENDA

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Cooper, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Suggested Agenda was approved.

2. CITIZEN COMMENTS - REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Eight citizens signed up to speak and each was given 3 minutes to address the Board.

1. Dylan Stickney of TED Renewables introduced himself and TED Renewables, a solar energy company.
2. Craig Allen spoke to the Board about property rights and the need for regulations on dog hunting that will keep hunters off of posted property.
3. Joey Andrews discussed issues with staffing at EMS. He stated that lack of proper staffing is a life-threatening situation.
4. Michael Naughton stated that he continues to have issues with dogs and hunters on his property. He stated that property owners' rights are being denied.
5. Dwayne Hicks stated that a Town Hall meeting will be held on April 15th and Commissioners and the County Manager to attend and be part of that meeting. He further discussed tax revaluations and stated he feels the revaluations effect everyone in the County but citizens don't have a say in how it is done.
6. Reinaldo Espinosa stated that elected officials don't seem to respect the people that elect them. Mr. Espinosa stated that the Board should allow citizens to speak for as long as they need, not just 2 or 3 minutes. He stated that the Board of Commissioners should give more money to EMS.
7. Mike Hairston waived his time to speak.
8. Robert Stevenson stated there are vacancies on the Planning Board and that citizens are encouraged to submit Statements of Interest to Serve.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes of February 3, 2025 Regular Meeting and February 3, 2025 Special Meeting

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Baker, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Minutes of the February 3, 2025 Regular Meeting and February 3, 2024 Special Meeting were approved. Those minutes can be accessed at [February 3, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes](#) and [February 3, 2025 Work Session Minutes](#)

B. Tax Collector's Report for January 2025 Presented for Board's Information in Accordance with NCGS 105-350

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Baker, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Tax Collector's Report for January 2025 was accepted.

**Tax Collector's Report
to the Warren County Board of Commissioners
For the Month January 2025**

2024-2025

Current Year Collections

Tax Year	Charge	Collected in January	Collected to Date	Balance Outstanding	Percentage Collected
January 2025 FY 25	\$20,167,790	\$3,084,288	\$18,795,483	\$1,372,277	93.20
January 2024 FY 24	\$20,232,993	\$3,379,738	\$18,807,891	\$1,425,102	92.96

Delinquent Collections

2023	\$433,073	\$12,639	\$140,820	\$292,253	35.52
2022	208,886	6,813	38,303	\$170,583	18.34
2021	136,980	1,828	14,371	\$122,609	10.49
2020	110,281	491	6,243	\$104,038	5.66
2019	131,083	656	8,073	\$123,010	6.16
2018	81,354	350	2,079	\$79,275	2.56
2017	81,297	196	2,044	\$79,253	2.52
2016	61,305	167	1,804	\$59,501	2.94
2015	61,797	155	853	\$59,944	1.85
2014	43,807	59	817	\$42,990	1.87
Total Delinquent Years	\$1,339,863	\$23,454	\$216,407	\$1,124,456	

Other January Receipts

County Penalties	\$ 23,940	\$ 57,582
Landfill User Fees	\$ 227,623	\$ 1,379,612
Municipalities	\$ 100,819	\$ 675,216
Fire District Taxes	\$ 208,915	\$ 1,229,878
Advance Taxes	\$ 13,872	\$ 29,556

JANUARY GRAND TOTAL

\$7,062,649	\$41,190,626
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John Preston, Tax Administrator
John Preston, Tax Administrator

2/14/2025

C. Tax Release Requests (over/under \$100) in Accordance with NCGS 105-381 "Taxpayer's Remedies" as Information Only

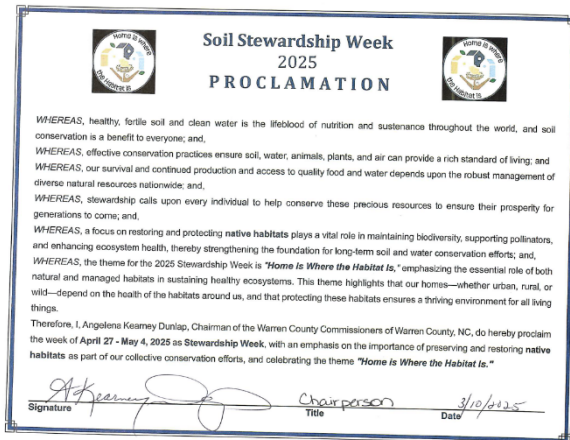
On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Baker, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Tax Release Requests (over/under \$100) were accepted.

Over \$100	3/10/2025	CO MGR INITIALS: _____ Date: _____
ERROR CORRECTION RELEASES:		
CHRISTIAN JAMES ONNIE	2024 50767-200	29416 \$ 174.14 BILLING ERROR
PERRY DAVID M	2024 05488-300	E6B367 8752 \$ 934.92 DID NOT RECEIVE AGE EXEMPTION
TOTAL ERROR CORRECTIONS:		\$ 1,109.06
MOTOR VEHICLE RELEASES:		
FARLEY DEXTER GRANT	2023 KJX1449	V-80906 \$ 211.77 TAXPAYER DECEASED/VEHICLE SALVAGED
SUB-TOTAL MOTOR VEHICLE RELEASES:		\$ 211.77
SUB-TOTAL CORRECTION RELEASES:		\$ 1,109.06
Total Releases		\$ 1,320.83
LANDFILL USER FEE RELEASES:		
DAVIS ADA M	2024 05953-300	G8-79C 17467 \$ 150.00 NO DWELLING ON PROP
TOTAL LFUP RELEASES:		\$ 150.00
Total Releases		\$ 1,470.83

Under \$100	3/10/2025	CO MGR INITIALS: _____ Date: _____
ERROR CORRECTION RELEASES:		
NAME	Year ACCT# MAP#	RECORD# AMOUNT REASON
BROWN DAVID H	2024 14860-301	26825 \$ 30.38 SOLD PROPERTY 2021
BROWN DAVID H	2024 14860-301	26710 \$ 36.84 SOLD PROPERTY 2021
DAVIS DERIC CORNEL	2024 24809-300	17470 \$ 1.07 REMOVE INTEREST
SUB-TOTAL ERROR CORRECTIONS:		\$ 68.29

D. Soil and Water Annual Proclamation Stewardship Week

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Baker, and duly carried by unanimous vote, April 27th through May 4th was proclaimed Soil Stewardship Week.



4. COUNTY MANAGER'S UPDATE – Crystal Smith

A. People's Academy Update

Lead for NC Fellow Hannah Jones stated there are 13 participants for the People's Academy. The first session was held on March 3, 2025, and there are 7 more sessions.

B. Let's Talk Warren County Schedule Update

Chairperson Angelena Kearney Dunlap presented the Let's Talk Warren County Schedule.

Let's Talk Warren County
Quarterly Community Conversations

April 2 nd	July 19 th	September 9 th	December 11 th
County Government Celebration Do you know what your government does?	Preparedness & Response. Are you ready? and Hunting in Warren County	Starting & sustain a small business Get valued information to help you in establishing a successful local business.	Volunteerism: You are appreciated.
Warren County Armory Civic Center 501 Highway 158 Bus East Warrenton, NC 27569 Time 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm	Heck's Grove Community Center 3311 Highway 401 South Warrenton, NC 27569 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.	Buck Springs Park 217 Nathaniel Macon Drive Littleton, NC 27850 Time 5:00 pm	Warren County Armory Civic Center 501 Highway 158 Bus East Warrenton, NC 27569 Time 6:00 pm

For more information contact the Warren County Manager's Office at 252-257-3115 or
WCGOV@warrencountync.gov

C. Property Tax Revaluation Update - Pearson's Appraisal

Emmit Curl of Pearson's Appraisal provided an update on the tax revaluation. Notices will be going out to property owners with the new tax value and instructions on what to do if they disagree with the revaluation. The General Assembly requires all counties to conduct revaluations. The Board of Commissioners has no say in the valuation of property, and is only charged with setting the tax rate.

D. Planning & Zoning Update - Mark Bloomer, Zoning Director

Planning & Zoning Director Mark Bloomer stated that the county currently had 9 solar farms and there are no pending permits for solar farms at this time.

5. FINANCE OFFICE – Nikki Dickerson

A. Consider Approval of Budget Amendment #3 to the FY25 Budget Ordinance

Budget Amendment #3 (see attached) to the FY 2025 Budget Ordinance is being presented for approval. This amendment does the following:

Revenue:

1. Appropriates \$ 110,000 in the IT budget for the Cyber Security Grant Revenue.
2. Appropriates \$ 17,000 in the EDC Project budget for the Carolina Across 100 Grant.
3. Appropriates \$ 7,500 in the EDC Project budget for Grant received for Digital Inclusion Planning.
4. Appropriates \$ 4,150 in the EDC Project budget for Grant received from NCIDEA.
5. Appropriates \$ 950,000 in the EDC Project budget for CDBG Grants.

6. Appropriates \$ 30,000 in the EDC budget for the Triangle North Microgrant.
7. Appropriates \$1,905 in the Animal Control budget for the Best Friends Grant.

Enterprise Budget Adjustment

8. Appropriates \$ 20,000 from Enterprise Fund Balance to Public Utilities budget.

General Fund Balance for FY25 Expenses:

9. Appropriates \$ 95,000 to Code Enforcement for Stewart Ordinance Updates as previously approved by Board.
10. Appropriates \$ 55,952 to Norlina Fire Department for correction of fire tax payments.

Appropriates \$ 10,000 to Buildings and Grounds for additional space assessment costs.

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Baker, and duly carried by unanimous vote, Budget Amendment #3 to the FY25 Budget Ordinance was approved.

B. Consider Approval of Revised Hwy 1 Industrial Site Project Ordinance

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Cooper, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Revised HWY 1 Industrial Site Project Ordinance was approved.

CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE WARREN COUNTY

Hwy 1 Industrial Site

BE IT ORDAINED by the Warren County Board of Commissioners that, pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following Capital Project Ordinance is hereby adopted:

Section 1. The project authorized is the Hwy 1 Industrial Site.

Section 2. The officers of this unit are hereby directed to proceed with the project within the terms of the above statute and the budget contained within.

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

NC Railroad Grant - Fund 86	\$ 500,000
Golden Leaf Site Due Diligence Grant - Fund 86	\$ 42,500
EPA Brownsfield Funding - Fund 86	\$ 10,000
NCRR Microgrant	\$ 16,250
Transfer from General Fund - Fund 86	\$ 183,750

Section 4. The following amounts are appropriated for the project:

Hwy 1 Industrial Site Expense	<u>\$752,500</u>
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Section 5. The Finance Officer is hereby directed to maintain with the Capital Project Fund sufficient detailed accounting records required by federal and state regulations.

Section 6. Funds may be advanced from the General Fund for the purpose of making payments as due.

Section 7. Copies of this project ordinance shall be entered into the minutes of the governing board and filed with the Finance Officer.

Adopted this 10th day of March, 2025.

Warren County Board of Commissioners

6. FOLLOW UP

A. Land Posting Options in Warren County - Sheriff John Branche, Wildlife Officer Jacob Long and Wildlife Sgt. Richard Creech

Sheriff John Branche stated there are currently two ways to post property in Warren County, with yellow signs from Sheriff's Office or with purple paint. Purple paint means that no one is to go onto the property. Yellow signs registered with the Sheriff's Office offer more protection to the property owner because they mean no one can enter the land or the abutment to the land such as the road right-of-way.

Wildlife Sgt. Richard Creech stated that both retrieving and turning out dogs is considered part of hunting.

It was noted that many hunters want to do away with the yellow sign posting option because it hinders them from picking up their dogs. There are currently 93 hunting clubs in Warren County that use dogs between Warren, Vance, and Halifax Counties. Hunting clubs are aware that they do not have the right

to cross onto posted land to retrieve dogs. The Board of Commissioners asked Sgt. Creech to provide information on the number of trespassing citations issued in Warren County relating to hunting. Sheriff Branche stated that he is not in favor of doing away with the yellow posted signs.

7. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approve Warren County Community and Economic Development's Application for a GoldenLEAF SITE Development Grant for the Hwy 1 Industrial Site Not to Exceed \$1.5 Million

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Baker, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the application for a GoldenLEAF Site Development Grant for the Hwy 1 Industrial Site not to exceed \$1.5 Million was approved.

B. Approve Resolution of Warren County Board of Commissioners Authorization to Sign CDBG Scattered Site Requisition Forms

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Cooper, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Resolution of Warren County Board of Commissioners Authorization to Sign CDBG Scattered Site Requisition Forms was approved.

C. Consider Approval of EMS Billing Contract with Collection Billing in the Amount of \$1,100 per month plus 5.50% of Collections and Authorize County Manager to Execute Documents - Chris Pegram, Deputy Director, Warren County Emergency Services

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Hunt, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the EMS Billing Contract with Colleton Billing in the amount of \$1,100 per month plus 5.5% of collections and authorization for County Manager to execute documents was approved.

D. Consider Approval of Warren County Armory Civic Center Fee Waiver Application from Center for Energy Education. If Fee Waiver is Granted, a \$300 Non-Refundable Cleaning/Damage Fee Will Apply - Paula Pulley, Clerk to the Board

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Hunt, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Warren County Armory Civic Center Fee Waiver Application for Center for Energy Education was approved.

8. BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' UPDATES

Commissioner Davis stated that there is a need to pay attention to Medicaid Expansion and how it will affect our citizens.

Commissioner Cooper stated he enjoyed the NACo Conference. He found that many counties across the country are in the same position as Warren County.

Chairperson Angelena Kearney Dunlap reported that the letters provided by citizens, organizations, and departments were delivered to our Representatives in Washington DC. She further reminded the public of the Let's Talk Warren County - County Government Celebration on April 2, 2025.

9. CLOSED SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH NCGS 143-318(a)(5) FOR PERSONNEL MATTERS

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Cooper, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Board entered Closed Session in accordance with NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5) for Personnel Matters.

On motion of Commissioner Hunt, seconded by Commissioner Cooper, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Board returned to Open Session.

10. ADJOURN March 10, 2025 BOARD MEETING

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Hunt, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the March 10, 2025 Board of Commissioners Meeting was adjourned.

Paula Pulley, Clerk to the Board