



Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting

May 5, 2025

MINUTES

The May 5, 2025 Regular Meeting was called to order by Chair Angelena Kearney Dunlap, followed by a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance. Those in attendance included Commissioners Hunt, Davis, Cooper, and Baker, County Manager Crystal Smith, and County Attorney Shiekel Richardson.

1. SPECIAL PRESENTATION FROM REPRESENTATIVE DON DAVIS BY KIMBERLY MACK

On behalf of Congressman Don Davis, Kimberly Mack recognized the Warren County Board of Commissioners, Former Congresswoman Eva Clayton, and Korita Steverson and the Green Blue Marketplace for their roles in supporting agriculture.

2. RECOGNITION OF PEOPLES ACADEMY CLASS OF 2025

Hannah Jones introduced the Peoples Academy Class of 2025.

3. INTRODUCTION OF TOURISM MANAGER CHERIE NIELSEN

4. ADOPT SUGGESTED AGENDA

On motion of Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Hunt, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Suggested Agenda with the addition of Item 10 B, Closed Session in Accordance with NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5) was adopted.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS - REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Rules for Citizen Comments: Please sign up to speak. The maximum time allowed to each speaker will be FIVE (5) minutes; Clerk to the Board will keep time. Any group of people who support or oppose the same position should designate a spokesperson. Please address only those items which may not have been addressed by a previous speaker, If a response from the County Manager or Board of Commissioners desired, leave a copy of your comment(s) with the Clerk to the Board. Order and decorum will be maintained. This is not a question and answer session.

A total of 9 citizens wished to address the Board of Commissioners. Each citizen was permitted 5 minutes to speak.

1. Evelyn Woodson discussed issues concerning the Planning Board during her term as a member of that Board. Mrs. Woodson asked that the Board of Commissioners investigate concerns and to clarify the role and authority of the Planning Board.
2. David Woodson voiced concerns over treatment of female members of the Planning Board and actions taken by the Warren County Board of Commissioners on April 16, 2025 when appointments were made to the Planning Board that did not match the recommendation of that Board.
3. Kenneth Boyette voiced concerns about the tax revaluation. Mr. Boyette stated he feels the Board of Commissioners will lower the tax rate because of revaluation, but feels the citizens are being over-taxed.
4. Danny Whitten spoke about concerns with the revaluation. Mr. Whitten stated the square footage of his property was miscalculated and that issue was addressed. He further stated that he applied for a disability tax exemption but the tax office has not notified him he is approved or not.
5. Barbara Espinosa spoke of concerns with the Planning Board. Mrs. Espinosa asked the Board of Commissioners to uphold the reputations of those serving on the Planning Board. She stated that she questions the decisions made at the April 16, 2025 Board of Commissioners meeting as it relates to appointments.
6. Reinaldo Espinosa stated he attended a Planning Board meeting and was disturbed by the way a member spoke to other members. He further stated that Evelyn Woodson was mistreated

and that it was discrimination. Mr. Espinosa also noted that he held a Town Hall Meeting and invited each Commissioner but none attended.

7. Karilyn Ballard stated the issues with the Planning Board are concerning. She further stated that she moved here to get away from the big city and doesn't want a mall or fast food or tourism in the County.
8. Whitney Sessoms of the Center for Energy Education stated that a career fair was recently held, and work continues in the area of Work Force Development.
9. Dylan Stickney of TED Renewables stated that a local office has opened in Warrenton and two local residents are employed there. He further stated that he attended the recent Unified Development Ordinance workshop.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes of April 7, 2025 Regular Meeting and April 16, 2025 Work Session

On motion of Commissioner Hunt, seconded by Commissioner Baker, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the minutes of the April 7, 2025 Regular Meeting and April 16, 2025 Work Session were approved.

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

On motion of Commissioner Hunt, seconded by Commissioner Baker, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Tax Collector's Report for March 2025 was approved.

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

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

D. Approval of Proclamation Recognizing May 4 Through May 10 as Clerks to the Boards of County Commissioners Week

On motion of Commissioner Hunt, seconded by Commissioner Baker, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Proclamation Recognizing May 4 through May 10 as Clerks to the Boards of County Commissioners Week was approved.

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MAY 4 THROUGH MAY 10, 2025 AS CLERKS TO THE BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WEEK

WHEREAS, the role of the clerk to the board of county commissioners (clerk) is crucial for maintaining an informed community and facilitating effective local governance through communication among citizens, governing bodies, and administrative departments; and

WHEREAS, the position of clerk, one of the oldest in local government, continues to be essential as the official recordkeepers of their counties, with responsibilities that are deeply rooted in history; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute 153A-111 requires every board of county commissioners to appoint or designate a clerk to the board to perform any duties that may be required by law or the board of commissioners including, but not limited to, the preparation, filing, and protection of local government records, which are vital for accountability and transparency; and

WHEREAS, clerks enhance their professional skills through active participation in the North Carolina Association of County Clerks to Boards of Commissioners, which, in partnership with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Government and the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, offers nationally recognized certification programs and continuous professional education; and

WHEREAS, clerks, through their dedication to professional development, not only improve the efficacy of their offices but also bring positive recognition to their counties by participating in advanced education and obtaining profession related certifications.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Warren County Board of Commissioners that May 4 through May 10, 2025, will be recognized as "Clerks to the Boards of County Commissioners Week" in Warren County and extends its appreciation to Clerk to the Board Paula Pulley and Deputy Clerk to the Board Monique Hinton, and to all county clerks for the vital services they perform and their exemplary dedication to the county they represent.

ADOPTED this the 5th day of May 2025.



WARREN COUNTY

Chair

ATTEST:

Clerk to the Board

E. Approval of Proclamation Declaring May 4 - 10, 2025 as Hurricane Preparedness Week

On motion of Commissioner Hunt, seconded by Commissioner Baker, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Proclamation Declaring May 4 - May 10, 2025 as Hurricane Preparedness Week was approved.

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK 2025 A PROCLAMATION BY THE WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, hurricanes and tropical systems have impacted every North Carolina county with disastrous results; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is repeatedly one of the leading states nationally for overall damage from hurricanes; and

WHEREAS, hurricanes and tropical storms can cause life-threatening hazards such as flooding, storm surge, destructive winds, tornadoes and landslides; and

WHEREAS, flooding claims lives every year, usually when motorists attempt to drive through flooded roadways, and

WHEREAS, insurance companies suggest residents review and update their homeowners or renters insurance policy to ensure it includes coverage for flooding, accidental damage and natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, people are less likely to be injured when they have prepared ahead of time and know what to do when a hurricane threatens; and

WHEREAS, people should prepare their personal emergency supply kit to use at home or during an evacuation with enough food and water to sustain the members of their household for three days or longer, and should know their evacuation routes and comply with local and state authorities when asked to evacuate; and

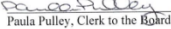
WHEREAS, the ReadyNC.gov website is available to help people make emergency preparedness plans and provide current weather and traffic conditions; and

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service, local and state government officials all work together before and during a hurricane or tropical storm to reduce the dangers posed to lives and property and provide a quick, effective response to these storms; and

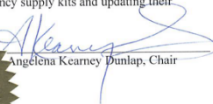
WHEREAS, the observance of Hurricane Preparedness Week by Warren County residents provides better protection from the dangers of hurricanes and tropical storms;

NOW THEREFORE, we, the Warren County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the week of May 4-10, 2025, as "HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK" in Warren County. I encourage all county residents to plan and prepare by assembling their personal emergency supply kits and updating their emergency plans.

ATTEST:


Paula Pulley, Clerk to the Board




Angelena Kearney Dunlap, Chair

7. COUNTY MANAGER'S UPDATE – Crystal Smith

A. Historic Jail Update

Terrance Williams of Buildings and Grounds discussed the findings of a recent structural investigation at the Historic Jail. Restoration would be extremely expensive, and even demolishing the building could cost roughly \$350,000. Commissioner Davis stated that he doesn't believe the County is in a position to move forward with restoration. Commissioner Hunt stated it may be best to tear it down.

B. Completing Access to Broadband (CAB) Funding Update

Governor Stein announced funding for 30 more counties to receive High-Speed Internet. In Warren County, Connect Holding II, LLC (Brightspeed) will provide internet access to an additional 793 homes and businesses.

C. Revised Economic Development Commission By-Laws - County Manager Crystal Smith

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Hunt, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Revised Economic Development Commission By-Laws were approved.

8. ACTION ITEMS

A. Consider Approval of Resolution to Accept Funding from North Carolina Division of Environmental Quality in the Amount of \$4,000,000 for Kerr Lake Regional Water Treatment Plant Upgrade - Public Utilities Director Eric St. Sing

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Hunt, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Resolution to Accept Funding from North Carolina Division of Environmental Quality in the Amount of \$4,000,000 for Kerr Lake Regional Water Treatment Plant Upgrade was approved.



WARREN COUNTY

RESOLUTION BY GOVERNING BODY OF RECIPIENT

WHEREAS, the Warren County has received a Directed Projects grant from the 2023 Appropriations Act, Session Law 2023-134, administered through the Drinking Water Reserve and Wastewater Reserve to assist eligible units of government with meeting their water/wastewater infrastructure needs, and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality has offered 2023 Appropriations Act funding in the amount of \$4,000,000 to perform work detailed in the submitted application, and

WHEREAS, the Warren County intends to perform said project in accordance with the agreed scope of work,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

That Warren County does hereby accept the 2023 Appropriations Act Directed Projects Grant offer of \$4,000,000.

That the Warren County Board of Commissioners does hereby give assurance to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality that any Conditions or Assurances contained in the Award Offer will be adhered to.

That County Manager Crystal Smith, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as the appropriate State agency may request in connection with this project; to make the assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required by the Division of Water Infrastructure.

B. Consider Approval of Resolution to Accept Funding from North Carolina Division of Environmental Quality in the Amount of \$925,000 for Soul City Boulevard Water Main Replacement - Public Utilities Director Eric St. Sing

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Cooper and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Resolution to Accept Funding from North Carolina Division of Environmental Quality in the Amount of \$925,000 for Soul City Boulevard Water Main Replacement was approved.



WARREN COUNTY

RESOLUTION BY GOVERNING BODY OF RECIPIENT

WHEREAS, Warren County has received a Directed Projects grant from the 2023 Appropriations Act, Session Law 2023-134, administered through the Drinking Water Reserve and Wastewater Reserve to assist eligible units of government with meeting their water/wastewater infrastructure needs, and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality has offered 2023 Appropriations Act funding in the amount of \$925,000 to perform work detailed in the submitted application, and

WHEREAS, Warren County intends to perform said project in accordance with the agreed scope of work,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

That Warren County does hereby accept the 2023 Appropriations Act Directed Projects Grant offer of \$925,000.

That the Warren County Board of Commissioners does hereby give assurance to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality that any Conditions or Assurances contained in the Award Offer will be adhered to.

That County Manager Crystal Smith, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as the appropriate State agency may request in connection with this project; to make the assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required by the Division of Water Infrastructure.

C. Consider Approval of Revised Boards/Committees/Commissions Appointment and Re-Appointment Policy - County Attorney Shiekell Richardson and Clerk to the Board Paula Pulley

After an initial motion by Commissioner Davis and second by Commissioner Cooper to approve, and some discussion concerning the need for more clarity, Commissioner Hunt made a motion to table the item for more review, seconded by Commissioner Baker, and duly carried by unanimous vote.

D. Consider Approval of Revised Volunteer Policy - County Attorney Shiekell Richardson and Clerk to the Board Paula Pulley

On motion of Commissioner Hunt, seconded by Commissioner Baker, and duly carried by unanimous vote, this item is tabled to allow Staff to review and offer feedback.

E. Consider Approval of the FY25/26 Home and Community Care Block Grant Budget to Sustain Vital Services for Older Adults in Warren County through the Warren County Senior Center and the Warren County Department of Social Services, Not to Exceed \$294,424.00 - Malana Williams, Senior Center Director

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Cooper, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the FY25/26 Home and Community Care Block Grant Budget to Sustain Vital Services for Older Adults in Warren County through the Warren County Senior Center and Warren County Department of Social Services, not to exceed \$294,424 was approved.

9. BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENTS AND RE-APPOINTMENTS

A. Consider Approval of the Re-Appointments of Joyce Greene-Williams, William S. "Smitty" Bugg, Eddie Q. "Kenny" Clayton, Robert B. Neal, Jr., and James M. Vaughan to the Central Warren Fire Service District Board for Three-Year Terms Beginning June 1, 2025 and Ending June 1, 2028 as Recommended by the Warrenton Rural Volunteer Fire Department

On motion of Commissioner Cooper, seconded by Commissioner Baker, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the re-appointments of Joyce Greene-Williams, William S. "Smitty" Bugg, Eddie Q. "Kenny" Clayton, Robert B. Neal, Jr, and James M. Vaughan to the Central Warren Fire Service District Board for three-year terms beginning June 1, 2025 and ending June 1, 2028 were approved.

B. Consider Appointment of Greg Cox as First Alternate and David Woodson as Second Alternate to the Zoning Board of Adjustments for Three-Year Terms Beginning May 1, 2025 and Ending April 30, 2028 (No Other Statements of Interest Were Received)

On motion of Commissioner Cooper, seconded by Commissioner Hunt, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the appointments of Greg Cox as First Alternate and David Woodson as Second Alternate to the Zoning Board of Adjustments for three-year terms beginning May 1, 2025 and ending April 30, 2028 were approved.

10. BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' UPDATES

- Commissioner Davis urged citizens to pay attention to bills moving through the Senate, such as Medicaid Expansion, because a good portion of the bills introduced are aimed at Local Government.
- Commissioner Cooper stated he has heard a lot about the revaluations and he looks forward to working on this issue.
- Commissioner Hunt raised concerns about House Bill 765 which will limit local authority over zoning.
- Chair Angelena Kearney Dunlap encouraged citizens to voice concerns to our state leaders.

10 B - On motion of Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Hunt, 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 Davis, seconded by Commissioner Cooper, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Board returned to open session.

11. ADJOURN May 5, 2025 BOARD MEETING

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Baker, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the May 5, 2025 meeting was adjourned.

Paula Pulley, Clerk to the Board