



Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting

April 7, 2025

MINUTES

The April 7, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Warren County Board of Commissioners 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 Tare Davis, Al Cooper, Victor Hunt, and Bertadean Baker, County Attorney Shiekel Richardson, and County Manager Crystal Smith.

1. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

A. Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023 Presented to Warren County Finance Office

The Warren County Finance Office staff were recognized for earning the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for fiscal year 2023.

B. Presentation of State of North Carolina Emergency Management Executive Level Certification to Emergency Services Director Chris Tucker

Emergency Services Director Chris Tucker was recognized for receiving the State of North Carolina Emergency Management Executive Level Certification.

2. ADOPT SUGGESTED AGENDA

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Cooper, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Suggested Agenda was approved with the removal of Item 6E.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS - REGULAR BOARD MEETING

1. Dan Swango informed the Board that he submitted a Statement of Interest to Serve form and wishes to serve on the Planning Board. He stated that he feels the Planning Board needs help because they lack the skills and talent needed. Mr. Swango suggested that evaluations be done on candidates wishing to serve.
2. Scoot Murray of the Roanoke River Basin Association spoke in support of the Zoning Ordinance overhaul. He further stated that qualified people need to be seated on the Planning Board. Mr. Murray asked that the Board consider pausing any new energy system permits until the revisions to the Zoning Ordinance are made.
3. Chris Adcock spoke in opposition to any new solar farms in the County. Mr. Adcock stated that a representative of a solar farm is saying he is working with the Board of Commissioners and Planning Board, but the County says they are not working with him, so there is a lot of confusion in the community.
4. Carl Lynch spoke in opposition to any new solar farms in the County.
5. Cynthia Jenkins spoke in reference to a rifle range that has been placed 100 feet from her house. The area is just outside the Town of Warrenton but is within the ETJ, however the Town of Warrenton says they cannot address the issue and suggested she contact the County for assistance.
6. Ed & Imogene Sigmon chose not to speak.
7. Craig Showers of Lizard Creek shared concerns about his tax assessment on his house doubling, and the lot next door to him with only a shed and a boathouse going up to a value of \$500,000. Mr. Showers suggested that the County do assessments more often so that there are not such drastic changes in values.
8. Terry Grizzard stated he attended the last Planning Board meeting and that it was the worst run meeting he ever been to.

9. Reinaldo Espinosa stated that the rifle range that Ms. Jenkins spoke about is unacceptable. Mr. Espinosa said that elderly citizens cannot afford to pay their taxes. He invited the Board of Commissioners to attend a Town Hall Meeting on April 15, 2025 to speak to the county.
10. Todd Meador addressed the Board with concerns about the recent tax revaluation. He stated that the assessments are too high.
11. Dwayne Hicks stated that community revitalization is just gentrification.
12. Dylan Stickney of TED Renewables stated he has introduced himself to the Board of Commissioners, Planning Board, and most Fire Chiefs in the area. Several meetings have also been held for the community to learn more about solar energy. He stated there is now an office space in Warrenton for TED Renewables. Chair Angelena Kearney Dunlap asked Mr. Stickney to clarify for the public if the Board of Commissioners has given approval for any projects at this time and Mr. Stickney stated the Board of Commissioners has not given any approval and that, further, TED Renewables has not applied for or sought any approvals at this time.
13. Tyler Richardson did not wish to speak.
14. Clifton Jackson asked that the County protect forest land, lake property, and farm land from solar farms. He stated that solar farms tend to prey on lower income communities.
15. Michael Naughton asked that the County not allow illegal hunting, and asked that they keep the yellow sign posting in place. He further stated that he doesn't want the County to get rid of hunting, but he wants laws and regulations enforced.
16. James Rayhorn did not wish to speak.
17. Mike Hairston voiced concerns about tariffs and what it could mean for the consolidated elementary school construction. Mr. Hairston also encouraged those concerned about tax assessments to meet with the Board of Equalization and Review.
18. Patrick Brown, a local farmer, stated that present use should be considered during property revaluation.
19. David Williams, a Warren County Developer, stated that Warren County used to have a very professional and knowledgeable Planning Board, but the current Planning Board doesn't have the talent and knowledge needed. He stated it is critical to have people that understand plats and definitions in order to make sound decisions.
20. Sid Cutts, Planning Board member, stated that the Planning Board has good people but they have no experience and it has become dysfunctional.
21. Cosmos George of the Warren County NAACP stated that the property tax values are too high and have a disproportionate impact on low income citizens. He stated there is a lack of transparency which infringes on civil rights. He asked the Board to hold off on the implementation of the revaluation.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes of February 24, 2025 Work Session and March 10, 2025 Regular Meeting

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Baker, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the minutes of the February 24, 2025 Work Session and March 10, 2025 Regular Meeting were approved.

B. Tax Collector's Report for February 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 was accepted.

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 Request information was accepted.

D. Approval of Child Abuse Prevention Month 2025 Proclamation

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Baker, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Proclamation declaring April as Child Abuse Prevention Month was approved.



Child Abuse Prevention Month 2025 Proclamation

WHEREAS, children represent the future of our communities, and ensuring their safety, well-being, and healthy development is not just a moral imperative, but a foundation for building strong, thriving communities across North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, all children deserve the opportunity to grow up in nurturing environments that promote healthy physical, emotional, and mental development; and

WHEREAS, the most recent data and statistics on child abuse and neglect in North Carolina indicate that there are more than 115,000 investigated reports of possible abuse or neglect annually in our state; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect are preventable, and the responsibility to protect our children lies within every family, community member, organization, and leader, recognizing that preventing child abuse strengthens the future of our state; and

WHEREAS, communities that have the resources they need to provide families with the tools and knowledge that support positive parenting and child development can reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect, while promoting parental and family resilience; and

WHEREAS, children who live in families with access to concrete economic and social supports are less likely to experience abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, collaboration among parents, educators, health care providers, faith-based organizations, local businesses, social service agencies, law enforcement, and community groups are essential for creating the safe and supportive environments children need to thrive; and

WHEREAS, during Child Abuse Prevention Month, we recognize the importance of promoting the protective factors – parental resilience, social connections, concrete support in times of need, knowledge of parenting and child development, and the social-emotional competence of children — that help to create a better future for all children.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Warren County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim:

April 1 to 30, 2025

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

in Warren County and commends its observance to all citizens.
Adopted this 7th day of April, 2025



Attest:

Paula Pulley, Clerk

Angelina Kearney-Dunlop, Chairperson
Warren County Board of Commissioners

E. Approval to Replace Resolution Declaring April 15, 2025 as Haliwa-Saponi Indian Day with Resolution Establishing the Friday Before the Third Saturday in April as Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe Day

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Baker, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Resolution Establishing the Friday Before the Third Saturday in April as Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe Day was approved. Commissioner Cooper thanked the Board of Commissioners for their support, and offered an invitation to all citizens to attend the upcoming Pow Wow.



**RESOLUTION BY WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DECLARING
THE FRIDAY BEFORE THE THIRD SATURDAY OF APRIL HALIWA-SAPONI
INDIAN TRIBE DAY**

WHEREAS, the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe is descended from the historic Nansemond Confederacy, Saponi Nation, Tuscarora, and other allied tribes historically inhabiting present-day Virginia and North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe has achieved numerous milestones across governance, education, cultural preservation, and community leadership, as follows:

1. Governance and Official Recognition:
 - a. Founding of the Essex Indian Club in 1953, later renamed the Haliwa Indian Club, initiated by esteemed leaders including John C. Hedgepeth and Chief Jerry Richardson, laying the framework for the Tribe's current governance system.
 - b. Formal recognition by the North Carolina General Assembly under NC General Statute 71A-5 on April 15, 1965.
2. Educational Contributions:
 - a. Administration of the Haliwa Indian School from 1957 to 1969, recognized as the only non-reservation tribally supported educational institution within North Carolina.
 - b. Establishment of the Haliwa-Saponi Tribal Charter School in 2000, further solidifying the Tribe's dedication to education advancement.
3. Cultural Initiatives:
 - a. Participation in the American Indian Chicago Conference in 1961, aligning with the national Red Power Movement for indigenous rights.
 - b. Hosting of North Carolina's pioneering modern powwow in 1965, contributing to cultural revitalization efforts.
 - c. Membership with the National Congress of American Indians in 1969, establishing a strong presence in national advocacy efforts.
4. Leadership and Representation:
 - a. Principal involvement in founding the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs in 1971, led by distinguished leaders such as W.R. Richardson, Dr. Joseph Oliver Richardson, and Herbert J. Richardson.
 - b. Election of Glen A. Richardson to the Warren County Board of Commissioners in 1992, followed by Barry Richardson's election and appointment as Chairman of the Warren County Board of Commissioners.

F. 2025 National Public Health Week

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Baker, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Proclamation declaring April 7 - 13, 2025 as National Public Health Week was approved.



National Public Health Week Proclamation

Whereas, the week of April 7, 2025, is National Public Health Week, and the theme is "It Starts Here" highlighting the importance of making a difference in our home, community and state;

Whereas, this year is the 30th anniversary of celebrating National Public Health Week, and in the past 30 years significant strides have been made in public health, including substantial decreases since 1994 in adult smoking rates, childhood mortality, lead poisoning in children and deaths due to HIV/AIDS. In addition, major advancements have been made in pandemic preparedness as well as expanded access to mental health services;

Whereas, a person's health status can differ drastically by ZIP code due to differences in the built environment, environmental quality, community context, access to healthy food, access to education and access to health care;

Whereas, public health organizations use National Public Health Week to educate policymakers, health professionals and the public on issues that are important to improving the health of the people of our state and county;

Whereas, the Warren County Health Department staff along with other public health professionals help communities prevent, prepare for, withstand and recover from the impact of a full range of health threats, ranging from infectious disease outbreaks to natural disaster preparedness; and

Whereas, efforts to adequately support public health and the prevention of disease and injury can continue to transform a health system focused on treating illness into a health system focused on preventing disease and injury and promoting wellness.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Warren County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim:

APRIL 7-13, 2025

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

in Warren County and call upon the people of Warren County to observe this week by helping our families, friends, neighbors, co-workers and leaders to recognize the contribution of public health in (1) improving the health of the people of our state and (2) achieving health equity, as the theme states, "It Starts Here."

Adopted this 7th day of April, 2025

(Seal)

Attest:

Paula Pulley, Clerk

Angelena Kearney-Douglas, Chairperson
Warren County Board of Commissioners

5. COUNTY MANAGER'S UPDATE – Crystal Smith

A. Warren County Historic Jail MOU and Cleanup Update

Community & Economic Development Director Charla Duncan stated that a quote of \$275,000 to \$300,000 has been provided for work including blasting of lead painted surfaces, recoating of jail cells, loose and flaking scrape of LBP (Lead Based Paint) on the exterior of the office building to include encapsulation, removal of all ACM's (Asbestos Containing Materials) as identified by synTerra, demolition of roof, demolition of framing on 1st and 2nd floor, and complete demolition of the annex.

B. Community Center Update

By concensus, the Board agreed that Option 2B should be pursued when planning for the new Senior Center.

C. NC Legacy Mural Kick-Off

Hannah Jones stated that several mural options have been created and the public will have an opportunity to vote on which version of the mural will be placed in Soul City. The poll will be available on paper and on the website. Once the mural is chosen, there will be a chance for the public to come out and help paint.

D. Departmental Updates

1. Tourism Development Authority Financial Report Update

2. EMS 24/72 Schedule Update - Emergency Services Director Chris Tucker

Emergency Services Director Chris Tucker stated that people have left EMS to work in other areas with higher salaries, so there is a struggle to cover all shifts. He is trying to recruit new employees. Tucker will provide information to the Board of Commissioners on the difference between raising salaries and paying for overtime.

3. Emergency Service Radio System Update - Emergency Services Director Chris Tucker

There is a study in progress to determine the best placement for the radio system, and a path study will be done again in 6 or 7 years to ensure that the County is receiving the best radio service. A grant of \$25,000 is being used to facilitate the study.

6. ACTION ITEMS

A. Consider Approval of Internal Control Policy Needed to Meet American Rescue Plan Act and NC Department of Environmental Quality Funding Requirements - Connie Calloway, Grants & Contracts Coordinator

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Hunt, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Internal Control Policy was approved.

B. Consider Approval of Property Management Policy Needed to Meet American Rescue Plan Act and NC Department of Environmental Quality Funding Requirements - Connie Calloway, Grants & Contracts Coordinator

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Cooper, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Property Management Policy was approved.

C. Consider Approval of Change to Departmental Structure Making Tax Administrator a Board of Commissioners Appointed Position Under Supervision of County Manager

On motion of Commissioner Cooper, seconded by Commissioner Hunt, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the position of Tax Administrator will be appointed by the Board of Commissioners under supervision of the County Manager.

D. Consider Approval of Resolution Declaring Surplus Property and Authorizing Disposal Through Online Auction on [GovDeals.com](https://govdeals.com) - Clerk to the Board Paula Pulley

On motion of Commissioner Cooper, seconded by Commissioner Davis, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Resolution Declaring Surplus Property and Authorizing Disposal Through Online Auction on [GovDeals.com](https://govdeals.com) was approved.

E. Consider Approval of Purchase of ATCOM Telephone System for Department of Social Services Financed Through Graybar Financial Services for 36 Months at a Cost of \$2,558.44

(plus taxes) Per Month, and a \$150.00 Documentation Fee and Authorize County Manager to Execute Related Documents.

(This Request Amends Previous Action by the Board of Commissioners on February 24, 2025 Directing Finance to Pay in Full from Fund Balance)

This item was removed during the adoption of the Suggested Agenda

7. BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS AND RE-APPOINTMENTS

A. Consider Appointment of Faith Based Representative to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) for a Two-Year Term Ending January 31, 2027. Recommendation Received from JCPC for Re-Appointment of Reverend Willie Boyd, Jr. to a 2nd Term as Faith Community Representative (Statement of Interest to Serve Delivered to JCPC)

No other Statements of Interest to Serve as the Faith Community Representative were Received

On motion of Commissioner Cooper, seconded by Commissioner Hunt, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the re-appointment of Reverend Willie Boyd, Jr. as Faith Community Representative on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) for a 2nd two-year term ending January 31, 2027 was approved.

B. Consider Appointment to Fill Vacancy on the ABC Commission for a Three-Year Term Beginning April 1, 2025 and Ending March 31, 2028. Recommendation Received from ABC Commission to Appoint Corei Somerville (Statement of Interest Delivered to ABC Commission on March 6, 2025). Other Statements of Interest to Serve on the ABC Commission Received from Charlene Simes (received by Clerk to the Board on January 20, 2025) and Grady Strickland (received by Clerk to the Board on March 13, 2025)

On motion of Commissioner Hunt, seconded by Commissioner Baker, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the appointment of Corei Somerville to the ABC Commission for a first three-year term beginning April 1, 2025 and ending March 31, 2028 was approved.

8. BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' UPDATES

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

On motion of Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Hunt, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Board entered Closed Session.

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

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Baker, and duly carried by unanimous vote, Item 9A - Appointment of Tony Luke George as Tax Administrator at a Salary of \$95,000 with Two Years to Obtain Certification and a Start Date of May 1, 2025, Item 9B - Approval of Change to the Department Structure Making Finance Officer a Board of Commissioners Appointed Position with Supervision by County Manager, and Item 9C - Appointment of Charles Murray as Interim Finance Officer at a Salary of \$85 per hour Effective April 7, 2025, were added to the April 7, 2025 Agenda.

Item 9A - On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Baker, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the appointment of Tony Luke George as Tax Administrator at a salary of \$95,000 with two years to obtain certification and a start date of May 1, 2025 was approved.

Item 9B - On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Cooper, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the change in departmental structure making Finance Officer a Board appointed position under supervision by County Manager was approved.

Item 9C - On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Cooper, and duly carried by unanimous vote, Charles Murray was appointed as Interim Finance Officer at a salary of \$85 per hour effective immediately.

10. ADJOURN April 7, 2025 BOARD MEETING

On motion of Commissioner Cooper, seconded by Commissioner Hunt, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the April 7, 2025 Board of Commissioners Meeting was adjourned.

Paula Pulley, Clerk to the Board