

NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF GREENE

The Greene County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, April 20, 2026, at 5:00 PM in the Greene County Operations Center. Present for the meeting: Chairman Bennie Heath, Vice-Chairman Jerry Jones, Commissioner Derek Burress, Commissioner Ray Johnson, Commissioner Robert Taylor, Jr., County Manager Kyle DeHaven, County Attorney Kevin MacQueen, and Deputy Clerk Aleigha Tingen.

A. Call to Order

Chairman Bennie Heath called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM, and asked Commissioner Derek Burress to give the Invocation and lead the Pledge to the Flag.

There were five Greene County staff and twenty-seven from the public in attendance.

B. Approval of Agenda

On a motion by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Vice-Chairman Jones, the Board voted unanimously to approve.

C. Public Information

1. Monthly Collection Report
2. Monthly Financial Report

D. Consent Agenda

On a motion by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Vice-Chairman Jones, the Board voted unanimously to approve.

1. 03/02/2026 Regular Meeting Minutes
2. 04/06/2026 Regular Meeting Minutes
3. Releases/Refunds

E. Board of Equalization and Review

Mrs. Stephanie Wiggins read out the Oath of Office for Greene County Board of Equalization and Review to the Board of Commissioners. Each Commissioner stated they understood what was read aloud to them. Mr. Chairman Heath asked the audience if there were any concerns involving this Oath, but there were no comments. Chairman Bennie Heath will recess the Board of Equalization and Review until May 04, 2026.

1. Recess Board of Commissioners and convene Board of Equalization and Review
2. Oath of Office and Agenda
3. Recess Board of Equalization and Review until May 4, 2026
4. Reconvene Board of Commissioners

F. Public Comments

No comments.

G. Presentation(s)

1. 2026 Governor's Volunteer Service Awards Recipients for Greene County; Sharon Harrison

Mrs. Sharon Harrison attended the meeting to recognize Samantha Gay, Virginia Thomas, Chester and Dorothy Harrison, and the Greene Central High School FFA team for their volunteer service. Samantha Gay was awarded the Governor's Medallion Award, one of 25 recipients statewide, and will be honored at the State Capitol on May 11, 2026. Virginia Thomas and Chester and Dorothy Harrison were recognized for their contributions to community service, including work with the Senior Center and local initiatives. The FFA team were also recognized for their contribution to the Greene County Animal Shelter, participation in the cleanliness of the shelter, as well as compassion for the animals awaiting adoption. The Board of Commissioners expressed gratitude to all honorees.

2. New Greene County Land Use Plan - Insight

Ashli Barefoot presented the update of Greene County's Comprehensive Land Use Plan, as required under North Carolina General Statutes (Chapter 160D). This plan will serve as a guiding framework for future growth, zoning decisions, and policy development throughout the county. The process commenced with a kickoff phase centered on comprehensive data collection, including staff meetings, site visits, and the assembly of detailed information such as GIS mapping, utility infrastructure, and development trends. A strong emphasis has been placed on community engagement, including the formation of a steering committee, interviews with key stakeholders—such as developers, farmers, and business leaders—public meetings, online surveys, and the development of a dedicated project website. Ms. Barefoot also expressed the importance of establishing actionable strategies, identifying potential funding sources, clearly assigning responsibilities, and maintaining consistent progress updates. The next steps in the process include finalizing the steering committee, scheduling upcoming meetings, completing data collection efforts, launching the project website, and developing outreach materials to support public engagement.

H. County Manager

1. Resolution Authorizing Participation of the Remnant Defendant Opioid Settlement Agreement

County Manager Kyle DeHaven requests approval of a resolution to authorize the County's participation in the Remnant Defendant Opioid Settlement Agreement and to continue serving as the lead entity for managing settlement funds over the next 18 years. On a motion by Vice-Chairman Jones and seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to approve.

2. NCACC Update on Property Tax Reform

Mr. DeHaven stated that the legislature is considering actions that could remove or limit certain authorities currently held by counties. He noted that the Association of County Commissioners has distributed a resolution requesting that counties' property tax authority not be modified. Mr. DeHaven explained that, if approved, Greene County would sign the resolution and forward it to state legislators and the Association to demonstrate support for maintaining current authority. He also expressed concern that even minor changes to county authority could establish a precedent for additional reductions in the future. Some commissioners favored local control; others noted statewide support for reform and its prevalence in other states.

On a motion by Vice-Chairman Jones and seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted 3 to 2 to approve. Commissioner Burress and Commissioner Johnson voted in opposition.

3. Resolution of Withdrawal from ECC Membership

Mr. DeHaven reported that the Eastern Carolina Council has recently experienced financial difficulties, as communicated through emails received by commissioners and staff. He explained that, over the past 10 years, the County has largely operated independently of the Council, except for Aging services, which are required through a federally funded third-party provider. He noted that, if the County withdraws, it would assume responsibility for its own Regional Planning Organization (RPO) coordination and economic development efforts. He further stated that the four counties currently partnered within the RPO are working collaboratively to maintain their relationship with the Department of Transportation (DOT), which provides funding and has expressed continued interest in supporting the partnership. He requests approval of the withdrawal of all things involving the Eastern Carolina Council, with the exception of Aging. Commissioner Burress conveyed his appreciation for their kindness; however, he does not believe it is feasible to proceed with the organization in its current state. On a motion by Vice-Chairman Jones and seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the withdrawal.

4. Planning Board Member Appointment

On behalf of the Planning Board, Mr DeHaven explained the three vacant spots on the board, due to terms ending. He states that there have been no applications submitted other than the reapplications of the three members whose terms were expiring; John Grant, Henry Lanier and Leslie Mooring. He expressed that Planning Director Brandon Sutton recommends the reappointments due to the experience these individuals have, and their great work with the board. On a motion by Vice-Chairman Jones and seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to approve.

I. County Attorney's Comments

No Comments.

J. Commissioners' Report and Recommendation

Chairman Heath gave his appreciation and praises to the workers of Ram Fest and

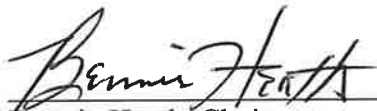
expressed his gratitude to the people of Greene County who attended the festival. He also mentioned his findings at the Board of Education meeting, that 15% of our students are EC children. That being said, he encourages the public to attend the Special Olympics that will be held on April 24th, 2026. Vice-Chairman Jones adds that he enjoys the new high schools set up for these future types of events/activities. Involving the Animal Shelter fund, Commissioner Burress asked for clarification on the authorization and process for handling received funds. Mr DeHaven and County Attorney MacQueen explained that through the Board's will, the Attorney would handle said funds, with specific instructions from the financial corporation handling the transaction.

K. Closed Session

1. Attorney-Client Privilege - To conduct a closed session pursuant to the provisions set forth in N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(3)

L. Adjourn

On a motion by Commissioner Taylor, Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.


Bennie Heath, Chairman

Attest:


Kyle J. DeHaven, Clerk to the Board



**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE REMNANT
DEFENDANT OPIOID SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

WHEREAS, the County of Greene has been involved in litigation and/or potential claims relating to the opioid epidemic; and

WHEREAS, a proposed nationwide settlement known as the Remnant Defendant Settlement Agreement (the "Agreement") has been negotiated to resolve claims against certain opioid-related defendants; and

WHEREAS, the Agreement provides for monetary payments and other relief to participating political subdivisions, with allocations determined pursuant to the Plan of Allocation set forth in Exhibit E of the Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Agreement contemplates participation by political subdivisions through execution of required participation documents and releases, and provides for the administration and distribution of settlement funds by a Notice and Claims Administrator (see § VI(B)(1)(d)); and

WHEREAS, participation in the Agreement is intended to secure funding for opioid remediation and related purposes for the benefit of the Subdivision and its residents;

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

1. ****Approval of Settlement Participation.****

The Subdivision hereby approves participation in the Remnant Defendant Settlement Agreement and elects to become a Participating Subdivision, subject to the terms and conditions set forth therein.

2. ****Authorization of Execution.****

The Chairman of the Greene County Board of Commissioners, Bennie Heath, is hereby authorized to execute all necessary documents required for participation in the Agreement, including any Participation Agreement, Release, or related certifications.

3. ****Acknowledgment of Allocation and Use of Funds.****

The Subdivision acknowledges that any settlement funds received will be allocated pursuant to Exhibit E and administered in accordance with the Agreement, including any applicable State-Subdivision Agreement governing distribution and use of funds (§ I(VV)).

4. ****Compliance with Terms.****

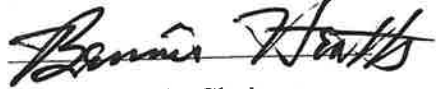
The Subdivision agrees to comply with all applicable terms of the Agreement, including requirements related to claims submission, release of claims, and use of funds for approved opioid remediation purposes.

5. ****Effective Date****

April 20th, 2026

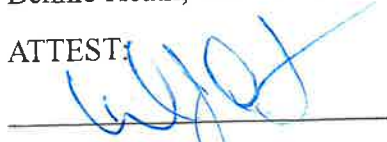
This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED this 20th day of April, 2026.



Bennie Heath, Chairman

ATTEST:



Kyle DeHaven, County Manager



Board of Commissioners
Bennie Heath – Chairman
Jerry Jones – Vice-Chair
Derek Burress
Ray Johnson
Robert (Bobby) Taylor, Jr.



GREENE COUNTY

County Manager
Kyle J. DeHaven

County Attorney
Kevin MacQueen

Finance Officer
Sandy Shirtz

A Resolution of the Greene County Board of Commissioners Opposing Modifications to County Property Tax Authority

WHEREAS, county governments are constitutionally and statutorily charged with providing essential public services, including, but not limited to, public safety, emergency response, education, infrastructure, public health, and social services; and

WHEREAS, property taxes constitute a primary, stable, and locally controlled source of revenue necessary to fund these essential county services and to meet both ongoing operational needs and long-term capital obligations; and

WHEREAS, the authority to levy, assess, and adjust property taxes allows county governments to respond responsibly to changing economic conditions, population growth, service demands, emergencies, and state or federal mandates; and

WHEREAS, counties follow transparent procedures prior to any tax changes by presenting annual budgets on a strict schedule, hosting open meetings for citizen input and questions, and submitting public bonds for voter consideration; and

WHEREAS, proposals to modify, limit, cap, freeze, or otherwise restrict county property tax authority — whether through constitutional amendment, statutory change, or administrative action — may reduce local flexibility, undermine fiscal stability, and shift costs to less stable revenue sources; and

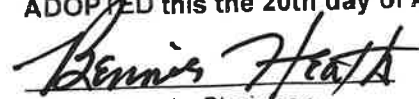
WHEREAS, such modifications may result in unintended consequences, including service reductions, delayed infrastructure investment, increased fees, and inequitable impacts on residents; and

WHEREAS, county governments are best positioned to balance fiscal responsibility with service delivery, accountability, and responsiveness to local needs through transparent budgeting and elected representation; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Greene County Board of Commissioners supports the current property tax authority in North Carolina, which enables counties to manage property tax rates within established statutory limits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Greene County Board of Commissioners formally opposes any constitutional amendment that would restrict, cap, reduce, or otherwise limit county property tax authority.

ADOPTED this the 20th day of April, 2025


Bennie Heath, Chairman

Attest:




Kyle DeHaven, County Manager

**RESOLUTION BY GREENE COUNTY
TO WITHDRAW ITS MEMBERSHIP FROM EASTERN CAROLINA COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENTS AND AUTHORIZING THE GREENE COUNTY MANAGER
TO SEND A NOTICE OF SUCH WITHDRAWAL**

WHEREAS, Greene County ("County") is an member of the Neuse River Council Of Governments d/b/a Eastern Carolina Council ("ECC") pursuant to the authority granted in Article 20, Part 2 of Chapter 160A of the North Carolina General Statutes; and

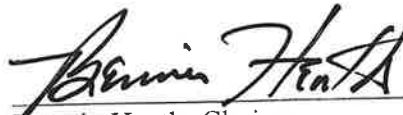
WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 160A-474 and Article II, Section 4. of the ECC's Amended and Restated Charter and Bylaws ("Bylaws"), any member may withdraw from ECC at the end of any fiscal year by giving at least 60 days' written notice to each of the other members; and

WHEREAS, the County now wishes to withdraw from membership in the ECC; and

WHEREAS, the Greene County Board of Commissioners wish to authorize the Greene County Manager to prepare and give notice of such withdrawal to the other members of ECC in accordance with applicable law and the Bylaws.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Greene County hereby approves the withdrawal of the County from membership in the ECC and authorizes the Greene County Manager to prepare, execute and send notice of such withdrawal to all other members of ECC in accordance N.C. Gen. Stat. § 160A-474 and Article II, Section 4. of the Bylaws and to sign any other relevant and necessary documents to effectuate such withdrawal.

Adopted this the 20th day of April, 2026.



Bennie Heath, Chairman
Greene County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Kyle DeHaven, Clerk to the Board

SEAL

