

NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF GREENE

The Greene County Board of Commissioners met for a Special Budget Retreat Meeting on Monday, February 17, 2025, at 9 a.m. in the Longleaf Pine Conference Room at the Greene County Complex, 229 Kingold Blvd, Snow Hill, NC. Present for the meeting: Chairman Bennie Heath, Vice-Chair Jerry Jones, Commissioners Derek Burress, Ray Johnson, and Bobby Taylor. County Manager Kyle DeHaven, County Attorney Gay Stanley, and Deputy Clerk Kathy Mooring.

A. Call to Order

Chairman Bennie Heath called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM, and gave the Invocation.

There were eight Greene County staff and no one in attendance from the public.

B. Approval of Agenda

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

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

D. Presentations

1. Ram Fest Update

Mr. Trey Cash gave the Ram Fest Update. The festival is May 10th, 2025 and the staff has been working hard preparing for it. They are looking for more sponsors for the event. Worth Products is the Grand Sponsor, they have donated \$1,500 dollars. We are in need of volunteers to work the festival. Almost 300 letters went out this past week to local churches, shops, and businesses, letting them know about the festival and the need for vendors. The County Manager and staff working to provide staff with comp-time for volunteering at the festival.

2. Update from Emergency Services

Brock Kearney gave an update on the Resolution approved by the Board of Commissioners on May 6, 2024 that encourages our Volunteer Fire Departments that have not achieved an insurance rating of 6/9e or lower using the Alternative Water Supply method to formally request an insurance rating inspection from the North Carolina Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) by June 1, 2025 and they expect all volunteer fire departments in Greene County to achieve an insurance rating of 6/9e or lower by the Alternative Water Supply method by December 1, 2026. We have two remaining departments out of eleven that have not met this requirement. Hookerton Fire Department has obtained the required rating; however, it does not currently utilize the Alternative Water Supply method. Following discussions with our NC OSFM insurance rating inspector, we have confirmed that Hookerton Fire Department is scheduled for a re-rating in 2026.

Jason Fire Department has never undergone an ISO Public Protection Classification evaluation. Our office has been in communication with Chief Hilbourn, who is actively preparing the necessary paperwork to request an inspection. Our local OSFM rating inspector has confirmed that priority will be given to departments that have never been rated, and they will work Jason Fire Department into their schedule accordingly.

Mr. DeHaven asked what will happen if these fire departments do not meet these requirements in the time allowed? Mr. Kearney stated the County can step in to contract with other departments to cover the areas. Commissioner Johnson said he would like to look at these contracts to make sure the contracts are updated if needed and Commissioners Heath and Jones agreed.

Andrew Harrison gave an update of the Road Signs. In 2024, there was a total of 154 road signs replaced. The total missing signs as of January 31st was 36. Road signs were ordered on January 17th, 2025, with a turnaround time of 6 weeks. The cost to replace road signs is approximately \$107.72 each.

What is being done: A new inventory sheet has been created and implemented. Implementing a program that the county already uses to help keep track of road signs as they are being replaced. Ideally, this will help us identify the road signs that are replaced more frequently and develop a better plan to mitigate the issue.

The Procedure: Road signs are reported missing or surveyed once a month for missing signs. Inventory is checked for needed missing road signs; if not in stock, they are ordered. When everything is available, the road sign is replaced promptly.

3. Update on new Greene Central
Greene County Schools Superintendent Dr. Frank Creech and Scott Adams, Project Superintendent Of Barnhill gave a very informative update on the New Greene Central High School. The project is moving along and is on schedule.
4. Decade in Review...The Work Continues
Chairman Heath stated he is proud, happy, and pleased with the progress the county has made in the last decade. Mr. DeHaven went over all the accomplishments the county has made. He stated the staff has worked hard to overcome some hard times and have seen pay studies done, pay increases implemented, county fleet replaced and put on a eight year replacement cycle, buildings remodeled, new buildings built, to name a few of the accomplishments. Mr. DeHaven stated overall the county is in good financial shape and he is proud of all that has been accomplished.
5. Property Tax Review and Forecast
Ms. Stephanie Wiggins provided a Tax Review and forecast for the future.

E. County Manager

Mr. DeHaven stated he feels it is time to have another pay study done. He said the departments that have the biggest turnaround of staff need to be looked at to keep us competitive with surrounding counties. He also stated that a lot of the work that has been

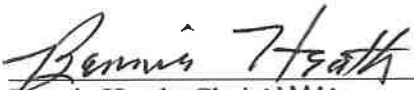
done to county buildings has been done with grant funds. He believes in using other money to pay for these projects, than using county money and county tax dollars.

F. Commissioners' Report and Recommendation

Commissioner Burress stated he would like to see another pay study done. Chairman Heath stated he would like to keep an EMS4 on the radar.

G. Adjourn

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


Bennie Heath, Chairman

Attest:




Kyle J. DeHaven, Clerk to the Board