State of North Carolina

Minutes

County of Madison

The Madison County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Tuesday, August 25, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Madison County Courthouse Temporary Facility located at 232 Carolina Lane, Marshall, North Carolina.

In attendance were Chairman Michael Garrison, Vice-Chairman Jeremy Hensley, Commissioner Matt Wechtel, Commissioner Alan Wyatt, Commissioner Bill Briggs, County Manager Rod Honeycutt, and Clerk Mandy Bradley. County Attorney Donny Laws was not in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Garrison.

Item 1: Health Department Operational Update

County Manager Rod Honeycutt provided an operational update regarding the Health Department. Information discussed included operational information including the transition of the Health Director. Vice-Chairman Hensley discussed upcoming interviews for the position and Kary Ledford, Finance Officer, provided financial information, with additional discussion being had by members of the Board and County Manager Honeycutt.

Item 2: Proposed Amendment to FY2026-2027 Forest Service Agreement

County Manager Honeycutt discussed current and previous allocations included in FY2026-2027 as well as previous years' Forest Service Agreements. Bo Dossett, Madison County Ranger with the North Carolina Forest Service provided information regarding a proposed amendment to the FY2026-2027 Forest Service Agreement to increase funding the Smokechaser position. The history of the position and request for increase funding from an eight (8) month position to an eleven (11) month position due to difficulty filling the vacancy was discussed by Ranger Dossett who noted that the increasing the duration of the position would cost between $8,000.00-$11,000.00.

Discussion was had by members of the Board, Ranger Dossett, and County Manager Honeycutt with Finance Officer Kary Ledford providing financial information specific to the request.

Upon motion by Commissioner Wyatt and second by Vice-Chairman Hensley with discussion being had, the Board voted unanimously that we do a budget amendment for this.

Item 3: North Carolina Cooperative Extension-Madison County Center Employee Bonus Request

County Manager Honeycutt presented a request from North Carolina Cooperative Extension-Madison County Center Director Elizabeth Ayers for consideration of a one-time employee bonus for state employees of the Madison County Center whose salaries are provided for in conjunction with both state and county funds with Manager Honeycutt noting that if approved, the request would provide all state employees of the Center a one-time bonus of $875 with the exception of the Director who would receive $500, and the one (1) county employee position would receive no bonus.

Additionally, Manager Honeycutt discussed his recommendation for consideration of the bonus to be capped at $400 for all employees of the Center including the county employee position. Discussion was had by the Board and County Manager Honeycutt regarding the funding source of the proposed salary bonuses and the potential for future bonuses for county employees, with additional information being provided by Finance Officer Kary Ledford regarding the existing County longevity bonus for employees, clarification of county employees vs. state employees whose salaries are supplemented by the County, and existing MOU with the Madison County Center for budgetary allocations specific to those employees. Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Hensley and second by Commissioner Wyatt, the Board voted unanimously that we go ahead and do this.

Agenda Item 4: Land of Sky Disaster Recovery Coordination Project Update

County Manager Honeycutt provided information to the Board as well as answered questions regarding the Land of Sky Disaster Recovery Coordination Project, noting that it includes a reimbursement grant as a result of Hurricane Helene for an employee to assist the County with economic development and grant writing and that a proposed Memorandum of Agreement would be presented for future consideration of the Board.

Agenda Item 5: Jail Pod Renovation Construction Bids and Project Scoping

Bids received in response to the request for proposal previously issued for jail pod renovations as well as scoping for the project were discussed by County Manager Honeycutt.

Information provided included specifications for the two (2) bids that were received, total bid amount, available funding, and components of the project including pod restoration, interior painting, and sewer grate installation with Manager Honeycutt noting cost savings options for painting and sewer repair to meet budgetary allocations.

Discussion was had by members of the Board and County Manager Honeycutt.

Item 7: Adjournment

Upon motion by Commissioner Briggs and second by Commissioner Wechtel, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:07 p.m.

This the 25th day of August 2026.

MADISON COUNTY

Michael Garrison, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Mandy Bradley, Clerk