State of North Carolina

Minutes

County of Madison

The Madison County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. at the Admin Conference Room located at 140 Elizabeth Lane, Marshall, North Carolina.

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

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chairman Garrison.

Item 1: FY 2026-2027 Budget Discussion

County Manager Honeycutt discussed information for the FY 2026-2027 budget and items in consideration of such.

Chelsie Lewis Rice, 9-1-1 Director, presented and discussed proposed budgetary items and requests with the Board on behalf of the 9-1-1 Department as well as answered questions from Board members. Discussion regarding the 9-1-1 Department's proposed budget was had by the Board, Ms. Lewis Rice, and County Manager Honeycutt.

Patrick Ward, Emergency Management Officer, presented and discussed proposed budgetary items and requests with the Board on behalf of the Emergency Management Department as well as answered questions from Board members. Discussion regarding the Emergency Management Department's proposed budget was had by the Board, Mr. Ward, and County Manager Honeycutt.

On behalf of Finance, County Manager, and Human Resources Departments, County Manager Honeycutt presented and discussed with the Board proposed budgetary items and requests pertinent to their lines including potential considerations for updating provisions within the County's Human Resources Policy that would affect the budget. Discussion was had by the Board, County Manager Honeycutt, Finance Officer Kary Ledford.

Information regarding compensatory accruals was provided by Ms. Ledford and discussion was had regarding accrual liability as well as the status of County Advisory Board compensation.

County Manager Honeycutt presented and discussed the proposed budgetary request submitted by A-B Technical Community College as well as discussed funds which could be provided from Article 44 in consideration of such request. Information regarding previous allocations of Article 44 funds was provided by County Manager Honeycutt and Ms. Ledford with County Manager Honeycutt also providing a projected amount of $1,700,000.00 in Article 44 funds to be collected, along with his recommendation for disbursement of funds moving forward. Discussion was had by the Board, County Manager Honeycutt, and Ms. Ledford.

County Manager Honeycutt requested consideration of the Board to approve that Article 44 funds be distributed as $825,000.00 to the school, $175,000.00 to A-B Tech for the first $1,000,000.00, and the rest be deposited into the Economic Development fund. Upon motion by Commissioner Wechtel and second by Vice-Chairman Hensley, the Board voted unanimously to approve.

Additional information in consideration of the budget was provided by County Manager Honeycutt regarding a proposed minimum wage for employee compensation, future budget meetings, capital improvement plan, operational expenses, and funding sources.

Discussion was had by the Board, County Manager Honeycutt, and Human Resources Director Brandi Rice.

Item 2: Adjournment

Upon motion by Commissioner Briggs and second by Commissioner Wechtel, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 4:58 p.m.

This the 6th day of May 2026.

MADISON COUNTY

Michael Garrison, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Mandy Bradley, Clerk