

The Madison County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at the Admin Conference Room located at 140 Elizabeth Lane, Marshall, North Carolina.

In attendance were Chairman Matt Wechtel, Vice-Chairman Jeremy Hensley, Commissioner Michael Garrison, 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 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Wechtel.

**Item 1: FY 2025-2026 Budget Discussion**

County Manager Rod Honeycutt discussed the proposed FY2025-2026 budget. Information presented included budgetary facts and assumptions, current budgetary components versus proposed budgetary components, projections for consideration of the budget, and recommendations.

April Plemmons, Tax Administrator presented and discussed proposed budgetary items and requests with the Board on behalf of the Tax Office as well as answered questions from Board members. Discussion regarding the Tax Office's proposed budget was had by the Board, Ms. Plemmons, and County Manager Honeycutt.

Mary Jane Wallin, Register of Deeds presented and discussed proposed budgetary items and requests with the Board on behalf of the Register of Deeds Office as well as answered questions from Board members. Discussion regarding the Register of Deeds proposed budget was had by the Board, Ms. Wallin, Finance Officer Kary Ledford, and County Manager Honeycutt.

Sam Lunsford, Solid Waste Director presented and discussed proposed budgetary items and requests with the Board on behalf of the Solid Waste Department as well as answered questions from Board members. Discussion regarding the Solid Waste proposed budget was had by the Board, Mr. Lunsford, Finance Officer Ledford, and County Manager Honeycutt.

Vice-Chairman Hensley exited the meeting at 10:54 a.m.

Jess Hocx, Soil and Water Conservation Director discussed the waterway debris removal project currently underway in the County due to the Hurricane Helene event.

Vice-Chairman Hensley returned to the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

Commissioner Wyatt exited the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

Discussion was had by the Board and Ms. Hocx who also answered questions from Board members.

Commissioner Wyatt returned to the meeting at 10:58 a.m.

Ms. Hocx presented and discussed proposed budgetary items, requests, and programming with the Board on behalf of the Soil and Water Conservation as well as answered questions from Board members. Discussion regarding the Soil and Water Conservation proposed budget was had by the Board, Ms. Hocx, and County Manager Honeycutt.

Jacob Ray, Board of Elections Director presented and discussed proposed budgetary items and requests with the Board on behalf of the Board of Elections as well as answered questions from Board members. Discussion regarding the Board of Elections proposed budget was had by the Board, Mr. Ray, and County Manager Rod Honeycutt. Board of Elections Secretary Dyatt Smathers addressed the Board on behalf of the Board of Elections regarding budgetary considerations that could potentially be mandated by the State.

Commissioner Briggs exited the meeting at 11:26 a.m.

Brittany Hamlin, Child Support Director presented and discussed proposed budgetary items and requests with the Board on behalf of Child Support.

Commissioner Briggs returned to the meeting at 11:33 a.m.

Discussion regarding the Child Support proposed budget was had by the Board, Ms. Hamlin, and County Manager Honeycutt.

At 11:34 a.m., upon motion by Commissioner Garrison and second by Vice-Chairman Hensley, the Board voted unanimously to recess until 1:00 p.m.

Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Hensley and second by Commissioner Garrison, the Board voted unanimously to return from recess at 1:01 p.m.

Brad Guth, Development Services Director presented and discussed proposed budgetary items and requests with the Board on behalf of the departments contained in the Development Services Department including Planning and Zoning, Inspections and Permitting, and Economic Development as well as answered questions from Board members. Discussion regarding the Development Services proposed budget was had by the Board, Mr. Guth, and County Manager Honeycutt.

Tammy Cody, Health Director presented and discussed proposed budgetary items and requests with the Board on behalf of the Health Department as well as answered questions from Board members. Discussion regarding the Health Department's proposed budget was had by the Board, Ms. Cody, and County Manager Honeycutt.

Buddy Harwood, Sheriff; and Darlyne Rhinehart, Sheriff's Office Accounting Specialist presented and discussed proposed budgetary items and requests with the Board on behalf of the Sheriff's Office as well as answered questions from Board members. Discussion regarding the Sheriff's Office proposed budget was had by the Board, Sheriff Harwood, Mr. Rhinehart, and County Manager Honeycutt.

Kim Bellofatto, Library Director presented and discussed proposed budgetary items and requests and requests with the Board on behalf of the Library System.

Commissioner Garrison exited the meeting at 2:34 p.m.

Ms. Bellofatto discussed library services and operations with the Board.

Commissioner Garrison returned to the meeting at 2:38 p.m.

Ms. Bellofatto answered questions from members of the Board and discussion regarding library services was had.

Commissioner Wyatt exited the meeting at 2:41 p.m.

Discussion regarding the Library's proposed budget was had by the Board, Ms. Bellofatto, and County Manager Honeycutt.

Commissioner Wyatt returned to the meeting at 2:42 p.m.

Jesse Roberts, Maintenance Director presented and discussed proposed budgetary items and requests with the Board on behalf of the Maintenance Department.

Vice-Chairman Hensley exited the meeting at 2:46 p.m.

Vice-Chairman Hensley returned to the meeting at 2:46 p.m.

Mr. Roberts answered questions from Board members. Discussion regarding the proposed budget for the Maintenance Department was had by the Board, Mr. Roberts, Human Resources Director Brandi Rice, and County Manager Rod Honeycutt.

Connie Harris, Department of Social Services Director presented and discussed proposed budgetary items and requests with the Board on behalf of the Department of Social Services.

Chairman Wechtel exited the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Additional information regarding budgetary requests for the Department of Social Services was provided by Ms. Harris.

Chairman Wechtel returned to the meeting at 3:17 p.m.

Ms. Harris answered questions from Board members and discussion regarding the Department of Social Services proposed budget was had by the Board, Ms. Harris, and County Manager Honeycutt.

Elizabeth Ayers, Cooperative Extension Director presented and discussed proposed budgetary items and requests with the Board on behalf of Cooperative Extension as well as answered questions from Board members. Discussion regarding the proposed budget for Cooperative Extension was had by the Board, Ms. Ayers, Finance Officer Ledford, and County Manager Honeycutt.

Jaime Lunsford, Information Technology (IT) Director presented and discussed proposed budgetary items and requests with the Board on behalf of the IT Department as well as answered questions from Board members. Discussion regarding the proposed budget for the IT Department was had by the Board, Mr. Lunsford, Finance Officer Ledford, and County Manager Rod Honeycutt.

Commissioner Briggs exited the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Chris Maney, Parks and Recreation Director presented and discussed proposed budgetary items and requests with the Board on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Commissioner Briggs returned to the meeting at 4:14 p.m.

Mr. Maney answered questions from Board members and discussion regarding the Parks and Recreation proposed budget was had by the Board, Mr. Maney, Finance Officer Ledford, and County Manager Honeycutt.

County Manager Honeycutt discussed additional budgetary lines including the Medical Examiner, bank charges, Clerk of Court, fund transfer, Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, and governing body. Discussion was had by the Board, Finance Director Ledford, and County Manager Honeycutt regarding budgetary line items.

**Item 2: County Facilities Update and Discussion**

No discussion or action taken on behalf of the Board.

**Item 3: Personnel**

Upon motion by Commissioner Garrison and second by Commissioner Wyatt, the Board voted unanimously to enter into closed session for personnel pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(6) at 4:44 p.m.

Upon motion by Commissioner Garrison and second by Commissioner Briggs, the Board voted unanimously to come out of closed session into open session at 4:57 p.m.

**Item 4: Adjournment**


Upon motion by Commissioner Briggs and second by Commissioner Garrison, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 4:57 p.m.

This the 29th day of April 2025.

ATTEST:

  
Mandy Bradley, Clerk

MADISON COUNTY

  
Matt Wechtel, Chairman  
Board of Commissioners