

The Hoke County Board of Commissioners convened for a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday March 02, 2026 in the Commissioners Room of the Pratt Building.

PRESENT:

Chairman James Leach
Vice Chairman Harry Southerland
Commissioner Tony Hunt
Commissioner Allen Thomas, Jr.
Commissioner Mary Blue McCollum

ALSO PRESENT:

County Manager Letitia J. Edens
County Attorney Grady Hunt
Clerk to the Board Shanetta Smith

ABSENT:

Chairman James Leach called the meeting to order and determined that a quorum was present. Commissioner Allen Thomas led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Mrs. Verlana Green led the Invocation.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Hoke County
Board of Commissioners

227 N. Main Street
Raeford, North Carolina
28376



March 02, 2026
7:00 P.M.

Commissioner's Room
Pratt Building

A G E N D A

PLEDGE & INVOCATION: Commissioner Tony Hunt

ITEM

- 1. Adoption of Agenda**
- 2. Public Comment**
- 3. Consent Agenda**
 - a. Acceptance of the FY25 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant
 - b. Approval of Board of Commissioners Emergency Meeting Minutes January 30, 2026
 - c. Approval of Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes February 16, 2026
 - d. Reimbursement Resolution for Projects
 - e. Approval of Release and Refund of Solid Waste Fee
 - f. Finance: Budget Amendments
- 4. Hoke County ABC Board Reappointment - Mike Summers**
 - a. Mr. Cleo Bratcher, Jr.
- 5. Message from NCACC President Wallace Nelson Regarding Upcoming NCACC District Meetings**
- 6. Hoke County Board of Education School Budget Amendment - Superintendent Dr. Kenneth Spells**
- 7. Department of Social Services Matters - Terry Stanton, Director**
 - a. R&R Protective Services Security Contract
 - b. Fire Fee Waiver
- 8. Manager's Report**
- 9. Chairman's Report**
- 10. Adjourn**

Motion: Upon motion made by Vice Chairman Southerland and second by Commissioner McCollum, the Board unanimously approved the agenda as presented.

2. Public Comment

Timothy Monroe and Earl McLean addressed the Board regarding Safe Journey Solutions, LLC, a non-emergency medical transportation company located in Hoke County. Mr. Monroe stated the company provides transportation services for medical patients, including wheelchair and gurney transport, and requested assistance in partnering with the Department of Social Services to provide services within the county.


Kathy Leandro addressed the Board regarding concerns related to the Hoke County Animal Shelter. Ms. Leandro requested an update on the previously discussed shelter project and emphasized the need for improvements due to the increasing number of abandoned animals in the county.

3. Consent Agenda

- a. Acceptance of the FY25 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant

From: Charles "Andrew" Jacobs
To: Shanetta Smith
Subject: FW: campear mentioned you in a post
Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 10:05:08 AM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png

Please add to next agenda for BOC consideration, once they provide me with the actual document I will forward it.



C. Andrew Jacobs II, MPA, CEM, FM
Deputy Director
Hoke County Emergency Services
Office 910-875-4126
Mobile 910-585-0808
Email cjacobs@hokecounty.org
375 CC Steele Rd., Raeford, NC 28376

From: North Carolina Emergency Management <ncemsalesforce@ncdps.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 9:59 AM
To: Charles "Andrew" Jacobs <cjacobs@hokecounty.org>
Subject: campear mentioned you in a post

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App-0001001 — campear (Employee)

[@cjacobs](#) (Customer) [@danielwood](#) (Customer)
Congratulations! North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) is pleased to inform you that this application submitted by your organization for the FY25

HMEP Grant has been approved for \$12,500. See budget line 2337 for approved amount. In accordance with the provisions of the FY25 HMEP Notice of Funding, you are awarded these funds to complete the approved project during the designated period of performance of 10/1/2025 to 10/31/2026. You will indicate your acceptance (or declination) of this award and designate the signatories for your subsequent MOA/grant agreement by completing the appropriate fields in Salesforce. See attached instructions for how to accept an award in Salesforce.

Thank you,

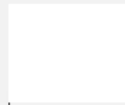
Cameron Pearsall [[@Cameron Pearsall](#)]

cc [@Derek Dorazio](#) [@Jessica Krajewski](#) [@Cole Owen](#)



[Mentions](#) or reply to this email

You're receiving emails when someone "Mentions me in a post."
To change or turn off Grant Portal New email, [log in](#) as cjacobs@hokecounty.org.
Mailing Address: 4201 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-4201 919-710-8885



- b. Approval of Board of Commissioners Emergency Meeting Minutes January 30, 2026

The official minutes of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners Emergency Meeting held on January 30, 2026 is on file in the Office of the Clerk to the Board and available on the County's official website.

- c. Approval of Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes February 16, 2026

The official minutes of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting held on February 16, 2026 is on file in the Office of the Clerk to the Board and available on the County's official website.

- d. Reimbursement Resolution for Projects

James Leach
Chairman

Harry Southerland
Vice Chairman

Tony Hunt
Commissioner

Allen Thomas, Jr.
Commissioner



Mary Blue McCollum
Commissioner

Grady Hunt
County Attorney

Letitia Edens
County Manager

Shanetta Smith
Clerk to the Board

Reimbursement Resolution for Hoke County -- authorizing the County to reimburse itself for early Project expenditures from later financing proceeds

Introduction --

The County is undertaking or considering several major capital projects, including those described below. In order to preserve flexibility and financing options, the Manager and the Finance Officer have advised the Board that the Board should adopt this resolution to preserve the County's option to pay initial project costs, and then reimburse itself from financing proceeds for some or all of these early expenditures. This resolution is required to comply with certain federal tax rules relating to reimbursement from financing proceeds.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Hoke County, North Carolina, as follows:

1. The Projects are:
 - a. A County Administrative Building, including all related costs. The expected maximum amount of financing for the Administrative Building (including allowances for reserves and financing costs) is currently estimated as approximately \$22,000,000.
 - b. A County Courthouse, including all related costs. The expected maximum amount of financing for the Courthouse (including allowances for reserves and financing costs) is currently estimated as approximately \$12,000,000. This amount represents the County's estimated share of the total project cost.

c. Capital improvements and renovations of the High School, including all related costs. The expected maximum amount of financing for the High School (including allowances for reserves and financing costs) is currently estimated as approximately \$28,000,000. This amount represents the County's estimated share of the total project cost.

d. A new elementary or middle school, including all related costs. The expected maximum amount of financing for the new school (including allowances for reserves and financing costs) is currently estimated as approximately \$70,000,000. This project includes approximately \$4,000,000 in reimbursable spending for land acquisition. The County hopes to receive a grant to fund the majority of this project.

2. The expected primary type of financing for all of the projects (which is subject to change) is installment financing under Section 160A-20. The County intends to advance funds for initial Project costs, and then reimburse itself from financing proceeds for some or all of these early expenditures. The County expects that these expenditures will include payments for land acquisition as well as architectural, engineering, and construction costs. The final amount borrowed will depend on land acquisition costs, project design and selection, the results of the construction bidding process and financial market conditions at the time of the financing. The County expects to advance for reimbursement only a portion of the total costs.

3. Funds for the early Project expenditures may come from the County's General Fund or any other appropriate County fund.

4. The County intends for the adoption of this resolution to be a declaration of the County's official intent to reimburse itself from financing proceeds for Project cost expenditures. This resolution, however, does not obligate the County to borrow any money for any component of any of the Projects. Rather, the purpose of this resolution is to allow the recovery of expended funds if the County elects to finance any portion of these projects.

I certify as follows: that the foregoing resolution was properly adopted at a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Hoke County, North Carolina; that this meeting was properly called and held on _____, 2026; that a quorum was

present and acting throughout this meeting; and that this resolution has not been modified or amended, and remains in full effect as of today.

Dated this 2nd day of March, 2026.



[SEAL]

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James A. Leach". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

James A. Leach
Chairman, Board of Commissioners
Hoke County, North Carolina

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shanetta Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Shanetta Smith
Clerk, Board of Commissioners
Hoke County, North Carolina

- e. Approval of Release and Refund of Solid Waste Fee

**HOKE COUNTY TAX
ADMINISTRATION**

Memo

DATE: March 2, 2026

TO : Hoke County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Daphne Graham-Dudley
Hoke County Tax Administrator

RE: Approval Release and Refund of Solid Waste Fee

Attached you will find documentation from the water department that in 2019, the water service to 1 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was stopped. The owners, Mrs. Helen and Stephanie Monroe states that the home was not habitable at the time. As of today, the home is in very bad shape. The solid waste fee has been charged to the property each year. I am asking that the fee be released for the following:

Tax year 2020 -\$128

Tax year 2021-2025- \$130 each year.

There is a bill due in the amount of \$170.78, which would leave a refund of \$607.22 to the taxpayer.

Respectfully,

Daphne Graham-Dudley
Tax Administrator

f. Finance: Budget Amendments

AMENDMENT TO THE HOKE COUNTY BUDGET ORDINANCE
 2025/2026
 Amendment

Section 1 of the Hoke County Budget Ordinance, pertaining to the General Fund operations of the County, shall be amended as follows:

Increase/(Decrease) Appropriations:

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| Cooperative Extension | (6,500) |
| 4-H | 6,500 |
| Emergency Services | (12,000) |
| Emergency Services | 12,000 |
| Non-Departmental | (15,000) |
| Medical Examiner | 15,000 |
| Court Facilities | (22,000) |
| Court Facilities | 22,000 |
| Veteran Services Expenditure | 20,000 |
| Total | \$ 20,000 |


Section 2 of the Hoke County Budget Ordinance, pertaining to the General Fund operations of the County, shall be amended as follows:

Increase/(Decrease) Revenues:

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Veteran Service Revenue | 20,000 |
| Total | \$ 20,000 |

- Reason: To transfer 4-H budget \$6,500 out of cooperative extension into a new 4-H organization code within the general fund
- Funding Source: No new money
- Reason: To prevent overspending in P. card supplies in Emergency Services, transfer budget amount from fuel line item.
- Funding Source: No new money
- Reason: To prevent overspending in medical examiner line item, transferring funds from non-departmental non-capital to medical examiner.
- Funding Source: No new money
- Reason: To transfer funds into rental from court facilities line items to cover rental of a facility for the court system.
- Funding Source: No new money
- Reason: To set-up new budget for Veteran Service Grant in the amount of \$20,000.
- Funding Source: Grant Funds

Submitted: 03-02-2026

Respectfully Submitted by:

 Assistant Finance Director

Approved by:

 County Manager



Motion: Upon motion made by Commissioner Hunt and second by Vice Chairman Southerland, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda (Items A-F).

Note:

Commissioner Thomas requested clarification regarding several budget amendments included in a previous consent agenda. Ko Tang Cha-Moses, Finance Director, explained that the amendments consisted primarily of transfers between line items within the General Fund for departments including Cooperative Extension, Emergency Services, the Medical Examiner, and Court Facilities. Staff also noted that a Veterans Services grant required a corresponding increase in expenditures for that department.

Additional clarification was provided regarding MetroNet services. County Manager Edens explained that MetroNet provides fiber internet service supporting the county's security infrastructure, including cameras and access systems located throughout county buildings.

4. Hoke County ABC Board Reappointment - Mike Summers

- a. Mr. Cleo Bratcher, Jr.

From: msummers@hokeabc.com
To: Shanetta_Smith
Cc: msummers@hokeabc.com
Subject: Hoke Co. ABC Board--Reappointment-Cleo Bratcher Jr.
Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 10:17:17 AM

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Good Morning Shanetta....

Mr. Cleo Bratcher Jr. has agreed to serve another 3 year term on the ABC Board if reappointed. If you would let us know when this could be put on the agenda it would greatly be appreciated.

Thanks

Mike Summers
General Manager
Hoke County ABC
910-875-2020
Cell-910-850-2663
msummers@hokeabc.com

Commissioner Thomas recognized Mr. Bratcher for his many years of public service to Hoke County, including eighteen years serving on the Board of Commissioners.

Motion: Upon motion made by Commissioner Hunt and second by Vice Chairman Southerland, the Board unanimously approved the reappointment of Cleo Bratcher, Jr. to the Hoke County ABC Board.

5. Message from NCACC President Wallace Nelson Regarding Upcoming NCACC District Meetings

The Board viewed a video presentation from the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners regarding upcoming district meetings and legislative priorities affecting counties.

Commissioner Thomas informed the Board of potential federal funding changes that may affect SNAP reimbursement rates and county budgets. Commissioners discussed the possible financial impact on county services if federal reimbursement rates are reduced.

Commissioner Thomas also recognized Commissioner Mary Blue McCollum for her service as a District Director representing the region on the Board of Directors for the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners.

Chairman Leach recognized Commissioner Thomas for his upcoming role as President of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and noted that the appointment represents a significant milestone for Hoke County as he will represent counties across the State of North Carolina.

6. Hoke County Board of Education School Budget Amendment - Superintendent Dr. Kenneth Spells

Dr. Kenneth Spells, Superintendent of Hoke County Schools, appeared before the Board requesting approval to reallocate \$16,000 in savings from previously approved capital outlay projects toward renovations at the high school restroom facilities.

Motion: Upon motion made by Commissioner Hunt and second by Commissioner Thomas, the Board unanimously approved the request.

7. Department of Social Services Matters - Terry Stanton, Director (presented by Tammy Brewer)

- a. R&R Protective Services Security Contract



R&R PROTECTIVE SERVICES

636 Prospect Road P.O. Box 68 Pembroke, NC 28372/910-522-2156

CONTRACT

Contract #: **R&R #02/09/2026**

This Contract, made on February 9, 2026 between R&R Protective Services, a Private Security Company having its principal place of business at 636 Prospect Road Pembroke, NC 28372, hereinafter called (R&R) and Hoke County Department of Social Services having its principal place of business at 314 S. Magnolia Street Raeford, NC 28376, hereinafter called (Client).

Duration for security:

Start date: TBD and as needed or directed by Client. Contract termination date: June 30, 2026. Contract may be terminated by either party with thirty (30) days written notice. Initial Services will be provided from Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm. (8 hours daily) 40 Hours per Week. Hours can be adjusted to fit the needs of the client. Schedule may be adjusted by mutual agreement of both parties.

Insurance:

R&R carries and maintains insurance written by an authorized and compliant licensed insurance carrier, specifically as applicable by law of the following:

- Workers Compensation
- General Liability Insurance
- Automobile Insurance

All policies and certificates may be provided to the client for their review upon request.

Description of work:

Provide Armed Security services at designated site.

Security Officers will/be:

- Trained and certified by the State of NC Private Protective Services Board.
- Have Extensive experience and training in controlling ingress to facilities to include use of wand and walk through metal detectors and baggage checks.
- Present and alert at site to ensure the maximum protection of property and life in an efficient and professional manner.
- Uniformed at all times while performing duties at site in accordance with The Private Protective Services Board of NC. Officers will be uniformed at no cost to client.
- Will not leave assigned post at any time during scheduled shifts, unless specifically authorized by client.

R&R PROTECTIVE SERVICES

636 Prospect Road P.O. Box 68 Pembroke, NC 28372/910-522-2156

R&R will provide needed Security Officer at the following cost:

Armed Officer:

\$21.00 per hour/per officer

- R&R charges time and a half for the following Holidays: New Year's Day, July 4th, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

We will provide services as requested by Hoke County Department of Social Services. This contract constitutes the entire understanding between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all negotiations.

IN WITNESS WHERE OF, the parties have signed and agreed to the contract by their duly authorized representatives.

R&R PROTECTIVE SERVICES, LLC

HOKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT
OF SOCIAL SERVICES

[Signature] 2-27-2026
Sign/Date

Sign/Date

Owner / General Manager
Title

Title

Motion: Upon motion made by Commissioner Hunt and second by Commissioner Thomas, the Board unanimously approved the contract with R&R Protective Services.

- b. Fire Fee Waiver

TERRY STANTON
DIRECTOR

County of Hoke
Department of Social Services

P.O. Box 340
RAEFORD, NC 28376-0340


TELEPHONE
(910) 875-8725

FAX
(910) 875-1068



February 24, 2026

To: Hoke County Board of Commissioners

From: Terry Stanton, Hoke DSS Director 

Subject: Request for Fee Waiver of Fire Inspection Fee for Foster Family Home Licensure

The Hoke County Department of Social Services and DSS Board is requesting consideration of a **fee waiver for the required fire inspection associated with the foster home licensure** process for our families in relative placements.

Prospective relative foster parents must complete all state-mandated steps to ensure their homes meet safety standards for children in care. The fire inspection is an essential part of this process, and we are fully committed to meeting all requirements. However, the increased cost of the inspection has presented a financial challenge for families during a period when they are already managing multiple expenses related to preparing their home for licensure; because foster families provide a vital service to children and to our community, the Hoke County Department of Social Services and the DSS board are requesting a waiver of the fee for this purpose.

We deeply appreciate the help to bridge the gap and create a more equitable process for families who are stepping forward to serve children in need.

DSS staff also appeared before the Board requesting consideration of waiving the fire inspection fee required for licensing foster homes. Staff explained that the fee had increased to \$200 and may create a financial burden for families providing kinship placements for children entering foster care. Staff further noted that the county currently has a limited number of licensed foster homes and that reducing barriers may help increase the number of available placements.

Commissioners discussed the difference between kinship placements and traditional foster placements and expressed support for assisting relatives who unexpectedly assume care for children. Commissioners also discussed the potential financial impact to the county if the fee were waived for all foster homes.

Motion: Upon motion made by Vice Chairman Southerland and second by Commissioner Thomas, the Board unanimously approved waiving the fire inspection fee for relative (kinship) placements.

Commissioners requested that staff provide additional information regarding the total number of licensed foster homes in the county before considering any further fee adjustments.

8. Manager's Report

County Manager Letitia Edens addressed the Board regarding preparation for the upcoming fiscal year budget. Ms. Edens stated that she recently met with department directors to begin the budget preparation process and advised that departments have been instructed to review current expenditures and prepare budget requests. She noted that departments are expected to submit their budget requests by April 13, 2026.

Mrs. Edens presented tentative dates for budget workshops and meetings to allow the Board adequate time to review departmental requests and financial projections. Proposed meeting dates included May 19 - 20, 2026, June 9 - 10, 2026, and June 16 - 17, 2026, with June 23, 2026 identified as a potential date for adoption of the county budget. A final clean-up session was proposed for June 26 or June 29, 2026, if necessary.

Mrs. Edens also advised the Board that staff is monitoring several factors that may impact the upcoming budget, including potential reductions in federal funding, changes in sales tax revenue projections, and rising operational costs across several departments. The County Manager further informed the Board that staff continues preparations for the groundbreaking of the county's first domestic violence shelter and will provide additional information regarding the project timeline once the date is finalized.

9. Chairman's Report

Chairman Leach had no comments at this time.

10. Adjourn

Motion: With there being no further business to come before the Hoke County Board of Commissioners, and upon motion made by Commissioner Hunt and second by Vice Chairman Southerland, the Board unanimously adjourned the meeting.

/JL/

/SS/
