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GASTON COUNTY

**Gaston County Board
of Commissioners**

COMMISSIONER'S COURT

NORTH CAROLINA

MAY 26, 2026

The Gaston County Board of Commissioners (BOC) met in Regular Session at 6:00 pm on May 26, 2026, in The Harley B. Gaston, Jr. Public Forum, Gaston County Courthouse.

Chairman Chad Brown presided with Commissioners Bob Hovis, Vice-Chairman; Jim Bailey, Allen R. Fraley, and Scott Shehan in attendance.

Commissioners Cathy Cloninger and Tom Keigher were not in attendance.

Others present included Matthew Rhoten, County Manager; David Goldberg, County Attorney; and Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the Board.

Upon request of Chairman Brown, Commissioner Hovis led those assembled in the Invocation and Miss Oliva Saunders, led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Preceding the Invocation, Vice-Chairman Hovis requested a Moment of Silence to recognize Coach Samuel Casey McMillen (Stuart W. Cramer High School Baseball Team, Belmont), Mr. Wil Neuman, former NC House Representative, and Mr. Kemp Arnold Michael, former Gaston County Board of Education member and Chairman.

Commissioner Fraley - Sheriff's Office - Retirement Commendation - To Award the Service Side Arm and Badge to Retired Deputy Tracy Lyles (Adopted under Consent Agenda)

Commissioner Fraley invited Deputy Lyles and his friends to the podium, read the Commendation and paid the \$1 required for Deputy Lyles firearm.

Deputy Lyles accepted and thanked his Lord Jesus Christ and Saviour, Sheriff's Office and staff and BOC for the Commendation.

Sheriff Chad Hawkins thanked Deputy Lyles for his service to the County and Country; thanked him for his 30-year friendship and commitment to the County.

Deputy Lyles acknowledged and thanked his wife, Julie.

Chairman Brown thanked Deputy Lyles for his service.

Commissioner Hovis - Communications - Proclamation - To Recognize June 19th as "Juneteenth" in Gaston County (Adopted under Consent Agenda)

Commissioner Hovis advised that Mrs. (Dr.) Dorothy Guthrie would be accepting the Proclamation on behalf of Ms. Tasha White; invited her to the podium and read the Proclamation.

Dr. Dorothy Guthrie accepted the Proclamation, thanked the Board of Commissioners, and congratulated Ms. Tasha White and the Juneteenth Festival Committee for their dedication and commitment. She noted the recognition honors a shared history, resilience, and continued progress.

COMMISSIONER'S COURT

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Public Hearing - RE: Commissioner Cloninger - Building & Development Services - Zoning Map Change: REZ-26-03-06-00243, Zachary Carpenter (Applicant); Property Parcels: 169984 & 312523, Located on Mic Lock Pl., Dallas, NC, Rezone from the (R-1) Single Family Limited Zoning District with (US) Overlay to the (R-2) Single Family Moderate Zoning District with (US) Overlay

Chairman Brown announced the Public Hearings as advertised, explained the procedures to be used, and called for the motion to enter into Public Hearing.

On motion introduced by Commissioner Hovis and seconded by Commissioner Shehan, the BOC unanimously entered into Public Hearing.

Chairman Brown introduced Ms. Peyton Wiggins, Land Development Manager – Building and Development Services, for comments.

Ms. Wiggins advised REZ-26-03-06-00243 is a general rezoning request from Zachary Carpenter (Applicant/Owner) to rezone parcels 169984 & 312523 from the (R-1) Single Family Limited Zoning District with (US) Overlay to the (R-2) Single Family Moderate Zoning District with (US) Overlay; the property is located north of Dallas town limits, east of Hwy. 321.

She reviewed orthophoto, environmental, zoning and adjacent property owners' maps and advised:

- *Orthophoto map* depicts that the parcels are currently vacant and wooded; the northern property is 2.4 acres and the southern property is 3.66 acres for a total of 6.06 acres; the area is primarily residential with a variety of housing types throughout the surrounding area
- *Environmental map* depicts that there is no flood on the properties; there is a gradual 22' decrease in slope from the northern to southern portion of property; it remains a bit more flat along the eastern side of both properties
- *Zoning map* depicts (R-1) zoning throughout most of the surrounding area and some (I-2) and (C-1) parcels in the larger vicinity
- *Adjacent property owners' map* depicts the property owners that received notices for tonight's public hearing; notices were mailed on May 11th; a sign was placed on the site same day; staff received an email from an adjacent property owner in opposition to the rezoning request
- Reviewed a table depicting the information for those that received the mailed notices.

She advised the parcels will be served via a private well/septic system; Mic Lock Pl., a private drive off of Willis Rd., is a NCDOT road.

The Technical Review Committee (TRC) reviewed the request on April 17th and had no comments at this time.

The GCLMPO (Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization) advised according to the STIP (State Transportation Improvement Program), there are no funded transportation improvement projects in the immediate vicinity of the site; there are no funded transportation improvement projects on the CTP (Comprehensive Transportation Plan).

The property is located in *Area 2: North 321 Gaston* small area plan within the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP or Comp Plan).

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The future land use designation is *Rural*; rural areas are characterized by green, rolling hills and plenty of open spaces; exemplifies the County and existing natural resources that exist throughout the jurisdiction. Residential homes are located on larger lots and are set back from the roads they front upon on.

Staff finds the application, as presented, is consistent with the goals and future land use designation in the CLUP as it will keep the parcels residential in nature.

The Planning & Zoning Board heard the request on May 5th and recommended approval via a unanimous vote (9-0).

Chairman Brown called for comments from the Applicant.

Mr. Zachary Carpenter (Applicant), 754 Willis Rd. (Dallas, NC), advised he purchased the properties for his children to grow up in a similar manner as he did; the rezoning request was financial since a modular home cost less; will keep it as a singular residence on both parcels of properties.

Chairman Brown called for citizen comment.

Mr. Mike Overkamp, 654 Willis Rd. (Dallas, NC) and adjacent property owner, presented a petition, signed by more than 50% of neighbors, in opposition of the proposed rezoning.

On motion introduced by Commissioner Hovis and seconded by Commissioner Shehan, the BOC unanimously accepted the petition as information.

Chairman Brown called for questions from the BOC.

Commissioner Shehan requested more detail about the 22' decrease in slope from the northern to the southern portion of property.

Ms. Wiggins advised the northern property line on the map faces north and is 22' higher than the southern portion.

Commissioner Hovis asked for the width of the private drive (Mic Lock Place).

Ms. Wiggins responded it is the County's standard 20' access easement; it was deeded and platted in 2019.

Chairman Brown asked if only one or two homes could go on that lot size.

Ms. Wiggins responded currently the County would allow one home per lot; if Applicant subdivided it one day, staff would have to look into that further.

Chairman Brown asked if staff would have to come back to BOC to subdivide the lots.

Ms. Wiggins responded not for a general rezoning; the Applicant could do a subdivision administratively but would be subjected to any subdivision ordinance regardless of the (R-1) or (R-2) zoning district.

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Chairman Brown called for additional comments from the BOC; hearing none, declared the Public Hearing closed.

Chairman Brown recapped the Planning & Zoning Board recommended approval via a 9-0 vote finding it to be reasonable and in the public interest, consistent with the goals of the CLUP as it will keep the parcel residential in nature as envisioned by the rural and **general infrastructure** (future land use designation).

Chairman Brown called for a motion to approve.

On motion introduced by Commissioner Shehan and seconded by Commissioner Hovis, the BOC unanimously approved **2026-151**, upon consideration of the map change application, public hearing comment, and recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Board and Planning staff, finds:

- 1) The map change request for property parcels: 169984 & 312523, to be rezoned to the (R-2) Single Family Moderate Zoning District with (US) Overlay, is **hereby disapproved**.
- 2) The County Manager is authorized to make necessary notifications in this matter to appropriate parties.

Public Hearing - RE: Commissioner Cloninger - Building & Development Services - Zoning Map Change: REZ-26-03-26-00244, Sarah Wooten (Applicant); Property Parcel: 168347, Located on Red Yam Farm Rd., Dallas, NC, Rezone from the (R-1) Single Family Limited Zoning District with (US) Overlay to the (R-2) Single Family Moderate Zoning District with (US) Overlay

Chairman Brown introduced Ms. Peyton Wiggins, Land Development Manager – Building and Development Services, for comments.

Ms. Wiggins advised REZ-26-03-26-00244 is a general rezoning request from Sarah Wooten (Applicant/Owner) to rezone parcel 168347 consisting of 11.36 acres from the (R-1) Single Family Limited Zoning District with (US) Overlay to the (R-2) Single Family Moderate Zoning District with (US) Overlay; the property is located north of Town of Dallas and west of Hwy. 321.

She reviewed orthophoto, environmental, zoning and adjacent property owners' maps and advised:

- *Orthophoto map* depicts the site is currently vacant with a large pond in the center; this portion of County is primarily residential with a variety of housing types throughout area
- *Environmental map* depicts there is no floodway on the property but there are major topographical challenges
- *Zoning map* depicts the property is zoned (R-1) throughout entire area; there is a small area of (C-3) farther out (southwest of site)
- *Adjacent property owners' map and list* depicts those that received mailed notices for tonight's public hearing; notices were mailed on May 11th; a sign was posted on site same day per NCGS; staff received multiple calls about the request; some expressed opposition or had no concerns; one did not specify a position; one call resulted in staff opening a Code case about possible dumping on the property

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The site will be served via a private well/septic system; is accessed via Red Yam Farm Rd., a private drive, off of Cloninger Rd. which is a NCDOT owned roadway.

The Technical Review Committee (TRC) reviewed the request on April 17th and there are no comments at this time.

The GCLMPO (Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization) advised according to the STIP (State Transportation Improvement Program), there are no funded transportation improvement projects in the immediate vicinity of site; there are no funded projects on the CTP (Comprehensive Transportation Plan).

The property falls within *Area 2: North 321 Gaston* small area plan of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP).

The future land use designation is *Rural Center (rural community areas that serve a specific purpose for the immediate area; it can be civic-oriented, anchored by a church, a community center, historic structures, etc.; or these areas can also serve a commercial purpose anchored by a small store, gas station, community daycare centers, related small businesses, etc.; houses and businesses are closer together and are built closer to the roadway).*

Staff finds the application, as presented, is consistent with the goals and future land use designation found within the CLUP.

The Planning & Zoning Board heard the request on May 5th and recommended approval via a 9-0 vote; this concludes the presentation.

Chairman Brown called for comment from the Applicant; hearing none, called for citizen comment.

Ms. Kayla Vernon, owner of a neighboring parcel, spoke in opposition to the proposed rezoning, citing concerns regarding an alleged illegal dump on the subject property and its impact on adjacent properties. She requested that the Board deny the rezoning request until a zoning investigation is completed and the debris is removed, and provided photographs for the Board's consideration.

On motion introduced by Commissioner Hovis and seconded by Commissioner Shehan, the BOC unanimously accepted the pictures as information.

Mr. Roy Cloninger, an adjoining property owner, raised concerns regarding the source of debris being dumped on the property and questioned how access to the site would be provided if the rezoning was approved. He stated that his driveway is a private road and that he has granted access rights only to Mr. Stephen Webster.

Chairman Brown called for questions from the BOC; none was heard.

Chairman Brown asked if there was an ongoing investigation currently.

Ms. Wiggins responded yes.

On motion introduced by Chairman Brown and seconded by Commissioner Fraley, the BOC unanimously tabled the rezoning request until the next meeting.

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Agenda Revision/Approval

On motion introduced by Commissioner Hovis and seconded by Commissioner Shehan, the BOC unanimously approved the Agenda of May 26, 2026.

Citizen Recognition

The following individuals spoke in support of fully funding the Gaston County Schools Budget: Ms. Brittany Elkin, Gastonia, NC; Ms. Lindsay Weathers, Gastonia, NC; Ms. Diane Busch, Denver, NC; Ms. Samantha Easters, Gastonia, NC; Mr. Cameron Cowell (Gastonia, NC); Ms. Sarah Harris, Gastonia, NC, and presented her speech to the BOC; Ms. Taylor Saunders, (McAdenville, NC); Ms. Dionna Graham, Gastonia, NC, and Vice-President of NAACP - Gastonia Branch 5394B; Ms. Heather Brown, Stanley, NC; Ms. Ann Doss Helms, Belmont, NC; Ms. Virginia Hoyle (Belmont, NC); Reynolds Nunn, Gastonia, NC and rising 4th grader at McAdenville Elementary School; Mr. Joshua Caleb Winburn, Gastonia, NC.

On motion introduced by Commissioner Shehan and seconded by Commissioner Bailey, the BOC unanimously accepted Ms. Harris's speech as information.

The following individuals that spoke previously also referenced opposition to the Confederate monument: Ms. Taylor Saunders, Ms. Dionna Graham and Ms. Virginia Hoyle.

Mr. Scotty T. Reid, Mount Holly, spoke regarding his interpretation of the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, including the exception clause related to involuntary servitude and its historical and legal implications.

Consent Agenda

On motion introduced by Commissioner Fraley and seconded by Commissioner Bailey, the BOC unanimously approved the Consent Agenda as follows:

- 2026-152 Board of Commissioners - Memorial Day Proclamation - To Recognize Memorial Day, May 25, 2026, as a Day to Honor and Remember the Sacrifices of Our Military Fallen Heroes**
- 2026-153 Commissioners Cloninger & Shehan - BOC - Proclamation - To Proclaim the Month of May 2026 as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Awareness Month in Gaston County**
- 2026-154 Commissioner Brown - BOC - To Revise the Gaston County Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting Schedule for June 2026 to Reschedule the June 9th Work Session to Precede the June 23rd Regular Meeting - 6:00 P.M. as follows:**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners, in accordance with N.C.G.S §143-318.12(a), hereby revises the 2026 BOC Meeting Schedule to RESCHEDULE the June 9th Work Session to precede the June 23rd Regular Meeting at 6:00 P.M.

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2026-155 Commissioner Hovis - Communications - Proclamation - To Recognize June 19th as "Juneteenth" in Gaston County

2026-156 Commissioner Bailey - County Attorney - To Confirm N.C. Industrial Commission Settlement in File No. I.C.25-008198 - Michael Deese v. Gaston County in the Amount of \$100,000

2026-157 Commissioner Hovis - County Attorney - Resolution Authorizing County Manager to Grant Amazon.com Services LLC a Sightline Easement on a Portion of County-Owned Property, Parcel No. 223163, for Road Improvements

2026-158 Commissioner Hovis - County Manager - To Accept Departmental Budget Change Requests as Information as follows:

ENTRY DATE	DEPT. NAME	ACCOUNT	DR/CR	AMOUNT
04/01/2026	Human Resources	1000-HRM-000-00000-FamFun-0000000-0000-01-530015-	C	3,000
04/01/2026	Human Resources	1000-HRM-000-00000-EmpRec-0000000-0000-01-520005-	D	3,000
04/02/2026	Elections	1000-BOE-000-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-01-530015-	C	3,800
04/02/2026	Elections	1000-BOE-000-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-01-520012-	D	300
04/02/2026	Elections	1000-BOE-000-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-01-520015-	D	2,500
04/02/2026	Elections	1000-BOE-000-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-01-530027-	D	1,000
04/06/2026	Social Services	1000-DSS-271-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-05-530013-	C	2,000
04/06/2026	Public Works	1000-PWK-191-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-01-520020-	C	12,000
04/06/2026	Community Support Services	1000-CSS-274-00000-0000000-Year004-0000-05-510001-G0052	C	6,397
04/06/2026	Community Support Services	1000-CSS-274-00000-0000000-Year004-0000-05-510100-G0052	C	260
04/06/2026	Community Support Services	1000-CSS-274-00000-0000000-Year004-0000-05-510101-G0052	C	249
04/06/2026	Community Support Services	1000-CSS-274-00000-0000000-Year004-0000-05-510104-G0052	C	170
04/06/2026	Community Support Services	1000-CSS-274-00000-0000000-Year004-0000-05-510105-G0052	C	8
04/06/2026	Social Services	1000-DSS-271-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-05-520010-	D	2,000
04/06/2026	Public Works	1000-PWK-190-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-01-530032-	D	12,000
04/06/2026	Community Support Services	1000-CSS-274-00000-0000000-Year004-0000-05-560018-G0052	D	7,085
04/07/2026	Solid Waste	6000-SWS-380-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-08-530023-	C	50,000
04/07/2026	Solid Waste	6000-SWS-380-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-08-530010-	D	50,000
04/08/2026	Health	1000-HLT-250-00000-0000000-Year003-0000-05-530015-G0109	C	1,000
04/08/2026	Health	1000-HLT-250-00000-0000000-Year003-0000-05-520002-G0109	D	1,000
04/09/2026	Public Works	1000-PWK-192-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-01-530023-18084	C	1,000
04/09/2026	Public Works	1000-PWK-192-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-01-520006-	D	1,000
04/16/2026	Public Works	4005-PWK-192-00000-CourtF-0000000-0000-01-540005-G0054	C	977,545
04/16/2026	Public Works	4005-PWK-192-00000-CourtF-0000000-0000-01-540016-G0054	D	977,545
04/17/2026	County Manager	4005-MGR-103-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-01-540006-G0128	C	34,250
04/17/2026	County Manager	4005-MGR-103-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-01-540016-G0128	D	34,250
04/20/2026	Sheriff	1000-SHF-000-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-02-530029-G0143	C	89
04/20/2026	County Attorney	1000-ATY-000-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-01-530010-	C	600
04/20/2026	Sheriff	1000-SHF-000-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-02-520020-G0143	D	89
04/20/2026	County Attorney	1000-ATY-000-00000-0000000-0000000-0000-01-530002-	D	600
04/21/2026	Community Support Svcs.	1000-CSS-272-00000-AdiNut-0000000-0000-05-530023-	C	200
04/21/2026	Community Support Svcs.	1000-CSS-272-00000-AdiNut-0000000-0000-05-520020-	D	200

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04/22/2026	Public Works	1000-PWK-192-00000-000000-000000-0000-01-530023-18084	C	650
04/22/2026	Community Support Svcs.	1000-CSS-291-29103-000000-000000-0000-05-520020-L0004	C	4,000
04/22/2026	Health	1000-HLT-254-00000-000000-000000-0000-05-530010-GCFRP	C	4,988
04/22/2026	Public Works	1000-PWK-192-00000-000000-000000-0000-01-520011-	D	650
04/22/2026	Community Support Svcs.	1000-CSS-291-29103-000000-000000-0000-05-520007-L0004	D	2,000
04/22/2026	Community Support Svcs.	1000-CSS-291-29103-000000-000000-0000-05-520005-L0004	D	2,000
04/22/2026	Health	1000-HLT-254-00000-000000-000000-0000-05-520002-GCFRP	D	4,988
04/23/2026	Community Support Svcs.	1000-CSS-273-00000-000000-000000-0000-05-520005-	C	800
04/23/2026	Health	1000-HLT-250-00000-000000-HESummt-0000-05-530027-L0014	C	543
04/23/2026	Health	1000-HLT-254-00000-NurFam-000000-0000-05-530002-	C	750
04/23/2026	Community Support Svcs.	1000-CSS-273-00000-000000-000000-0000-05-530002-	D	800
04/23/2026	Health	1000-HLT-250-00000-000000-HESummt-0000-05-520005-L0014	D	543
04/23/2026	Health	1000-HLT-254-00000-000000-000000-0000-05-530002-	D	750
04/27/2026	Public Works	1000-PWK-192-00000-000000-000000-0000-01-530023-18084	C	400
04/27/2026	Health	1000-HLT-250-00000-000000-000000-0000-05-530002-GHCOM	C	1,369
04/27/2026	Health	1000-HLT-250-00000-000000-000000-0000-05-520011-GHCOM	C	3,000
04/27/2026	Health	1000-HLT-250-00000-000000-000000-0000-05-520005-GHCOM	C	3,500
04/27/2026	Health	1000-HLT-250-00000-000000-000000-0000-05-520002-GHCOM	C	7,131
04/27/2026	Public Works	1000-PWK-192-00000-000000-000000-0000-01-520011-	D	400
04/27/2026	Health	1000-HLT-250-00000-000000-000000-0000-05-510001-GHCOM	D	11,850
04/27/2026	Health	1000-HLT-250-00000-000000-000000-0000-05-510100-GHCOM	D	545
04/27/2026	Health	1000-HLT-250-00000-000000-000000-0000-05-510101-GHCOM	D	1,281
04/27/2026	Health	1000-HLT-250-00000-000000-000000-0000-05-510102-GHCOM	D	446
04/27/2026	Health	1000-HLT-250-00000-000000-000000-0000-05-510103-GHCOM	D	856
04/27/2026	Health	1000-HLT-250-00000-000000-000000-0000-05-510104-GHCOM	D	14
04/27/2026	Health	1000-HLT-250-00000-000000-000000-0000-05-510105-GHCOM	D	8
04/28/2026	Solid Waste	6000-SWS-380-00000-000000-000000-0000-08-530021-	C	40,500
04/28/2026	Sheriff	1000-SHF-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-02-510001-	C	200,000
04/28/2026	Sheriff	1000-SHF-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-02-510002-	C	100,000
04/28/2026	Library Services	1000-LIB-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-04-520020-G0156	C	5,000
04/28/2026	Community Support Svcs.	1000-CSS-291-29101-000000-Year001-0000-05-560018-G0154	C	8,300
04/28/2026	Community Support Svcs.	1000-CSS-291-29101-000000-Year001-0000-05-520013-G0154	C	500
04/28/2026	Solid Waste	6000-SWS-380-00000-000000-000000-0000-08-530012-	D	40,000
04/28/2026	Solid Waste	6000-SWS-380-00000-000000-000000-0000-08-520014-	D	500
04/28/2026	Sheriff	1000-SHF-210-00000-000000-000000-0000-02-530010-	D	300,000
04/28/2026	Library Services	1000-LIB-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-04-520002-G0156	D	5,000
04/28/2026	Community Support Svcs.	1000-CSS-291-29101-000000-Year001-0000-05-530027-G0154	D	6,000
04/28/2026	Community Support Svcs.	1000-CSS-291-29101-000000-Year001-0000-05-520015-G0154	D	2,300
04/28/2026	Community Support Svcs.	1000-CSS-291-29101-000000-Year001-0000-05-520015-G0154	D	500
04/29/2026	Solid Waste	6000-SWS-380-00000-000000-000000-0000-08-530021-	C	700
04/29/2026	Solid Waste	6000-SWS-380-00000-000000-000000-0000-08-520014-	D	700
05/04/2026	Community Support Svcs.	1000-CSS-270-00000-WIOA00-WIOAdlt-0000-05-560010-	C	2,800
05/04/2026	Community Support Svcs.	1000-CSS-270-00000-WIOA00-WIOAdlt-0000-05-510103-	D	2,800

COMMISSIONER'S COURT

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2026-159 Commissioner Keigher - DHHS - Health Division - To Amend Approved Resolution 2025-155 to Direct the Expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds and Appropriate \$668,378.00 (Year 1: \$516,815.16, Year 2: \$151,562.84, Total: \$668,378.00) as follows:

WHEREAS, Gaston County has joined national settlement agreements with companies engaged in the manufacturing, distribution, and dispensing of opioids, including settlements with drug distributors Cardinal, McKesson, and AmerisourceBergen, and the drug maker Johnson & Johnson and its subsidiary Janssen Pharmaceuticals; and,

WHEREAS, the allocation, use, and reporting of funds stemming from these national settlement agreements and certain bankruptcy resolutions ("Opioid Settlement Funds") are governed by the Memorandum of Agreement Between the State of North Carolina and Local Governments on Proceeds Relating to the Settlement of Opioid Litigation ("MOA"); and,

WHEREAS, Gaston County has received Opioid Settlement Funds pursuant to these national settlement agreements and deposited the Opioid Settlement Funds in a separate special revenue fund as required by section D of the MOA; and,

WHEREAS, section E.6 of the MOA states:

E.6. Process for drawing from special revenue funds.

a. Budget item or Resolution required. Opioid Settlement Funds can be used for a purpose when the Governing Body includes in its budget or passes a separate resolution authorizing the expenditure of a stated amount of Opioid Settlement Funds for that purpose or those purposes during a specified period of time.

b. Budget item or Resolution details. The budget or resolution should (i) indicate that it is an authorization for expenditure of opioid settlement funds; (ii) state the specific strategy or strategies the county or municipality intends to fund pursuant to Option A or Option B, using the item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to identify each funded strategy, and (iii) state the amount dedicated to each strategy for a stated period of time.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED in alignment with the NC MOA, Gaston County authorizes the expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds as follows:

1. First strategy authorized:

a. Name of strategy: Evidence-Based Addiction Treatment

b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A of the NC MOA

c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: Exhibit A, Strategy 2

d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$ 668,378.00

e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place: Start date July 1, 2025, through End date June 30, 2027.

f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Gaston County Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Scholarship fund (GCMATS)

The GCMATS program will be developed and implemented by McLeod Centers for Wellbeing and will provide Gaston County's uninsured/underinsured residents the opportunity to receive Evidence-Based Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder along with care navigation to address social determinants of health that may impact a patient's recovery, the most important among these being financial insecurity.

g. Provider: McLeod Centers for Wellbeing

The total dollar amount of Opioid Settlement Funds appropriated for the above named and authorized strategies is \$668,378.00.

and per Budget Change Request:

Account Description (Year 1)	Account Number	Amount
Fund Balance Appropriated	2055-NDP-000-00000-FBApro-0000000-0000-99-490000-	(516,815.16)
Professional Services	2055-HLT-000-00000-MATSch-Stratg2-0000-05-530010-	516,815.16

Account Description (Year 2)	Account Number	Amount
Fund Balance Appropriated	2055-NDP-000-00000-FBApro-0000000-0000-99-490000-	(151,562.84)

Professional Services	2055-HLT-000-00000-MATSch-Stratg2-0000-05-530010-	151,562.84
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- 2026-160 Commissioner Keigher - DHHS - Health Division - To Approve the Transfer of \$18,919.00 from General Fund to the General Government Capital Fund, via the Community Investment Fund (CIF) for the Purchase of a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) System for the Environmental Health Onsite Wastewater Program per Budget Change Request:**

Account Description	Account Number	Amount
Furn/Equip<\$5K	1000-HLT-252-00000-000000-000000-0000-05-520020-	(\$18,919.00)
Transfer to CIF Fund	1000-NDP-000-00000-TrfxTo-0000000-0000-98-584000-	\$18,919.00
Transfer from General Fund	4000-NDP-000-00000-TrfxFr-0000000-0000-98-481000-	(\$18,919.00)
Transfer to Gen Govt Capital	4000-NDP-000-00000-TrfxTo-0000000-0000-98-584005-	\$18,919.00
Transfers from CIF	4005-NDP-000-00000-TrfxFr-0000000-0000-98-484000-	(\$18,919.00)
Furn/Equip>\$5,000	4005-HLT-252-00000-OSWW00-0000000-0000-05-540002-	\$18,919.00

- 2026-161 Commissioner Keigher - DHHS - Health Division - To Accept the Gaston County Public Health Department's Local Child Fatality Prevention Team's Annual Report as filed with the Clerk to the Board**

- 2026-162 Commissioner Keigher - DHHS - Social Services Division - To Accept and Appropriate Consumer Contributions to the Family Caregiver Support Program totaling \$793.00 per Budget Change Request:**

Account Description	Account Number	Amount
Program Cost Sharing: Caregiv	1000-CSS-272-00000-CGSPrg-CostShr-0000-05-430047-	(793.00)
ProgSupp: Caregiver Support Pr	1000-CSS-272-00000-CGSPrg-0000000-0000-05-520002-18524	793.00

- 2026-163 Commissioner Keigher - DHHS - Social Services Division - Proclamation - To Proclaim the Month of May 2026 as Older Americans Month**

- 2026-164 Commissioner Keigher - DHHS - Social Services Division - Proclamation - To Proclaim the Month of May 2026 as Foster Care Awareness Month**

- 2026-165 Commissioner Hovis - Financial and Management Services - Finance - To Approve a Certificate of Need (CON) for East Gaston Fire Department for Replacement Tires and to Appropriate Unified Fire District Fund Balance (\$9,000.00) per Budget Change Request:**

Account Description	Account Number	Amount
Additional Subsidies	2036-000-000-00000-000000-EGaston-0000-02-570011-	9,000.00
Fund Balance Appropriated	2036-NDP-000-00000-FBApro-0000000-0000-99-490000-	(9,000.00)

- 2026-166 Commissioner Hovis - Financial and Management Services - Finance - To Approve a Certificate of Need (CON) for All VFDs in the Unified Fire District for Motorola Portable Radio Battery Purchase and to Appropriate Unified Fire District Fund Balance (\$75,590.00) per Budget Change Request:**

Account Description	Account Number	Amount
Additional Subsidies	2036-000-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-02-520020-	75,590.00
Fund Balance Appropriated	2036-NDP-000-00000-FBApro-0000000-0000-99-490000-	(75,590.00)

- 2026-167 Commissioner Hovis - Financial and Management Services - Finance - To Appropriate Accumulated Investment Earnings from January 1, 2026, through March 31, 2026 (\$51,666.33) in FY26 per Budget Change Request:**

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Account Description	Account Number	Amount
Interest Earnings-SHF StDirGrt	1000-NDP-000-00000-OSBMDI-0000000-0000-02-444001-G0108	(512.76)
Furn/Equip<\$5K-SHF StateDirct	1000-SHF-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-520020-G0108	512.76
Interest Earnings-SHF StDirGrt	4005-NDP-000-00000-OSBMDI-0000000-0000-02-444001-G0108	(436.79)
Motor Vehicles:GPD StateDirctd	4005-GPD-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-540003-G0108	436.79
Interest Earnings-NC OSBM SHF	1000-NDP-000-00000-NCOSBM-0000000-0000-02-444001-G0143	(493.89)
Furn/Equip<\$5K-NC OSBM SHF Grt	1000-SHF-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-520020-G0143	493.89
Interest Earnings	1000-NDP-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-444001-G0089	(565.81)
Other Services-InnovatvCrtProg	1000-NDP-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-530015-G0089	565.81
Interest Earnings - EDTAP	1000-NDP-000-00000-ROAPAc-0000000-0000-05-444001-	(807.19)
Interest Earnings - RGP	1000-NDP-000-00000-ROAPAc-0000000-0000-05-444001-	(383.03)
Transportation of Clients	1000-CSS-290-29001-000000-0000000-0000-05-560001-	1,190.22
Interest:Courthouse Renovation	4005-NDP-000-00000-NCOSBM-0000000-0000-02-444001-G0054	(38,451.18)
Bldg&Imp: NC OSBM County Crths	4005-PWK-192-00000-CourtF-0000000-0000-01-540005-G0054	38,451.18
Interest Earnings	2025-GPD-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-444001-	(3,150.12)
Controlled Substance Tax	2025-GPD-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-530045-CSTPD	3,150.12
Interest Earnings - Justice	2020-GPD-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-444001-	(2,981.65)
Asset Forfeitures - Justice	2020-GPD-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-530043-AFJPD	2,981.65
Interest Earnings - Treasury	2020-GPD-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-444001-	(2,548.61)
Asset Forfeitures - Treasury	2020-GPD-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-530043-AFTPD	2,548.61
Interest Earnings	2025-SHF-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-444001-	(720.03)
Controlled Substance Tax	2025-SHF-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-530045-CSTSH	720.03
Interest Earnings - Drug Supplies	2020-GPD-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-444001-	(20.18)
Asset Forfeitures - Drug Supplies	2020-GPD-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-530048-	20.18
Interest Earnings - Justice	2020-SHF-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-444001-	(34.27)
Asset Forfeitures - Justice	2020-SHF-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-530043-AFJSH	34.27
Interest Earnings - Treasury	2020-SHF-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-444001-	(560.82)
Asset Forfeitures - Treasury	2020-SHF-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-530043-AFTSH	560.82

2026-168 Commissioner Hovis - Financial and Management Services - Finance - To Accept as Information the April 2026 Property Tax Refunds Less than \$100. These Tax Refunds Should Be Recorded in the Board's Minutes. (Total NCVTS Refunds - \$1,945.42) as follows:

TAXPAYER NAME	AMOUNT	TAXPAYER NAME	AMOUNT
APRIL 2026 REFUNDS			
ADAMS, JOSEPH AARON	\$16.69	MELTON, JASON RAY	\$13.58
AHMED, KRISTINA MONIQUE	\$82.19	MUDIYANSELAGE, KUMUDU KUMARAJETHUNGA	\$71.31
ASSAD, DEBORAH LAUREEN	\$36.84	NORRIS, DAVID ALLEN	\$23.36
BRADLEY, BEVERLY JEAN	\$23.98	PENLEY, ADAM LEE	\$51.30
CHAMBERS, BETTY EASON	\$75.63	PENLEY, ADAM LEE	\$55.20
CLEVELAND COUNTY TAX	\$69.02	PENLEY, ADAM LEE	\$13.03
CLUTZ, RALPH DOUGLAS	\$60.23	PRESSLEY, RONALD CALDWELL JR	\$49.52
COEY, DENNIS RICHARD	\$34.25	PRICE, JAMES MAX JR	\$37.35
DELLINGER, THOMAS EDWIN	\$7.84	RAO, PRAJVAL KILINGARU	\$71.92
DOWNEY, WILLIAM PLATO II	\$42.45	ROMAN, MICHAEL	\$24.94
DUNLAP, PRISCILLA ANN	\$37.33	SCHUSTER, BRANDON ALAN	\$48.06
EARLE, PRESTON STEVEN	\$24.16	SILVA MACIAS, HENRY DAVID	\$22.40
FARRAR, REBECCA DEVINE	\$15.82	SMITH, JERRY LAWRENCE	\$36.87
FERGUSON, CHARLES DOUGLAS	\$24.00	SMITH, RUTH PARROTT	\$36.11
GOKE, KEVIN ROBERT	\$66.81	STACY, HAILEY RATCHFORD	\$20.89
GREENWOOD, REGINA MICHELLE	\$32.80	STROUPE, WILLIAM MICHAEL	\$33.96
HICKS, ELZIE JONATHAN	\$1.42	SUAREZ, ANDERSON LUKE	\$69.69
HUNT, KUTARHA DELANA	\$30.12	TEAGUE, MICHAEL CHARLES	\$65.02
HUNTER, YVETTE L	\$34.48	TOPPER, PATRICIA ANN	\$22.19

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JONES, JAMES DAVID	\$35.63	VIRGIN, KRISTEN JO	\$16.27
KING, VICTORIA GRAY	\$72.64	WELLS, JAMES WESLEY	\$8.03
KROPF, ABIGAIL HOPE	\$28.10	WILSON, RYAN HUNTER	\$49.55
MARKHAM, TYLER HAYES	\$58.94	WILSON, RYAN HUNTER	\$25.48
MARTELLO, FRANCIS ANTHONY	\$2.03	WRIGHT, BARRON HOUSTON	\$54.51
MATEO, MARGELINE ZULAIK	\$88.61		
MCPHERSON, BRENT CHARLES	\$22.87		
		TOTAL	\$1,945.42

2026-169 Commissioner Shehan - Financial and Management Services - Grants (Sheriff's Office) - To Approve the Transfer of \$928.64 from the General Government Capital Fund to the General Fund per Budget Change Request:

Account Description	Account Number	Amount
Furn/Equip>\$5,000-SHF StateDir	4005-SHF-000-00000-000000-000002-540002-G0108	(928.64)
Transfer to General Fund	4005-NDP-000-00000-TrfxTo-0000000-0000-98-581000-	928.64
Transfers from Gen Gov Capital	1000-NDP-000-00000-TrfxFr-0000000-0000-98-484005-	(928.64)
Furn/Equip<\$5K-SHF StateDirct	1000-SHF-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-02-520020-G0108	928.64

2026-170 Commissioner Shehan - Financial and Management Services - Grants (Sheriff's Office) - To Approve the Transfer of \$820.00 from the General Government Capital Fund to the General Fund per Budget Change Request:

Account Description	Account Number	Amount
Furn/Equip>\$5,000-NC OSBM SHF	4005-SHF-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-02-540002-G0143	(820.00)
Transfer to General Fund	4005-NDP-000-00000-TrfxTo-0000000-0000-98-581000-	820.00
Transfers from Gen Gov Capital	1000-NDP-000-00000-TrfxFr-0000000-0000-98-484005-	(820.00)
Furn/Equip<\$5K-NC OSBM SHF Grt	1000-SHF-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-02-520020-G0143	820.00

2026-171 Commissioner Fraley - GEMS - Proclamation - To Proclaim the Week of May 17-23, 2026 as Emergency Medical Services Week in Gaston County

Legislative Request

2026-188 Commissioner Hovis - BOC - Legislative Request: Resolution Opposing Modification to County Property Tax Authority

On motion introduced by Commissioner Hovis and seconded by Commissioner Shehan, the BOC unanimously approved **2026-188** as follows:

WHEREAS, county governments are constitutionally and statutorily charged with providing essential public services, including, but not limited to, public safety, emergency response, education, infrastructure, public health, and social services; and,

WHEREAS, property taxes constitute a primary, stable, and locally controlled source of revenue necessary to fund these essential county services and to meet both ongoing operational needs and long-term capital obligations; and,

WHEREAS, the authority to levy, assess, and adjust property taxes allows county governments to respond responsibly to changing economic conditions, population growth, service demands, emergencies, and state or federal mandates; and,

WHEREAS, counties follow transparent procedures prior to any tax changes by presenting annual budgets on a strict schedule, hosting open meetings for citizen input and questions, and submitting public bonds for voter consideration; and,

WHEREAS, proposals to modify, limit, cap, freeze, or otherwise restrict county property tax authority — whether through constitutional amendment, statutory change, or administrative action — may reduce local flexibility, undermine fiscal stability, and shift costs to less stable revenue sources; and,

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WHEREAS, such modifications may result in unintended consequences, including service reductions, delayed infrastructure investment, increased fees, and inequitable impacts on residents; and,

WHEREAS, county governments are best positioned to balance fiscal responsibility with service delivery, accountability, and responsiveness to local needs through transparent budgeting and elected representation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners supports the current property tax authority in North Carolina, which enables counties to manage property tax rates within established statutory limits.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners formally opposes any constitutional amendment that would restrict, cap, reduce, or otherwise limit county property tax authority.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Local Legislative Delegation to the North Carolina General Assembly and the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners.

Appointments

On motions introduced and seconded, the following individuals were unanimously reappointed to the ***Workforce Development Board***:

<u>Motion Introduced</u>	<u>Seconded</u>	<u>Appointee</u>	<u>Term Ending</u>
Commissioner Fraley	Commissioner Shehan	Ms. Donna Caskey	May 31, 2029
Commissioner Shehan	Commissioner Hovis	Mr. Brandon Price	May 31, 2029
Commissioner Shehan	Commissioner Hovis	Mr. Brandon Love	May 31, 2029
Commissioner Hovis	Commissioner Shehan	Mr. Justin Grindstaff	May 31, 2029

On motions introduced and seconded, the following individuals were unanimously reappointed to the ***Parks and Recreation Advisory Board***:

<u>Motion Introduced</u>	<u>Seconded</u>	<u>Appointee</u>	<u>Term Ending</u>
Commissioner Shehan	Commissioner Hovis	Mr. Victor Rodriguez	May 31, 2029
Commissioner Shehan	Commissioner Hovis	Mr. Peter Rhew	May 31, 2029
Commissioner Bailey	Commissioner Hovis	Mr. Monte Monteleone	May 31, 2029
Commissioner Bailey	Commissioner Hovis	Ms. Martha S. Stowe	May 31, 2029
Commissioner Hovis	Commissioner Shehan	Mr. Chris Guin	May 31, 2029
Commissioner Brown	Commissioner Shehan	Comm. Cathy Cloninger	May 31, 2027

On motion introduced by Commissioner Bailey and seconded by Commissioner Hovis, the BOC unanimously reappointed Dr. Edward Smith to the ***Council on Aging/Home and Community Care Block Grant Advisory Committee*** to a term ending May 31, 2028.

On motion introduced by Commissioner Bailey and seconded by Commissioner Hovis, the BOC unanimously reappointed Dr. Edward Smith to the ***Region F Aging Advisory Committee*** to a term ending May 31, 2028.

On motions introduced and seconded, the following individuals were unanimously reappointed to the ***Tourism Development Advisory Board***:

<u>Motion Introduced</u>	<u>Seconded</u>	<u>Appointee</u>	<u>Term Ending</u>
Commissioner Hovis	Commissioner Shehan	Ms. Andrea Stephens	April 30, 2029
Commissioner Hovis	Commissioner Shehan	Mr. Monte Monteleone	April 30, 2029

On motion introduced by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Commissioner Hovis, the BOC unanimously appointed Mr. Charles McGinnis to the ***Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)*** to an unexpired term ending October 31, 2028.

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On motion introduced by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Commissioner Shehan, the BOC unanimously reappointed Mr. Harold Fullbright to the ***Fireman's Relief Fund Trustees*** to a term ending November 30, 2027.

Commissioners' Committee Reports

Commissioner Shehan reported attending a meeting of the ***Gaston County Extension & Community Association (ECA)*** at the Lucille Tatum Center on May 16. He highlighted the organization's outreach efforts, including knitting blankets for NICU infants, veterans, and members of the unhoused community, and requested that donation information be posted by the Clerk.

Commissioner Hovis reported on the request to repurpose the quarter-cent sales tax for transportation, noting it was transmitted to local legislative delegates in late April with limited response to date. He summarized communication from Rep. John Torbett indicating the request remained under consideration due to potential budget and financial impacts and that additional financial information may be forthcoming once finalized; he further relayed the Representative's guidance that the deadline for filing local bills in the House had passed and that any alternative funding approach would likely require separate legislative action, subject to applicable legislative constraints and timelines. In conclusion, Commissioner Hovis stated that later in the meeting, the BOC would select its representatives to meet with County and School staff and representatives from the BOE to discuss a sustainable funding request for locally funded positions.

Chairman Brown reported that he had forwarded recent emails related to transparency concerns and stated the Board is working to ensure citizen input is heard while balancing the needs of multiple county agencies and the school system. He noted Commissioners Hovis and Shehan would represent the County on the School funding task force to improve communication and coordination; noted the effort to engage teachers and staff in direct dialogue. He further emphasized that the Board does not direct specific school funding allocations; he referenced prior funding support including Chromebooks and a \$10 million allocation, and stated staff would provide additional information during the County Manager's report.

County Manager's Report

The County Manager reported that county staff has been working with the Superintendent and school staff over the past week to evaluate the current financial situation and long-term financial needs, noting the complexity of multiple funding sources and the need to develop a coordinated path forward with participation from both Boards. He stated that financial conditions and funding needs have fluctuated due to system issues and changing federal ESSER and COVID relief funding and referenced prior reallocations of \$3.7 million from capital to operating funds and a subsequent \$10 million allocation, noting ongoing uncertainty regarding adequacy of those amounts. He further stated this is a pause to reassess the full financial picture to determine a sustainable path forward for policy and funding decisions by both Boards.

In response to comments regarding County budget reductions, he reported that the County has eliminated 13 positions, consolidated or eliminated departments, and reduced operating expenditures by \$13 million, which offset a \$17 million increase in school-related debt. He noted

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that under the Council-Manager form of government, operational adjustments are not typically publicized by departments and stated the County will continue to work with the school system to evaluate financial realities and identify options for future policy consideration by the Board of Commissioners.

County Attorney's Report

No report. He requested a Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(1) Confidential Information; (3) Attorney-Client Privilege; (6) Personnel Matters; (10) To view a recording released pursuant to G.S. 132-1.4A.

On motion introduced by Commissioner Bailey and seconded by Commissioner Shehan, the BOC unanimously entered into Closed Session pursuant to *NCGS 143-318.11(a)(1), (3), (6) and (10)* at 7:42 pm.

On motion introduced by Commissioner Shehan and seconded by Commissioner Bailey, the BOC unanimously entered into Open Session at 9:02 pm.

Chairman Brown announced no action was taken during the Closed Session.

Other Matters

None.

Adjournment

By unanimous consent, Chairman Brown adjourned the Regular Meeting of May 26, 2026 at 9:02 pm.

(All aforementioned documents are on file with the Clerk to the Board.)

Chad Brown, Chairman
Gaston County Board of Commissioners

Donna S. Buff
Clerk to the Board

SEAL