

ADOPTED

JAN 27, 2026

853

Gaston County Board
of Commissioners

GASTON COUNTY

COMMISSIONER'S COURT

NORTH CAROLINA

NOVEMBER 17, 2025

The Gaston County Board of Commissioners (BOC) met in Rescheduled Regular Session at 6:51 pm on Thursday, November 17, 2025, immediately following its Rescheduled Work Session, in The Harley B. Gaston, Jr. Public Forum, Gaston County Courthouse.

Chairman Chad Brown presided with Commissioners Cathy Cloninger, Vice-Chair; Allen R. Fraley, Bob Hovis, Tom Keigher and Scott Shehan in attendance.

Commissioner Jim Bailey was not in attendance.

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

During the preceding Work Session, Chairman Brown asked for a moment of silence for Ms. Mary Jolly, GEMS Paramedic who passed away in a tragic accident. Commissioner Hovis led those in the Invocation and Commissioner Shehan led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Brown announced that the Board of Commissioners would appoint a new Chairman of the Board of Equalization & Review pursuant to action taken at the October meeting and noted that the County Attorney is continuing his review of the matter for compliance.

Matters from the Preceding Work Session:

• Judge William Gaston Award Presentation

The award was presented to the recipient during the November 17, 2025 Work Session and, by affirmation, is set forth in the November 17, 2025, Regular Meeting minutes.

Chairman Brown presented:

- A very important part of this Board's mission is to encourage citizen participation in county government and community involvement
- In 1998, the County Commission established an annual award bearing the name of the County's namesake, Judge William Gaston (1778-1844), to recognize those volunteers who have demonstrated exemplary commitment, dedication, and leadership. Since its establishment, the County Commission has honored 69 recipient volunteers for their services to the Gaston County community
- This year the Board of Commissioners has the privilege of presenting the William Gaston Award to Mrs. Cynthia M. Isenhour

Commissioner Keigher invited **Mrs. Cynthia M. Isenhour, 2025 Judge William Gaston Award recipient**, along with her husband, Jeff, and family, to the podium. He stated that he had the honor of working with Mrs. Isenhour on the Parks & Recreation Board several years ago and then presented the award as follows:

Cynthia "Cindy" Isenhour, a proud native of Dallas, North Carolina, is the daughter of Jack and Carolyn Maxwell, and is a devoted member of Dallas Methodist Church. She is a graduate of North Gaston High School, Gaston College, and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Cindy has been married for forty-two years to her husband, Jeff, who served as the Assistant Chief of the Gaston County Police Department. Together they raised two sons, Jeff "Beau" and Jason. They are also the proud grandparents of five grandchildren, Hannah, Ian, Maddie, Charlie, and Avett, who she considers "the highlight of her life."

Cindy began her public service career in 1976 as a dispatcher with the Dallas Police Department. Four years later, she joined the Gaston County Police Department, serving in both patrol and special investigations.

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In 1985, Cindy joined the Gastonia Police Department, where she served for twenty-five years in a variety of roles, including as a Sergeant in Patrol, Vice, and Criminal Investigations, as well as a Polygraph Examiner. She became the first female officer in the department's history to be promoted to Captain, leading both the Patrol and Criminal Investigation Divisions. She also commanded the Hostage Negotiations Team and served as Interim Assistant Chief. In 1999, she attended and graduated from the 199th Session of the FBI National Academy.

Cindy contributed significantly to the law enforcement profession through her service in professional organizations. She served as secretary for the Gaston County Law Enforcement Association and the NC Law Enforcement Women's Association. She also represented the Association on the NC Training and Standards Commission and was a leader in the NCFBI National Academy Associates, serving as secretary/treasurer and later as the first female president of that organization.

Along with her career achievements, Cindy has given generously of her time and talents to the community. She has served on the Gaston County Women's Shelter Advisory Board, the Tourism Advisory Board, and for fifteen years on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

During her tenure as Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Cindy helped guide important planning and improvement efforts throughout our park system. Under her leadership, the County updated its Comprehensive Master Plan and advanced major projects at Poston, Dallas, South Point, Tryon, and Bessemer City Parks. These efforts have brought numerous improvements including new playgrounds, restrooms, shade structures, and expanded trails that will be enjoyed by residents and visitors for years to come.

Cindy's insight and passion have strengthened our visitor economy and supported the continued growth of Gaston County as a premier destination. As Chair of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, she brought collaborative leadership, steady vision, and a genuine commitment to the well-being of our community. Her leadership elevated recreational opportunities, guided thoughtful planning, and championed initiatives that benefit both residents and visitors.

*Cindy, the County Commission is honored to present you with the **2025 Judge William Gaston Award** in recognition of your exemplary leadership and your continuing efforts to make Gaston County a better place to live, work, and play.*

Mrs. Isenhour accepted the award and stated that the recognition was an unexpected honor. She expressed appreciation for having her efforts acknowledged and thanked the Board and Commissioner Keigher for the recognition.

Chairman Brown invited Mrs. Isenhour and family to take a group photo with the BOC.

Agenda Revision/Approval

- Pulled/ Commissioner Keigher - *Office of Capital Improvements - To Award a Construction Contract and Authorize the County Manager, or his Designee, to Execute said Contract with Swinerton Builders, Inc., for the Health Department Major Renovation & Expansion in the Amount of \$26,601,918.35 and to Appropriate \$13,353,970.04 from Medicaid Max Reserve - IV., H.*

On motion introduced by Commissioner Hovis and seconded by Commissioner Shehan, the BOC unanimously approved the Agenda of November 17, 2025 with changes as noted above.

Citizen Recognition

Ms. Kate Driscoll, Kings Mountain, NC, spoke in support of establishing a County-funded Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program to address the growing population of free-roaming cats, reduce shelter intake and costs, and relieve overburdened animal rescue organizations.

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Consent Agenda

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

2025-367 Commissioner Hovis - County Manager - To Accept Departmental Budget Change Requests as Information as follows:

ENTRY DATE	DEPT NAME	ACCOUNT	DR/CR	AMOUNT
10/02/2025	Community Support Services	1000-CSS-270-00000-WIOA00-0000000-0000-05-530015-	C	100
10/02/2025	Community Support Services	1000-CSS-270-00000-WIOA00-0000000-0000-05-520007-	D	100
10/03/2025	Community Support Services	1000-CSS-272-00000-AdtNut-MealsWh-0000-05-520020-21585	C	722
10/03/2025	Community Support Services	1000-CSS-272-00000-AdtNut-MealsWh-0000-05-530015-21585	D	722
10/06/2025	Public Works	1000-PWK-191-00000-000000-0000000-0000-01-520020-	C	5,800
10/06/2025	Community Support Services	1000-CSS-293-00000-000000-0000000-0000-05-520015-G0147	C	249
10/06/2025	Community Support Services	1000-CSS-291-29101-000000-0000000-0000-05-520013-G0145	C	9,000
10/06/2025	Public Works	1000-PWK-191-00000-000000-0000000-0000-01-530004-	D	5,800
10/06/2025	Community Support Services	1000-CSS-293-00000-000000-0000000-0000-05-520020-G0147	D	249
10/06/2025	Community Support Services	1000-CSS-291-29101-000000-0000000-0000-05-520015-G0145	D	4,100
10/06/2025	Community Support Services	1000-CSS-291-29101-000000-0000000-0000-05-530010-G0145	D	4,900
10/07/2025	Financial Management Svcs	1000-FMS-141-00000-000000-0000000-0000-01-520013-	C	100
10/07/2025	Human Resources	1000-HRM-000-00000-FamFun-0000000-0000-01-530015-	C	10,000
10/07/2025	Financial Management Svcs	1000-FMS-141-00000-000000-0000000-0000-01-520014-	D	100
10/07/2025	Human Resources	1000-HRM-000-00000-EmpRec-0000000-0000-01-520002-	D	5,000
10/07/2025	Human Resources	1000-HRM-000-00000-EmpRec-0000000-0000-01-520005-	D	5,000
10/08/2025	Public Works	1000-PWK-191-00000-000000-0000000-0000-01-510001-	C	20,000
10/08/2025	GEMS	1000-EMS-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-520011-	C	300
10/08/2025	Social Services	1000-DSS-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-05-520011-	C	300
10/08/2025	County Police	1000-GPD-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-520020-	C	300
10/08/2025	County Attorney	1000-ATY-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-01-520011-	C	300
10/08/2025	Building & Development Svcs	1000-BDS-230-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-520011-	C	300
10/08/2025	Building & Development Svcs	1000-BDS-231-00000-000000-0000000-0000-07-520011-	C	300
10/08/2025	Building & Development Svcs	1000-BDS-233-00000-000000-0000000-0000-07-520011-	C	300
10/08/2025	Budget	1000-BGT-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-01-520011-	C	300
10/08/2025	Commissioners	1000-BOC-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-01-520011-	C	300
10/08/2025	Elections	1000-BOE-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-01-520011-	C	300
10/08/2025	Economic Dev Com	1000-EDC-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-07-520011-	C	300
10/08/2025	Emerg. Mgt & Fire Services	1000-EMG-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-520011-	C	300
10/08/2025	Finance	1000-FIN-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-01-520011-	C	300
10/08/2025	Financial Management Svcs	1000-FMS-141-00000-000000-0000000-0000-01-520011-	C	300
10/08/2025	Grants	1000-GRT-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-01-520011-	C	300
10/08/2025	Public Health	1000-HLT-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-05-520011-	C	300
10/08/2025	Human Resources	1000-HRM-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-01-520011-	C	300
10/08/2025	Information Technology	1000-ITS-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-01-520011-	C	300
10/08/2025	Library Services	1000-LIB-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-04-520011-	C	300
10/08/2025	Museum	1000-MUS-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-04-520011-	C	300
10/08/2025	Natural Resources	1000-NAT-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-07-520011-	C	300
10/08/2025	Parks & Recreation	1000-PRK-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-04-520011-	C	300
10/08/2025	Public Works	1000-PWK-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-01-520011-	C	300
10/08/2025	Sheriff	1000-SHF-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-02-520011-	C	300
10/08/2025	Tax	1000-TAX-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-01-520011-	C	300
10/08/2025	Community Support Services	1000-CSS-291-29101-000000-0000000-0000-05-520011-	C	300
10/08/2025	Cooperative Extension Svcs	1000-CES-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-07-520011-	C	300
10/08/2025	Community Support Services	1000-CSS-293-00000-000000-0000000-0000-05-520011-	C	300
10/08/2025	Register of Deeds	1000-ROD-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-01-520011-	C	300
10/08/2025	County Manager	1000-MGR-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-01-530010-	D	20,000
10/08/2025	County Manager	1000-MGR-000-00000-000000-0000000-0000-01-520011-	D	8,700
10/13/2025	Community Support Services	1000-CSS-290-29001-000000-0000000-0000-05-430062-	C	74,000
10/13/2025	Community Support Services	1000-CSS-290-29001-000000-0000000-0000-05-430002-	D	74,000
10/17/2025	Public Works	4005-PWK-192-00000-CourtF-0000000-0000-01-540005-G0054	C	15,632
10/17/2025	Public Works	4005-PWK-192-00000-CourtF-0000000-0000-01-540016-G0054	D	15,632
10/20/2025	Community Support Services	1000-CSS-270-00000-WIOA00-0000000-0000-05-530015-	C	1,000
10/20/2025	Community Support Services	1000-CSS-270-00000-WIOA00-0000000-0000-05-520020-	D	250
10/20/2025	Community Support Services	1000-CSS-270-00000-WIOA00-WIOAdIt-0000-05-520020-	D	250
10/20/2025	Community Support Services	1000-CSS-270-00000-WIOA00-WIODWkr-0000-05-520020-	D	250
10/20/2025	Community Support Services	1000-CSS-270-00000-WIOA00-WIOYuth-0000-05-520020-	D	250

2025-368 Commissioner Keigher - DHHS - Social Services Division - Proclamation - To Proclaim the Month of November 2025 as Adoption Awareness Month

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2025-369 Commissioner Keigher - DHHS - Social Services Division - Proclamation - To Proclaim the Month of November 2025 as Family Caregiver Awareness Month

2025-370 Commissioner Shehan - Financial and Management Services - Grants - To Accept and Appropriate Federal Grant Funds to Support NCLEA Accreditation, including 2 HT Positions, for the Sheriff's Office (Year 1: \$74,961.00; Total Grant: \$74,961.00) per Budget Change Request:

Account Description	Account Number	Amount
Federal Grant Rev-SHF NCLEA	1000-SHF-000-00000-000000-Year001-0000-02-410000-G0164	(74,961.00)
Salaries-SHF NCLEA	1000-SHF-000-00000-000000-Year001-0000-02-510005-G0164	57,000.00
Overtime-SHF NCLEA	1000-SHF-000-00000-000000-Year001-0000-02-510002-G0164	5,000.00
FICA-SHF NCLEA	1000-SHF-000-00000-000000-Year001-0000-02-510100-G0164	4,361.00
Employee Training-SHF NCLEA	1000-SHF-000-00000-000000-Year001-0000-02-520011-G0164	2,000.00
Furn/Equip<\$5K-SHF NCLEA	1000-SHF-000-00000-000000-Year001-0000-02-520020-G0164	6,600.00

2025-371 Commissioner Shehan - Financial and Management Services - Grants - To Accept and Appropriate Additional North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission Federal Grant Funds for the Gaston County Police Department (Year 1: \$50,000.00; Total Grant: \$50,000.00) per Budget Change Request:

Account Description	Account Number	Amount
Federal Grant Rev-GPD Equipmnt	4005-GPD-000-00000-000000-Year001-0000-02-410000-G0161	(50,000.00)
Furn/Equip>\$5K-GPD Equipmnt	4005-GPD-000-00000-000000-Year001-0000-02-540002-G0161	50,000.00

2025-372 Commissioner Shehan - Human Resources - To Approve Revisions to the Gaston County Personnel Policy Manual Related to Background Checks for Grant Funded Personnel Who Work with Minors as follows:

WHEREAS, Gaston County believes it is important to have a Personnel Policy Manual for employees and supervisors to follow; and,

WHEREAS, it is prudent to review and revise the policy manual periodically to make sure it is understandable, consistent, and up to date with current law, regulations and philosophy; and,

WHEREAS, the current personnel policy manual was approved effective July 1, 2010; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed revision to the personnel policy is outlined in Exhibit A (attached); and,

WHEREAS, the Gaston County Board of Commissioners must adopt all changes to the Gaston County Personnel Policy Manual.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners adopts revisions to the Gaston County Personnel Policy to be effective December 1, 2025, as outlined in Exhibit A.

2025-373 Commissioner Keigher - Library - To Accept and Appropriate a Donation from the Azalea Club (\$1,100) per Budget Change Request:

Account Description	Account Number	Amount
Donations & Gifts	1000-LIB-000-00000-000000-00000000-0000-04-445004-	(\$1,100)
Miscellaneous Supplies/Expense	1000-LIB-000-00000-AZALEA-00000000-0000-04-520007-	\$1,100

2025-374 Commissioner Keigher - Office of Capital Improvements - To Authorize the County Manager, or his Designee, to Execute a Professional Services Contract with Terracon Consultants, Inc. for the Special Inspections & Materials Testing of the Health Department Major Renovation & Expansion

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2025-375 Commissioner Shehan - Office of Capital Improvements - To Award a Construction Contract to Dellinger Inc. in the Amount of \$8,022,899.50 for the Dallas High Shoals Regional Sewer Improvements Project, To Appropriate \$3,475,000.00 from the Solid Waste Fund Balance, and To Authorize the County Manager, or His Designee, to Execute Said Contract on Behalf of Gaston County as follows:

WHEREAS, GASTON COUNTY has received bids, pursuant to duly advertisement notice therefore, for construction of the HIGH SHOALS REGIONAL SEWER IMPROVEMENTS project; and,

WHEREAS, LKC ENGINEERING, PLLC, the County's consulting Engineer, have reviewed the bids; and,

WHEREAS, Dellinger, Inc. was the lowest bidder for the HIGH SHOALS REGIONAL SEWER IMPROVEMENTS project, with a base bid amount of \$8,022,899.50; and,

WHEREAS, the consulting Engineer recommends TENTATIVE AWARD to the lowest bidder.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that TENTATIVE AWARD is made to the lowest bidder of Dellinger, Inc. in the Total Bid Amount of \$8,022,899.50. TENTATIVE AWARD is contingent upon the following:

- Approval of the Project Bid Information package by the NC Division of Water Infrastructure to award the contract and use SRP-W-ARP-0074 funds.
- Approval of the Construction Drawings by the City of Gastonia and the City's internal issuance of the fast-track sewer extension permit.

Upon motion of Commissioner Fraley, seconded by Shehan, the above RESOLUTION was unanimously adopted.

and per Budget Change Request:

Account Description	Account Number	Amount
High Shoals/Dallas Sewer Line	6000-SWS-380-00000-WSLine-HShIDal-0000-08-540007-PAG15	3,475,000.00
Fund Balance Appropriated	6000-NDP-000-00000-FBApro-0000000-0000-99-490000-	(3,475,000.00)

2025-376 Commissioner Shehan - Office of Capital Improvements - To Amend Gaston County ARPA Grant Project Ordinance 2021-264, to Establish Gap Project Funding (\$2,661,900) for the Dallas High Shoals Waterline Interconnect Project. To Approve the Transfer of the Overestimated Projects (Tryon Elementary, Lowell Elementary, and Chapel Grove Waterline Project to Dallas High Shoals Waterline Project (\$2,661,900) as follows:

Section 1: This ordinance is to establish a budget for a project to be funded by the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds of H.R. 1319 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (CSLRF). Gaston County has received the full \$43,612,126 allocation of CSLRF funds. These funds may be used for the following categories of expenditures, to the extent authorized by state law.

1. Support public health expenditures, by funding COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff
2. Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency, including economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector
3. Replace lost public sector revenue, using this funding to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic
4. Provide premium pay for essential workers, offering additional support to those who have borne and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors
5. Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet.

Section 2: Gaston County Government has elected to take the standard allowance, as authorized by 31 CFR Part 35.6(d)(1) and expend all its ARP/CSLRF funds for the provision of government services.

Section 3: The following amounts are appropriated for the project and authorized for expenditure:

Project Allocations						
Project	Expenditure Category (EC)	Amount	Cost Object	Status/Awarded	Date	
CSLRF Project		43,612,126				
AR001	FJC Program	1.11	300,000	200.201	Amended	6/28/2022
AR003	Grants Manager Position	7.1	643,546	200.430/200.431	Amended	4/26/2022
AR004	Short-term Emergency Housing Assistance (United Way)	2.2	250,000	200.201	Approved	1/11/2022
AR010	Cherryville Park Design		31,619	200.439	Amended	11/12/2024
AR009	N Belmont Park Waterline Extension	5.11	1,745,000	200.439	Amended	11/12/2024
AR008	Lowell Elementary School Waterline Extension	5.11	201,102	200.439	Amended	11/12/2024
AR005	Chapel Grove Elementary Waterline Extension	5.16	4,039,000	200.439	Amended	11/12/2024
AR006	Tryon Elementary Waterline Extension	5.16	7,016,069	200.439	Amended	9/23/2025
AR011	Courthouse Video Arraignment System	1.4	136,313	200.470	Approved	7/26/2022
AR012	ARPA Project Coordinator (2 positions)					
AR012	ARPA Project Supervisor - Director	7.1	1,755,967	200.430/200.431	Amended	10/22/2024
AR013	Revenue Replacement (Standard Allowance)	6.1	10,000,000	200.430	Approved	6/25/2024
AR014	Mobile Shower/Laundry Unit	7.1	229,700	200.439	Amended	7/27/2023
AR016	GREAT Grant	5.2	65,500	200.471	Approved	9/26/2023
AR017	Gaston College	1.4	3,200,000	200.439	Approved	12/12/2023
AR018	Homeless Projects: Catherine's House					
AR018	Integrated Care of Greater Hickory (ICGH)	2.16				
AR019	HealthNet Gaston	1.13				
AR020		2.19	375,000	200.201	Approved	1/23/2024
AR021	Public Safety Campus	1.14	7,526,132	200.311	Amended	11/12/2024
AR022	Dallas High Shoals Waterline	5.11	6,097,178	200.439	Approved	9/23/2025
	Remaining Available CSLRF Project		-			

[*Once it is determined how we will spend all or a portion of the ARP funds, the governing board will amend this section to authorize appropriations for specific programs, services, projects, and activities. The Board may also appropriate some or all these funds to an enterprise fund in an annual budget ordinance for a water, wastewater, or stormwater infrastructure project.]

Section 4: The following revenues are anticipated to be available to complete the project:

Project Allocations						
Project	Expenditure Category (EC)	Amount	Cost Object	Status/Awarded	Date	
CSLRF Project		43,612,126				
AR001	FJC Program	1.11	300,000	200.201	Amended	6/28/2022
AR003	Grants Manager Position	7.1	643,546	200.430/200.431	Amended	4/26/2022
AR004	Short-term Emergency Housing Assistance (United Way)	2.2	250,000	200.201	Approved	1/11/2022
AR010	Cherryville Park Design		31,619	200.439	Approved	3/22/2022
AR009	N Belmont Park Waterline Extension	5.11	1,745,000	200.439	Amended	11/12/2024
AR008	Lowell Elementary School Waterline Extension	5.16	201,102	200.439	Amended	11/12/2024
AR005	Chapel Grove Elementary Waterline Extension	5.16	4,039,000	200.439	Amended	11/12/2024
AR006	Tryon Elementary Waterline Extension	5.16	7,016,069	200.439	Amended	9/23/2025
AR011	Courthouse Video Arraignment System	1.4	136,313	200.470	Approved	7/26/2022
AR012	ARPA Project Coordinator (2 positions)					
AR012	ARPA Project Supervisor - Director	7.1	1,755,967	200.430/200.431	Amended	9/19/2024
AR013	Revenue Replacement (Standard Allowance)	6.1	10,000,000	200.430	Approved	6/25/2024
AR014	Mobile Shower/Laundry Unit	7.1	229,700	200.439	Amended	7/27/2023
AR016	GREAT Grant	5.2	65,500	200.471	Approved	9/26/2023
AR017	Gaston College	1.4	3,200,000	200.439	Approved	12/12/2023
AR018	Homeless Projects: Catherine's House					
AR018	Integrated Care of Greater Hickory (ICGH)	2.16				
AR019	HealthNet Gaston	1.13				
AR020		2.19	375,000	200.439	Approved	1/23/2024
AR021	Public Safety Campus	1.14	7,526,132	200.311	Amended	11/12/2024
AG022	Dallas High Shoals Waterline	5.11	6,097,178	200.439	Approved	9/23/2025
	Remaining Available CSLRF Project		-			

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Section 5: The Finance Officer is hereby directed to maintain sufficient specific detailed accounting records to satisfy the requirements of the grantor agency and the grant agreements.

Section 6: The Finance Officer is hereby directed to report the financial status of the project to the governing board on a quarterly basis.

Section 7: Copies of this grant project ordinance shall be furnished to the Budget Officer, the Finance Officer and to the Clerk to County Commissioners.

Section 8: This grant project ordinance expires on December 31, 2026, or when all the CSLRF funds have been obligated and expended by the County, whichever occurs sooner.

and per Budget Change Request:

Account Description	Account Number	Amount
ARPA: Tryon Elem Water Line	4005-PWK-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-01-540007-AR006	(770,000.00)
Easements-ARPA:TryonElemWaterL	4005-PWK-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-01-540019-AR006	(200,000.00)
ARPA: Chapel Grove Water Line	4005-PWK-000-00000-000000-000000-0000-01-540007-AR005	(1,650,000.00)
ARPA: Lowell Elem Water Line	4005-PWK-000-00000-School-LowelES-0000-01-540007-AR008	(41,900.00)
WSLine: ARPA HSh/Dallas	4005-PWK-000-00000-WSLine-HShDal-0000-01-540007-AR022	2,661,900.00

2025-377 Commissioner Cloninger - Parks and Recreation (Senior Center) - To Accept and Appropriate Centralina Senior Center General Purpose Grant Funds (Grant: \$10,971 / County Match: \$3,567) per Budget Change Request:

Account Description	Account Number	Amount
State Grant Rev-Centralina Sr.	1000-CSS-292-00000-GenPur-0000000-0000-04-410001-GSrGP	(\$10,971)
Program Supplies	1000-CSS-292-00000-SrPrgm-0000000-0000-04-520002-	(\$3,567)
Prog Suppl-Centralina Sr Gener	1000-CSS-292-00000-GenPur-0000000-0000-04-520002-GSrGP	\$14,538

2025-378 Commissioner Keigher - Police Department - To Approve the Carry Forward of Donated Funds from City Church for LEAD Program in the Amount of \$1,526.27 per Budget Change Request:

Account Description	Account Number	Amount
Food and Provisions - LEAD GC	1000-GPD-000-00000-LEADGC-0000000-0000-02-520005-	\$1,526.27
Fund Balance Appropriated	1000-NDP-000-00000-FBApro-0000000-0000-99-490000-	(\$1,526.27)

2025-379 Commissioner Shehan - Sheriff's Office - Retirement Commendation - To Award the Service Side Arm and Badge to Retired Sergeant Monica Becton

2025-380 Commissioner Bailey - Sheriff's Office - Retirement Commendation - To Award the Service Side Arm and Badge to Retired Deputy Steven Hay

Non-Consent Agenda Items

Tabled 10/28/25: Commissioner Brown – Communications – Resolution for Closing of Government Access Channel, to be Effective December 31, 2025

Chairman Brown introduced Mr. Adam Gaub, Communications Director, for comments.

Mr. Gaub presented a slide presentation regarding the County's Government Access Channel ("the channel") and advised that staff has researched the effectiveness of the channel for approximately two years.

He provided historical background, noting that in 1999, the City of Gastonia and Gaston County entered into a local agreement to fund and operate the channel at a time when nearly 90% of U.S.

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households had cable television. The channel has been used to broadcast Board of Commissioners meetings and City of Gastonia Council meetings held in the Public Forum. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the channel was used to broadcast live press conferences. Staff also has the ability to broadcast other events live from the Public Forum, but this is not routinely done. The Public Forum is equipped with a five-camera setup to record meetings for later playback. He also noted that a bulletin board has been used over the years to provide departmental and municipal updates to citizens.

Mr. Gaub advised that cable television usage has significantly declined. According to the Pew Research Firm (2025), only 36% of U.S. households currently have cable television, with approximately 15% of that total attributed to satellite television. In Gaston County, less than 30% of households can access the channel, as access requires Spectrum cable or AT&T U-verse service. As a result, only about three out of ten households in the County are able to view the channel.

He stated that staff conducted a community survey over a two-year period through the property tax bills mailing to avoid skewing results toward digitally savvy users. The survey was distributed with July 2024 and July 2025 property tax bills. In 2024, more than 625 responses were received, and in 2025, approximately 550 responses were received. Survey results showed that less than 1% of respondents reported using the channel as their primary source of local information.

Mr. Gaub explained that while the channel is not a high-cost operation, continuation would require replacing aging equipment and software at an estimated cost of approximately \$40,000. He noted that the Digital Media Manager must respond to outages during nights and weekends, and that the channel went down four times within a three-month period during the past spring, creating an ongoing staff burden and requires on-call monitoring in case it goes down. He further stated that the channel produces an inferior product, as most modern television content is broadcast in high definition (HD) or 4K, while state law only requires cable providers to carry the channel in standard definition, resulting in lower video quality. Although cable providers offer HD upgrades, the County has never paid for those upgrades due to limited value.

He noted that there is duplication of services, as meetings are already broadcast live through the County's website, streamed on YouTube, and shared through social media channels. These platforms allow for on-demand viewing, whereas the channel requires viewers to watch live or follow a programming schedule, which he stated is inconsistent with current viewing habits.

In conclusion, Mr. Gaub advised that staff is requesting to end the Government Access Channel broadcasting on December 31, 2025. He emphasized that meetings would continue to be recorded and broadcast live through the County's website and YouTube, and that discontinuing the channel would eliminate the need to replace outdated equipment and free up staff time for expanded video editing, shooting, and production efforts. He referenced a question raised by Commissioner Hovis at a prior meeting regarding emergency notifications, explaining that during the recent bomb threat affecting the Courthouse and the DSS building, staff was unable to update the channel due to the evacuation and not being physically present at the Forum. The channel cannot be updated remotely. Instead, staff coordinated with Emergency Management using Everbridge, which allows for geo-located text and message notifications to residents, staff, or specific buildings.

Chairman Brown called for questions from the BOC.

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Commissioner Fraley asked when staff anticipated needing to spend the \$40k for equipment upgrades.

Mr. Gaub responded that staff has been "limping along" for over a year and has limited additional video usage due to frequent outages. He stated that realistically, the equipment should have already been replaced.

Commissioner Hovis asked whether being physically present to upload content was required for all media and whether all content originated in the Public Forum.

Mr. Gaub responded that staff can post to social media from anywhere, but broadcasting from the channel requires being physically present in the Public Forum.

Commissioner Hovis asked whether YouTube announcements originated in the video production area and whether the channel could still be broadcast using the uplink from other locations. He asked for clarification regarding the difference between platforms and whether a fixed Internet Service Provider (ISP) was required.

Mr. Gaub explained that staff can broadcast digital content from multiple locations using the fixed ISP, but the channel requires feeding a specific piece of hardware known as a "Tightrope" located in the Public Forum to transmit to cable providers.

Commissioner Hovis asked whether the County could cooperate with Gaston County Schools to use the school system's ISP to broadcast urgent needs if the County's ISP was unavailable.

Mr. Gaub responded that it was possible.

Commissioner Hovis expressed concern that discontinuing the channel would disenfranchise a portion of the population, particularly seniors and those unwilling or unable to stream content. He noted that Spectrum and AT&T are investing significant funds to expand fiber optic service in Gaston County, which could increase viewership. He suggested the County explore options during the 2025–2026 budget year to improve content and usability. He stated that the cost, less than \$50,000, was relatively small and that many citizens he had spoken with were unlikely to use streaming options and would prefer to continue the channel as a public service.

Commissioner Keigher stated that he agreed with most of Commissioner Hovis's comments. He noted that some individuals who moved away from cable television to streaming services ended up paying nearly the same amount and have since returned to cable or DirecTV. He expressed concern that seniors and technically challenged residents would be negatively impacted. He also stated that he received a text shortly before the presentation concluded advising that the meeting was not airing. He asked why and noted that the Board had not yet voted to discontinue the channel.

Mr. Gaub responded that the channel should be operating normally unless there was a glitch.

Commissioner Keigher stated that he had checked the channel multiple times during the week and found it blank, with nothing airing on the County or Schools channels on Spectrum (not AT&T U-verse).

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Mr. Gaub advised that staff monitor the channel using a Spectrum cable subscription and would immediately address any outage. He stated he was not aware of an issue with the outgoing feed but would look into it.

Chairman Brown recalled that the equipment had been upgraded five to ten years ago. He expressed concerns about spending money on equipment that becomes obsolete quickly. He asked what the total cost would be to keep it operating through June 30.

Mr. Gaub responded that current costs are limited to monitoring the channel through the Spectrum subscription, and that the timing of the \$40k equipment upgrade would be at the Board's discretion.

Chairman Brown asked whether the County could continue using the equipment in its current condition through June 30.

Mr. Gaub responded that it would not be possible without continued service interruptions.

Chairman Brown stated he did not want staff coming in on weekends and asked whether issues could instead be addressed during regular work hours.

Mr. Gaub responded that was possible.

Chairman Brown stated that the County continues to spend money on outdated equipment that becomes obsolete quickly. He acknowledged concerns about seniors but noted that alternative options exist.

Mr. Gaub advised that staff met with Spectrum representatives, who indicated that other entities, including UNC Charlotte, are considering discontinuing their cable access channels. He stated that Spectrum did not attempt to persuade the County to retain the channel.

Chairman Brown stated that he did not want additional funds spent until the budget process and wanted the Board to be comfortable with the decision. He noted the channel is already included in the current year's budget.

Commissioner Fraley suggested continuing through the remainder of the fiscal year and allowing the County Manager to conduct a more detailed cost analysis before determining whether to include funding in the next budget. He stated he did not support spending \$40k at this time.

Commissioner Hovis asked whether the \$40k upgrade would allow the channel to broadcast in 4K.

Mr. Gaub explained that content is produced internally in HD but must be downgraded for Spectrum and AT&T. While the County's uplink could support HD, the cable providers will not unless additional fees are paid. State law only requires standard-definition broadcasting.

Chairman Brown asked whether franchise fees or excise taxes are passed through to the County.

The County Manager stated he would have to research that question.

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Chairman Brown called for a motion to discontinue the Government Access Channel on December 31, 2025. Hearing none, no action was taken, and the Board moved to the next item of business.

2025-381 Commissioner Fraley - County Attorney - Adoption of Ordinance Maintaining the Criminal Enforcement of Certain Existing County Ordinances

Chairman Brown advised this was the Second Reading for subject ordinance and can be adopted by a majority vote.

Chairman Brown called for a motion to approve.

On motion introduced by Commissioner Fraley and seconded by Commissioner Hovis, the BOC unanimously approved **2025-381** as filed with the Clerk to the Board to be set forth in the Gaston County Code of Ordinances as follows:

WHEREAS, Counties may impose criminal and civil penalties for violations of a county ordinance pursuant to G.S. 153A-123 and G.S. 14-4; and,

WHEREAS, Part XIII of Session Law 2021-138 (Senate Bill 300) reformed how local governments may impose criminal penalties to enforce their ordinances by, in part, requiring counties to specify the criminal penalty in each ordinance; and,

WHEREAS, Gaston County seeks to preserve its existing authority to impose criminal penalties for certain pre-existing ordinances that protect the health, safety, and well-being of its residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Gaston County Board of Commissioners that the Code of Ordinances, Gaston County, North Carolina is amended as follows:

(a) Section 1-8 is amended to read as follows:

Wherever in this Code or in any ordinance of the county any act is prohibited or is made or declared to be unlawful or an offense or a misdemeanor, or wherever in such Code or ordinance the doing of any act is required or the failure to do any act is declared to be unlawful or an offense or an infraction or a misdemeanor, where no specific penalty is provided therefor the violation of any such provision of this Code or any such ordinance shall be punished by a fine of not more than ~~five hundred~~ five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or by imprisonment for not more than thirty (30) days for each separate violation; provided, that the punishment for an infraction shall be a fine of not more than fifty dollars (\$50.00). Each day any violation of this Code or any ordinance shall continue shall constitute a separate offense, unless otherwise specified.

(b) Section 5-8 is amended to read as follows:

It shall be unlawful for any person to violate any of the provisions of this chapter, or of the regulations or plans issued pursuant to the authority contained herein, or to willfully obstruct, hinder or delay any member of the emergency management organization as herein defined in the enforcement of the provisions of this chapter or any regulation or plan issued thereunder. Such violation shall be punishable as a misdemeanor and the violator shall be punished or held liable pursuant to G.S. 14-4, 14-288.20A and 166A-19.62 as well as Gaston County Code of Ordinances Section 1-8, and any other applicable law or ordinance.

(c) Section 5.5-101 is amended by adding at the end the following:

(c) A violation of this section is punishable as a misdemeanor.

(d) Section 8-1 is amended by adding at the end the following:

(d) Violation. A violation of this section is punishable as a misdemeanor.

(e) Section 8-32(a) is amended to read as follows:

(a) *Misdemeanor.* Any person violating any provision of this article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed ~~five hundred~~ five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or imprisonment not to exceed thirty (30) days, as

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provided by N.C.G.S. §§ 14-4 and 130A-25. Each day of a continuing violation may constitute a separate violation.

(f) Section 10-50 is amended to read as follows:

Pursuant to G.S. 153A-250, it shall be unlawful for any person to provide ambulance service in the county or to operate an ambulance in the county without having first been granted a franchise by the board of commissioners to do so; provided that this section shall not apply to ambulances passing through the county or from a destination outside the county to a destination inside of the county or to the vehicles operated by the rescue squad in the performance of rescue work, or to any vehicles operated for such purposes upon the direction of the designated ambulance dispatcher in the county police department. A violation of this section is punishable as a misdemeanor.

(g) Article IV of Chapter 10 is amended by adding at the end a new section to read as follows:

Sec. 10-92. Violations.

A violation of this article is punishable as a misdemeanor.

(h) Section 11-1 is amended to read as follows:

Open containers of alcoholic beverages. It shall be unlawful for any person to possess open containers of or to consume any malt beverages, or unfortified wine, all as defined in G.S. 18B-101 upon the premises of any buildings owned or occupied by the county, except as specified in Chapter 12 of the Gaston County Code of Ordinances, or at an event sponsored by Gaston County or a not-for-profit corporation that directly supports a county function and such event is authorized by the county. A violation of this section is punishable as a misdemeanor.

(i) Section 14-245 is amended to read as follows:

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person(s) without the written consent of Gaston County to:

...

(b) A violation of this section is punishable as a misdemeanor.

2025-382 Commissioner Brown - County Manager - To Authorize the Sale of 1904 Dallas Cherryville Highway, Dallas, NC (the "Mary Ellen Nelson Center") to Partners Health Management for \$2.6 Million Dollars (Parcel ID #170825) as follows:

On motion introduced by Commissioner Hovis and seconded by Commissioner Fraley, the BOC approved **2025-382** as follows:

WHEREAS, Gaston County owns approximately 21.46 acres of land and improvements located at 1904 Dallas Cherryville Highway in Dallas, NC, commonly known as the Mary Ellen Nelson Center; and,

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 160A-274 authorizes a governmental unit to sell to any other governmental unit any interest in real property upon such terms and conditions as the governmental unit deems wise; and,

WHEREAS, Gaston County has determined that it is in its best interest to convey 1904 Dallas Cherryville Highway in Dallas, NC to Partners Health Management, a local political subdivision of the State of North Carolina for \$2.6 million.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Gaston County Board of Commissioners:

1. The County Manager may, subject to the review and approval of the County Attorney, execute all documents necessary to convey the approximately 21.46 acres of land and improvements located at 1904 Dallas Cherryville Highway in Dallas, NC (Parcel Number 170825) to Partners Health Management.
2. The property herein described shall be conveyed in accordance with the terms of the Letter of Intent attached to this Resolution.

The vote carried as follows:

Ayes: Commissioners Brown, Cloninger, Fraley, Hovis and Shehan

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Nay: Commissioner Keigher
Absent: Commissioner Bailey

Items Pulled From Consent Agenda

TABLED Commissioner Keigher – Office of Capital Improvements - To Award a Construction Contract and Authorize the County Manager, or his Designee, to Execute said Contract with Swinerton Builders, Inc., for the Health Department Major Renovation & Expansion in the Amount of \$26,601,918.35 and to Appropriate \$13,353,970.04 from Medicaid Max Reserve

Chairman Brown deferred to Commissioner Fraley.

Commissioner Fraley introduced a ***motion to postpone until the December 9th meeting*** to allow for more discussion and for more details to be ironed out. Commissioner Keigher provided the second and the BOC unanimously tabled the Resolution.

Appointments

On motion introduced by Commissioner Keigher and seconded by Commissioner Hovis, the BOC unanimously reappointed Ms. Vivian W. Eichelberger to the ***Council on Aging/Home and Community Care Block Grant Advisory Committee*** to a term ending November 30, 2028.

On motion introduced by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Commissioner Hovis, the BOC unanimously reappointed Ms. Kimberly M. Wyont to the ***Equalization and Review Board*** to a term ending December 31, 2028.

On motions introduced by Commissioner Hovis and seconded by Commissioner Keigher, the following individuals were unanimously reappointed to the ***Fireman's Relief Fund Trustees*** to terms ending November 30, 2027:

Ms. Amber Beatty
Mr. Chad Belcher
Mr. Klent Craft

Mr. Virgil K. Harper
Mr. Jeffery L. Hovis
Mr. Robert Foy

Mr. Jimmy Johnson
Mr. Pete Martin
Mr. Jeffrey Peterson

Mr. Ron Sadler
Mr. Gordon B. Walker
Mr. Deany Phillips

On motion introduced by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Commissioner Hovis, the BOC unanimously named Ms. Maureen P. O'Keefe as Chair of the ***Equalization and Review Board***.

On motion introduced by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Commissioner Fraley, the BOC unanimously reappointed Commissioner Bob Hovis to the ***Centralina Council of Governments (COG)*** to a term ending November 30, 2026.

Commissioners' Committee Reports

Commissioner Shehan reported that since the last meeting he completed departmental visits to Animal Care Enforcement, Telecommunications, GEMS, and the Family Justice Center. He expressed appreciation to the department directors and staff for their hospitality and the valuable

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learning experience. Commissioner Shehan also reported attending the **5th Annual Threads of Hope** event, which supports survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual assault, elder abuse, and child abuse, along with Commissioners Brown and Cloninger. He encouraged the Board to attend the event next year, if only to experience Chairman Brown's singing ability.

Commissioner Cloninger reported attendance to the **5th Annual Threads of Hope; Veteran's Day Parade; Veterans Mural Dedication in Cherryville**. She recalled that she had visited County Departments previously and had toured the Department of Health & Human Services recently with its new Director.

Commissioner Hovis reported attendance to the **Chamber of Commerce Gaston Business Association Economic Outlook** at the Gastonia Conference Center sponsored by CaroMont along with Commissioner Cloninger; it was very lengthy, detailed and well attended.

Chairman Brown reported attendance to the **5th Annual Threads of Hope** event and thanked everyone that participated in the wonderful event; attended the **Veterans Day Parade** along with Commissioners Cloninger and Shehan.

Chairman Brown advised that he met with representatives from the **Governor's Office**, along with Commissioner Hovis and County Manager Rhoten, on the day of the bomb threat. He noted the meeting was interrupted by the incident but stated the representative from the Governor's Office provided information regarding issues discussed, including leverage within the Gaston County School System related to low-wealth funding. He explained that the low-wealth funding formula is outdated and that the Board has continued to advocate for changes while also working to lower taxes and maintain service levels. He acknowledged the challenges associated with funding reductions and emphasized the Board's ongoing efforts to find ways to assist residents while balancing fiscal responsibilities. He expressed appreciation to Steve Eaton, Assistant County Manager; Ray Maxwell, Executive Director; and Captain Robbie Waldrop, Telecommunications, for their partnership with the City of Gastonia and their assistance with the Cold Weather Shelter. He then invited Mr. Eaton to provide an update.

Mr. Eaton advised that the City of Gastonia is contracting with HealthNet Gaston to operate the Cold Weather Shelter when temperatures fall below 32 degrees, with the shelter to be located at Unity Baptist Church.

Commissioner Hovis advised that he had received a citizen complaint regarding impacts to privately owned property in southern Gaston County (a 23.8-acre farm), caused by an improperly operated package wastewater treatment plant. He explained the plant is operated by a private entity holding an NPDES permit, which allows direct discharge into a creek; however, unlike municipalities, private package plant permit holders are not required to provide public notice or advertise noncompliance or Notices of Violation (NOVs). Commissioner Hovis noted concern that developers are considering subdivisions in Mount Holly that would utilize three independent package treatment plants. He brought the issue to Mr. Eaton's attention, and a conference call was held with Environmental Health staff and the North Carolina Department of Water Quality. He stated he challenged the State to be more robust and transparent in issuing and releasing NOVs for private NPDES permit holders, similar to the requirements imposed on municipalities.

Mr. Eaton confirmed that such information is beginning to be received by Environmental Health.

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Commissioner Hovis emphasized the County's responsibility to inform the public and suggested using Spectrum, AT&T, and County YouTube channels to educate citizens on how these discharges occur, stressing the importance of transparency and holding the State to consistent accountability standards.

County Manager's Report

No report.

County Attorney's Report

No report.

Other Matters

None.

Adjournment

By unanimous consent, Chairman Brown adjourned the Rescheduled Regular Meeting of November 17, 2025 at 7:29 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