



RESOLUTION TITLE: TO DISSOLVE THE CURRENT GASTON COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY BOARD AND CREATE A NEW GASTON COUNTY FIRE COMMISSION

WHEREAS, there currently exists a Fire Advisory Board for Gaston County initially created on September 02, 1958; and,

WHEREAS, the Gaston County Board of Commissioners established and defined the Gaston County Fire Protection Service District to provide fire protection and rescue services throughout the unincorporated areas of the County on March 22, 2022, Resolution 2022-066, and this new district shall take effect on July 1, 2022; and,

WHEREAS, the current Fire Advisory Board, to be dissolved June 30, 2022, has served the County well, but will no longer be effective with the implementation of the recently approved Gaston County Fire Protection Service District, as the role of a board of this nature will expand greatly with this change; and,

WHEREAS, Gaston County Board of Commissioners have identified the following key goals for the Gaston County Fire Protection Service District:

- Sustainable funding long-term for the fire service in Gaston County in order to strengthen service delivery.
- A higher level of equity in levels of service delivery across the unincorporated areas of Gaston County, enabling service contracts with all service providers to be more similar in terms of expectations of services delivered, response times, first unit arrival, full complement, etc.
- Establishing a strengthened governance structure for the Gaston County Board of Commissioners for unincorporated fire protection by establishing a commission (or similar) comprised of both fire service and citizens that will review fire service funding issues and make authorized, researched recommendations to the Board of Commissioners for adoption.
- Develop dynamic funding formulas for each contracting fire department that reflect several key indicators of hazard and risk and represent a fair and realistic reflection of the cost to protect each response area. These funding formulas will reflect data from multiple years and fairly represent municipal needs in a balanced cost share model so that there is parity for all taxpayers when contracting fire departments serve both unincorporated areas as well as municipalities.
- Establish a more equitable level of fire service taxation across the unincorporated areas of Gaston County to support these core, essential services; and

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

NO.	DATE	M1	M2	CBrown	AFraley	BHovis	KJohnson	TKeigher	TPhibbert	RWorley	Vote
2022-140	04/26/2022	TK	RW	A	AB	A	AB	A	A	A	U

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WHEREAS, the Gaston County Board of Commissioners desire to establish the Gaston County Fire Commission and this new commission shall take effect on July 1, 2022; and,

WHEREAS, the mission of the Gaston County Fire Commission shall be to make formal recommendations to the Gaston County Board of Commissioners on fire protection and emergency services delivery by the non-governmental fire departments serving the Gaston County Fire Protection Service District; and,

WHEREAS, the role of the Gaston County Fire Commission members, as approved by the Gaston County Board of Commissioners are as follows:

- Review and make recommendations on non-governmental fire department contracts.
- Review and make recommendations on operating budget requests.
- Review and make recommendations on capital budget requests.
- Review grant requests from departments and make recommendations for implementation.
- Review and support firefighter and volunteer incentive retention and recruitment programs.
- Develop and review performance measurement metrics for contract compliance.
- Make recommendations to the Gaston County Board of Commissioners for continuing improvement of the fire protection system.
- Review and develop non-governmental fire department response standards.
- Review insurance ratings and consultants' reports and recommend action for improvement as deemed necessary.
- Develop and provide overview of all service district operational regulations and guidelines for the Gaston County Fire Protection Service District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners hereby dissolves the Fire Advisory Board, effective June 30, 2022, and establishes the Gaston County Fire Commission as of July 1, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Gaston County Fire Commission will be appointed by the Gaston County Board of Commissioners (BOC) in accordance with the BOC Appointment Policy and Application process, and will consist of twelve (12) members as follows:

- One (1) member of the Gaston County Board of Commissioners is to be appointed by the Full Board of Commissioners to serve a one-year term (ex-officio/voting).
- Six (6) members who are fire and emergency services "subject matter experts" (SMEs). Current Board of Directors members or Fire Chiefs of fire departments contracting with the County, shall not be appointed to any of these seats. SMEs shall reside in the unincorporated area of Gaston County and will serve in at-large seats from the Gaston Townships as follows:
 - (1) Cherryville Township
 - (1) Dallas Township
 - (1) Riverbend Township
 - (1) Crowders Mountain Township
 - (1) Gastonia Township
 - (1) South Point Township

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- One (1) member who resides in one of the municipalities who are part of the Gaston County Fire Protection Service District. Current Board of Directors members or Fire Chiefs of fire departments contracting with the County, shall not be appointed to this seat.
- Three (3) members who are citizens at-large. Citizens shall reside in the unincorporated area of Gaston County and current Board of Directors members or Fire Chiefs of fire departments contracting with the County, shall not be appointed to any of these seats.
- The Gaston County Fire Marshal (ex-officio/non-voting).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners hereby establishes the membership of the Gaston County Fire Commission as follows:

Representing	Term Expiration	Appointment
County Commissioner (1-yr term) – ex-officio/voting	June 30, 2023	Full Board
County Fire Marshal (1-yr term) – ex-officio/non-voting	June 30, 2023	Full Board
	Initial Term Expiration*	
Cherryville Township	June 30, 2025	CH Twp.
Dallas Township	June 30, 2024	D Twp.
Riverbend Township	June 30, 2023	R Twp.
Crowders Mountain Township	June 30, 2025	CM Twp.
Gastonia Township (1)	June 30, 2024	G Twp.
South Point Township	June 30, 2023	SP Twp.
At Large	June 30, 2025	Full Board
At Large	June 30, 2024	Full Board
At Large	June 30, 2023	Full Board
Municipal Representative	June 30, 2025	G Twp.

*** Initial Term Staggered -
3-Yr Terms Thereafter**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Gaston County Fire Commission will develop Bylaws/Rules of Procedure for approval by the Gaston County Board of Commissioners.

Adopted this the 26th day of April, 2022.



Gaston County

Gaston County
Board of Commissioners
www.gastongov.com

Emergency Management and Fire Services

Board Action

File #: 22-141

Commissioner Hovis - Emergency Management and Fire Services - To Dissolve the Current Gaston County Fire Advisory Board and Create a New Gaston County Fire Commission

STAFF CONTACT

Kevin Gordon - Emergency Management Director - 704-866-6240
Vincent C. Wong - Executive Project Manager - 704-866-3277

BUDGET IMPACT

N/A

BUDGET ORDINANCE IMPACT

N/A

BACKGROUND

The Gaston County Board of Commissioners established and defined the Gaston County Fire Protection Service District to provide fire protection and rescue services throughout the unincorporated areas of the County on March 22, 2022, Resolution 2022-066, and this new district shall take effect on July 1, 2022. As a result, the current Fire Advisory Board will be dissolved June 30, 2022 and the Gaston County Fire Commission will be established effective July 1, 2022.

The Gaston County Fire Commission, a twelve (12) member advisory board to the Gaston County Board of Commissioners, is being established to strengthen the governance structure for unincorporated fire protection in the unified Gaston County Fire Protection Service District. The Fire Commission will work directly with private, non-profit fire departments and municipalities in Gaston County, and in immediate surrounding areas where necessary, for the provision of fire and rescue services. The Fire Commission will make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners on all matters pertaining to the Gaston County Fire Protection Service District, including, but not limited to, fire department budgets, capital needs, and service delivery performance and enhancement.

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NO.	DATE	M1	M2	CBrown	AFraley	BHovis	KJohnson	TKelghe	TKilbeck	RWorley	Vote
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Members of the Fire Commission will be appointed by the Gaston County Board of Commissioners and will consist of Six (6) Gaston County Township members with subject matter expertise in fire services (one per Township); three (3) consumer residents of Gaston County that have no fire service affiliation; one (1) Municipal representative who resides in one of the municipalities participating in the Gaston County Fire Protection Service District; one (1) member of the Gaston County Board of Commissioners; and the Gaston County Fire Marshal.

POLICY IMPACT

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution