



# Gaston County

Gaston County  
Board of Commissioners  
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## Public Works Board Action

File #: 22-159

Commissioner Keigher - Public Works - To Authorize the County Manager, or Her Designee, to Execute a Professional Services Contract with Thomas & Hutton for the Design of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Chapel Grove Elementary Waterline Infrastructure Project

### STAFF CONTACT

Dan Ziehm, PE - Public Works - 704-862-6795

### BUDGET IMPACT

100% ARPA funds. No additional County funds.

### BUDGET ORDINANCE IMPACT

N/A

### BACKGROUND

In May 2021, Gaston County was awarded \$43,612,126 in federal funds to meet urgent community needs in the wake of COVID-19. An internal committee has been meeting since April 2021 to discuss eligible uses of funds, potential projects, and financial reporting. On October 12, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners was presented with projects being considered for ARPA funding. Public Works has moved forward with four projects in the "Investing in Water & Sewer Infrastructure" category.

North Carolina General Statute NCGS §143-64.31 requires the initial solicitation and evaluation of firms to perform architectural, engineering, surveying, construction management-at-risk services, and design-build services (collectively "design services") to be based on qualifications and without regard to fee. NCGS §143-64.32 authorizes units of local government to exempt contracts for design services from the qualifications-based selection requirements of NCGS §143-64.31 if the estimated fee is less than \$50,000. However, the design fees for this ARPA waterline infrastructure project will exceed the \$50,000 cap for exemption, thereby requiring the engineer to be selected through the qualifications-based process. In addition, the qualification-based selection process is required to comply with Uniform Guidance (UG) selection requirements. When federal funds are involved, a waiver of QBS can only be considered when the total cost is below \$10,000 per Uniform Guidance.

Public Works staff developed a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) packet for the waterline extension infrastructure projects in accordance with the statutory requirements and publicly advertised these projects beginning on January 2, 2022.

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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	AFrale	BHovis	KJohnson	TKeigher	TPhillbeck	RWorley	Vote
2022-143	04/26/2022	TP	BH	A	AB	A	AB	A	A	A	U

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Statements of Qualification (SOQ) submittals were received on January 28, 2022, from seven (7) firms:

- Armstrong Glen, Charlotte, NC
- LaBella Associates, Charlotte, NC
- McGill Associates, Hickory, NC
- Robinson Sawyer - Thrasher, Gastonia, NC
- Thomas & Hutton, Charlotte, NC
- Wetherill Engineering, Inc., Raleigh, NC
- Woolpert, LLP, Charlotte, NC

After reviewing the SOQs submitted by the seven firms, Thomas & Hutton was deemed to be the best qualified for:

Chapel Grove Elementary Water Line Extension

Approval of this Board Action by the Gaston County Board of Commissioners officially selects Thomas & Hutton as the designer of record for the project listed above. Further, approval of this Board Action authorizes the County Attorney to draft the necessary contract documents for the work and authorizes the County Manager, or her designee, to negotiate and execute said contract.

**POLICY IMPACT**

N/A

**ATTACHMENTS**

N/A