

ADOPTED

JUN 23 2020

Gaston County Board
of Commissioners

646

GASTON COUNTY

COMMISSIONER'S COURT

NORTH CAROLINA

MARCH 24, 2020

The Gaston County Board of Commissioners (BOC) met in Regular Session on March 24, 2020 at 6:00 pm, in The Harley B. Gaston, Jr. Public Forum, Gaston County Courthouse.

Chairman Tracy L. Philbeck presided with Commissioners Jack B. Brown, Vice-Chairman *via telephone; Chad Brown, Allen R. Fraley, Bob Hovis, Tom Keigher and Ronnie Worley in attendance.

Others present included Dr. Kim S. Eagle, County Manager; Jonathan L. Sink, County Attorney; Charles L. Moore, Attorney; and Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the Board.

Upon request of Chairman Philbeck, Commissioner Hovis led those assembled in the Invocation and Commissioner Worley led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Philbeck introduced the new County Attorney, Mr. Johnathan L. Sink; advised that the BOC would be swearing him in and invited his family to the podium and administered the *Oath of Office* to Attorney Sink.

Chairman Philbeck called for a two-minute recess at 6:04 pm.

Chairman Philbeck reconvened the meeting at 6:06 pm.

Public Hearing - Commissioner Fraley - EDC - To Approve a Resolution to Convey Approximately 55 Acres in the Cherryville Business Park - Project ELI (formerly Project RODEO)

Chairman Philbeck announced the Public Hearings as advertised; advised the Zoning Public Hearings for Z20-10 Conditional District, CD20-1, CD-02 and The Carolina Thread Trail Map Amendment had been moved to the May 26th Agenda.

He explained procedures to be used and called for the motion to enter into Public Hearings.

On motion introduced by Commissioner Chad Brown and seconded by Commissioner Hovis, the BOC unanimously entered into Public Hearings.

Chairman Philbeck recognized Mr. Donny Hicks, EDC Director, for comments.

Mr. Hicks advised both projects were time sensitive and he thanked Mr. Robert Browne, EDC Chairman, for being present. He noted the municipalities in which the projects reside (Belmont and Cherryville) forwarded letters of support of the projects.

Mr. Hicks presented visuals and advised six years ago the BOC directed EDC staff to conduct a study in Cherryville to identify development opportunities; staff studied 650 acres along the Hwy 150 corridor (from location of Walmart to Lincoln County line); after staff analysis on what would be the best site they decided on the depicted 90 acres; BOC directed staff to acquire the property last year; BOC approved funds for due diligence at its last meeting; Project ELI wants to locate there and will consume about 55 acres of the property and employ about 20 people with an average salary of \$78k/job; the County's average salary is \$41k; this is a high-paying and a non-

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manufacturing operation that is a good fit for the community; staff met with the family and assured them that the County is meeting the intent of what it promised them; Project ELI proposes to buy 54 acres (49 acres net to buy a net of streams and right-of-ways); staff does not have a true boundary survey of the property; Project ELI proposes to pay \$25k/acre (fair market value); as soon as staff closes with the Beam Family and completes its due diligence and land purchase transaction, staff will work with Project ELI on the closing.

Mr. Hicks clarified the BOC had seen and approved this project before in a different municipality as Project Rodeo (Mount Holly private site that didn't work out); Project ELI includes the same incentives package under its new name.

Chairman Philbeck called for citizen comment and for questions from the BOC; none was heard.

Commissioner Fraley introduced a motion to approve and Commissioner Worley provided the second.

Chairman Philbeck called for discussion; none was heard.

2020-066 Commissioner Fraley - EDC - To Approve a Resolution to Convey Approximately 55 Acres in the Cherryville Business Park - Project ELI (formerly Project RODEO)

Chairman Philbeck called for the vote and the BOC unanimously approved Resolution **2020-066** as follows:

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute §158-7.1 authorizes a County to undertake an economic development project by conveying property to a company in order to cause the company to locate or expand its operations within the County; and,

WHEREAS, Gaston County has conditionally agreed with the owner to purchase and develop the Cherryville Business Park, located in proximity to the City of Cherryville; and,

WHEREAS, Gaston County and Project ELI have engaged in private negotiations for the conveyance of approximately 55 acres of the proposed Cherryville Business Park, to the end that Project ELI may construct a facility on the tract and have reached a tentative agreement on the terms for conveyance; and,

WHEREAS, the Gaston County Board of Commissioners has held a public hearing to consider whether to approve conveyance of the tract to Project ELI.

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

1. Authorizes the Chairman of the Gaston County Board of Commissioners to execute the necessary documents to convey to Project ELI the real property more particularly described below:

See Exhibit A

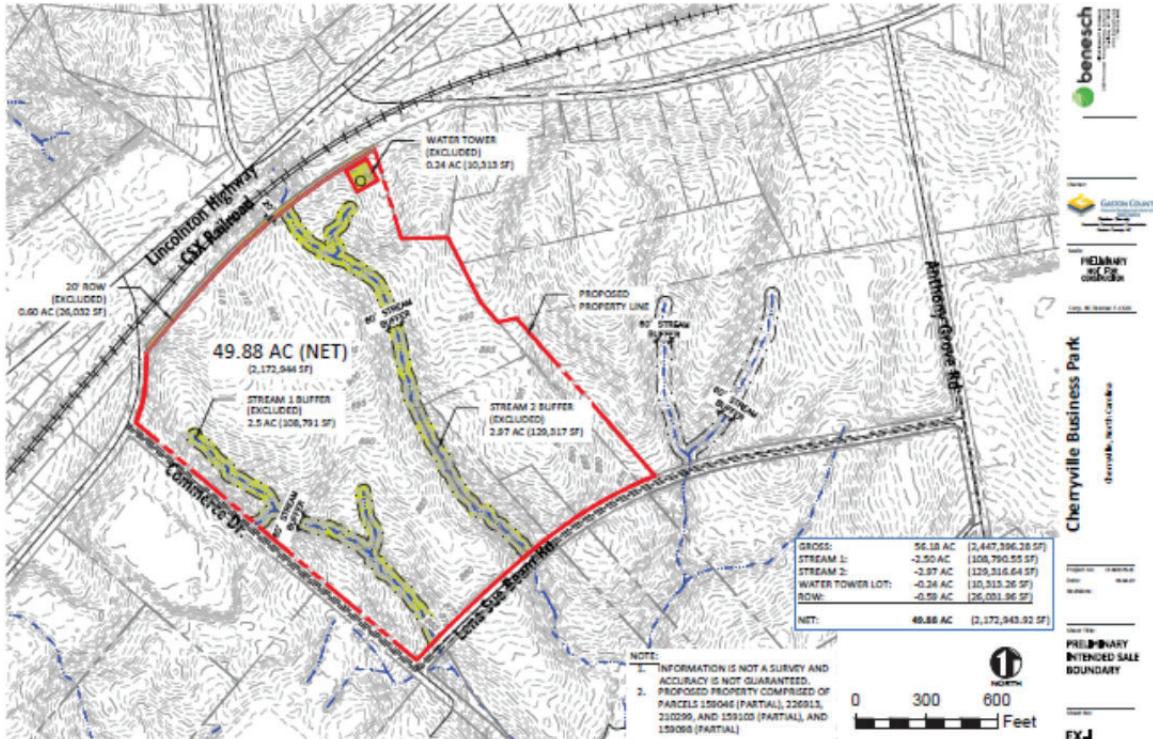
2. The conveyance of the property to Project ELI will stimulate the local economy, promote business, and result in the creation of a number of jobs in Gaston County that pay at or above the median average hourly wage in the County. This determination of the probable average hourly wage at the facility is based upon materials provided to the County by Project ELI.
3. The fair market value of the property, subject to the covenants and conditions associated with Exhibit A is \$1,375,000.00. This determination of fair market value is based upon market conditions as determined by the Gaston County Economic Development Department.

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4. As consideration for the conveyance of the property, Project ELI has agreed to provide a cash payment of \$1,375,000.00, and to construct on the property and equip a facility at a cost of approximately \$13.1 million over multiple phases.



Public Hearing - Commissioner Worley - EDC - To Authorize a Gaston County Level Three Economic Development Grant - Chronicle Mill Project (Chronicle Holdings, LLC)

Chairman Philbeck recognized Mr. Donny Hicks for comments.

Mr. Hicks presented visuals and advised the project is a redevelopment of the former Chronicle Mill near the center City of Belmont; Mr. John Church (owner/developer) is present; the project involves 238 one-and-two bedroom multi-family units; 90 of the units will preserve the original mill; the other units will be new construction; Mr. Ted Abernathy's economic development study pointed out the County lacked certain types of residential amenities to attract young people; one of the County's challenges is to find more products to encourage young people to live here; the projected lease rate per square foot is \$1.65 to \$2.15; \$1.50 per square foot is the magic number to move to the next level; if we can do it, this will demonstrate the market is there; the project will create some work space for entrepreneurs and others in downtown Belmont; will create consumers in center city with walkable restaurants and amenities.

This is a \$43M project with a lot of capital investment; the County has been requested to match the developer and City's efforts (rezoning and incentives approval) with this grant program; the site is a brownfield and has some contamination; the proposed project will clean up a brownfield

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location resulting in property tax relief from the DEQ (NC Department of Environmental Quality) for four years. He stated a Level Three Grant involving a 10-year property tax grant to be initiated after the brownfield property tax ceases will be key to making the project work. He also noted the redevelopment of 90 units cost more than the construction of 132 new units. In conclusion, Mr. Hicks stated the owner has contracted a well-known developer, Armada Hoffler from Virginia, and this will not go unnoticed in the marketplace.

Chairman Philbeck called for citizen comment.

Mr. John Church (owner/developer) thanked the BOC for reviewing the proposal; advised he and his wife purchased the property eight years ago; have struggled with getting it redeveloped due to existing problems on the site; most of the development opportunities would have involved demolishing the property, which is not their desire; they want to keep the property as part of the community and make it a vital and economic hub again. Armada Hoffler is experienced in adaptive reuse projects such as this and will be a great partner. They own their own construction company and are well-capitalized. He thanked Mr. Hicks for his efforts over the last eight years and the BOC for their support.

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

Chairman Philbeck called for a motion to approve.

2020-067 Commissioner Worley - EDC - To Authorize a Gaston County Level Three Economic Development Grant - Chronicle Mill Project (Chronicle Holdings, LLC)

On motion introduced by Commissioner Worley and seconded by Commissioner Hovis, the BOC unanimously approved Resolution **2020-067** as follows:

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute §158-7.1 authorizes a County to undertake an economic development project by providing grants for rehabilitation of existing structures; and,

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute §153A-149 authorizes expenditures of tax funds for historic preservation purposes; and,

WHEREAS, Gaston County and Chronicle Holdings, LLC, have engaged in private negotiations for the rehabilitation of the Chronicle Mill in Belmont, to the end that developers may create an historic adaptive reuse of the Mill, to include residential and commercial use, and have reached a tentative agreement on the terms for the rehabilitation of this Brownfield site; and,

WHEREAS, the Gaston County Board of Commissioners has held a public hearing to consider whether to approve the request for a Level Three Grant to Chronicle Holdings, LLC.

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

Authorizes the Chairman of the Gaston County Board of Commissioners to execute the necessary documents to provide a building rehabilitation grant to Chronicle Holdings, LLC, more particularly described below:

1. A Level Three Economic Development Grant pursuant to Gaston County Incentive Grants policy, to be implemented after the expiration of Brownfield rehabilitation tax credits for the project.
2. An Economic Development Agreement setting forth the terms for the delivery of the Grant.

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Chairman Philbeck called for a motion to close the Public Hearings.

On motion introduced by Commissioner Hovis and seconded by Commissioner Fraley, the BOC unanimously closed the Public Hearings.

Agenda Revision/Approval

- REVISED/ Commissioner Jack Brown - EDC - To Authorize a Resolution to Provide a Sanitary Sewer Easement on Parcel ID # 220493 to Provide Service for Project CATAMOUNT – IV., H.
- ADDED/ Board of Commissioners - County Attorney - To Approve the Establishment of the Gaston County's Capital and Relief Expansion (CARE) Initiative and Authorize Budget Appropriations in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic – IV., S.
- ADDED/ Commissioner Philbeck - BOC - To Authorize the Use of Electronic Means to Conduct Board of Commissioners' Meetings, in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic Crisis Should it be Deemed Necessary; and, to Authorize Staff to Pursue all Available Resources for Virtual Meetings including Teleconference and Video Conference Options and to Determine the Appropriate Mechanism for Public Comment – IV., T.
- PULLED TO NON-CONSENT / Board of Commissioners - County Attorney - To Approve the Establishment of the Gaston County's Capital and Relief Expansion (CARE) Initiative and Authorize Budget Appropriations in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic – V., S.

On motion introduced by Commissioner Hovis and seconded by Commissioner Keigher, the BOC unanimously approved the Agenda of March 24, 2020 with changes as noted above.

Citizen Recognition

No requests.

Consent Agenda

On motion introduced by Commissioner Worley and seconded by Commissioner Chad Brown, the BOC unanimously approved the Consent Agenda as follows:

2020-068 Commissioner Chad Brown - BOC - Proclamation - To Proclaim the Month of March 2020 as American Red Cross Month in Gaston County

2020-069 Commissioner Worley - Cooperative Extension - To Accept and Appropriate \$5,525 for Extension Programs per Budget Change Request:

Account Description	Account Number	Amount
Fee Based Prog:Food/Supplies	010-07-4950-4950-415013-15226	[245]
Fee Based Prog:Food/Supplies	010-07-4950-4950-560000-15226	925
Something Pumkin	010-07-4950-4950-560000-17272	3,000
4-H Programs	010-07-4950-4952-560000-16276	1,600
Donations	010-07-4950-4950-415001-	[5,280]

2020-070 Commissioner Philbeck - County Manager - To Rescind Board Action 2020-047 Dated February 25, 2020 and Accept Departmental Budget Change Requests as Information for January and February 2020 as follows:

EFF DATE	DEPT	ACCOUNT	DR/CR	AMOUNT
01/06/2020	Tax	010-01-4140-0000-520005-	D	\$25
01/06/2020		010-01-4140-0000-520007-	C	\$25
01/08/2020	Library	010-04-6110-6112-520007-	C	\$7,500

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01/08/2020		010-04-6110-6113-520018-	D	\$5,500
01/08/2020		010-04-6110-6112-520018-	D	\$2,000
01/10/2020	Manager's Office	010-01-4120-0000-530010-	C	\$10,000
01/10/2020		010-01-4120-0000-520010-	D	\$10,000
01/13/2020	Library	010-04-6110-6112-540001-	D	\$720
01/13/2020		010-04-6110-6113-540001-	C	\$720
01/13/2020	DSS	020-05-5867-0000-560000-16210	C	\$271
01/13/2020		020-05-5867-0000-560000-17228	D	\$271
01/13/2020	T & T	022-07-4921-0000-530010-	D	\$2,500
01/13/2020		022-07-4921-0000-520013-	C	\$2,500
01/17/2020	PIO Cable Access	010-01-4125-0000-540002-	C	\$7,000
01/17/2020		010-01-4125-0000-540001-	D	\$7,000
01/22/2020	Tax	010-01-4140-0000-520007-	C	\$410
01/22/2020		010-01-4140-0000-520006-	D	\$410
01/24/2020	DSS	020-05-5622-0000-530015-	C	\$2,000
01/24/2020		020-05-5622-0000-520010-	D	\$2,000
01/24/2020	Bldg Insp	012-02-4350-4351-530010-	C	\$220
01/24/2020		012-02-4350-4911-530010-	D	\$220
01/24/2020		012-02-4350-4351-520013-	C	\$100
01/24/2020		012-02-4350-4911-520013-	D	\$100
01/28/2020	Public Works	040-01-4265-4260-540006-	C	\$30,000
01/28/2020		040-01-4265-4260-540005-09241	D	\$30,000
01/28/2020	Finance	010-01-4130-0000-530012-	C	\$200
01/28/2020		010-01-4130-0000-520005-	D	\$200
01/29/2020	DSS	020-05-5640-0000-530023-	C	\$100
01/29/2020		020-05-5640-0000-530015-	D	\$100
01/29/2020		020-05-5650-0000-530023-	C	\$400
01/29/2020		020-05-5650-0000-530015-	D	\$400
01/30/2020	GEMS	010-02-4370-0000-530015-	C	\$12,000
01/30/2020		010-02-4370-0000-520014-	D	\$12,000
01/30/2020	DSS	020-05-5640-0000-530015-	C	\$100
01/30/2020		020-05-5640-0000-530003-	D	\$100
01/30/2020		020-05-5650-0000-530015-	C	\$400
01/30/2020		020-05-5650-0000-530003-	D	\$400
02/03/2020	Nat Res	010-07-4960-0000-520001-	C	\$500
02/03/2020		010-07-4960-0000-520010-	D	\$500
02/05/2020	Public Works	027-01-4265-4260-540001-	C	\$1,000
02/05/2020		027-01-4265-4260-540002-	C	\$5,000
02/05/2020		027-01-4265-4260-530012-	D	\$6,000
02/05/2020	Finance	010-02-4330-4340-520012-	D	\$1,000
02/05/2020		010-02-4330-4340-520002-	C	\$1,000
02/06/2020	Bldg. Insp.	012-02-4350-4911-530038-	C	\$1,700
02/06/2020		012-02-4350-4911-520001-	D	\$1,000
02/06/2020		012-02-4350-4351-530012-	D	\$2,700
02/07/2020	911	010-02-4311-0000-540001-	C	\$500
02/07/2020		010-02-4311-0000-530015-	D	\$500
02/10/2020	DSS	020-05-4790-0000-530015-18041	C	\$5,000
02/10/2020		020-05-4790-0000-530015-18047	D	\$5,000
02/12/2020	T & T	022-07-4921-0000-520013-	C	\$10,000
02/12/2020		022-07-4921-0000-520015-	D	\$10,000
02/12/2020		010-07-4920-4920-520013-	C	\$1,500
02/12/2020		010-07-4920-4920-520015-	D	\$1,500
02/12/2020	DSS	020-05-5650-0000-560001-	C	\$15,000
02/12/2020		020-05-5640-0000-560001-	D	\$15,000
02/12/2020	Public Works	010-01-4265-4260-530023-18084	C	\$24,000
02/12/2020		010-01-4265-4260-540001-	D	\$24,000
02/13/2020	DSS	020-05-4810-0000-510001-	C	\$142
02/13/2020		020-05-4810-0000-510003-	D	\$142
02/13/2020	GEMS	010-02-4370-0000-510001-	C	\$144,242
02/13/2020		010-02-4370-0000-560000-KMFD1	D	\$144,242
02/14/2020	DSS	020-05-5867-0000-560000-18526	C	\$23,000
02/14/2020		020-05-5867-5869-560000-18070	D	\$23,000
02/14/2020	BOC	010-01-4110-0000-530010-	C	\$40,000
02/14/2020		010-01-4110-0000-510001-	D	\$25,000

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02/14/2020		010-01-4110-0000-510100-	D	\$2,000
02/14/2020		010-01-4110-0000-510101-	D	\$2,000
02/14/2020		010-01-4110-0000-520011-	D	\$11,000
02/17/2020	Coop Ext	010-07-4950-4950-415013-15226	D	\$5,280
02/17/2020		010-07-4950-4950-415001-	C	\$5,280
02/18/2020	911	024-02-4311-0000-530002-	C	\$7,000
02/18/2020		024-02-4311-0000-520007-	D	\$7,000
02/18/2020	Health	011-05-5116-5131-510001-	C	\$6,997
02/18/2020		011-05-5116-5131-510100-	C	\$535
02/18/2020		011-05-5116-5131-510101-	C	\$626
02/18/2020		011-05-5116-5131-560000-205GP	D	\$8,159
02/18/2020	Parks	010-01-4261-0000-520002-	C	\$2,000
02/18/2020		010-01-4261-0000-520007-	D	\$2,000
02/19/2020	DSS	020-05-5582-0000-520017-	C	\$1,000
02/19/2020		020-05-5582-0000-520002-	D	\$1,000
02/21/2020	Coop Ext	010-07-4950-4950-530016-	C	\$5,000
02/21/2020		010-07-4950-4950-530013-	D	\$5,000
02/21/2020	Health	011-05-5115-0000-530002-	D	\$2,900
02/21/2020		011-05-5115-0000-520007-	C	\$2,900
02/24/2020	T & T	010-07-4920-4920-530015-	C	\$10,000
02/24/2020		010-07-4920-4920-520015-	D	\$10,000
02/24/2020	Grants	010-05-4121-0000-510002-	C	\$2,275
02/24/2020		010-05-4121-0000-530005-	D	\$975
02/24/2020		010-05-4121-0000-520013-	D	\$1,200
02/24/2020		010-05-4121-0000-520014-	D	\$100
02/25/2020	Public Works	040-01-4265-4260-540006-	C	\$6,000
02/25/2020		040-01-4265-4260-540005-09241	D	\$6,000
02/26/2020	Tax	010-01-4140-0000-530013-	C	\$1,577
02/26/2020		010-01-4140-0000-520017-	D	\$1,577

2020-071 **Commissioner Philbeck - County Manager - Commendation - To Commend the 2019 Gaston County Employees of the Year** namely: Emily Carpenter, Phyllis Ettell, Mark Heffner, Eddie Howell, Dawn Lackey, Beverly Lewallen, Ryan Poston, Adrien Sanders, Lisa Wassén and Christie Williams

2020-072 **Commissioner Chad Brown - DHHS (Health Division) - To Accept and Appropriate State Grant Funds Received from the NC Division of Public Health for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (BCCCP) (\$30,115) per Budget Change Request:**

Account Description	Account Number	Amount
Health State Grant	011-05-5121-0000-425059-	(\$30,115)
FY20 BCCCP Grant	011-05-5121-0000-560000-205BC	\$30,115

2020-073 **Commissioner Chad Brown - DHHS (Health Division) - To Accept and Appropriate State Grant Funds Received from the NC Division of Public Health for the Health Equity Program (\$8,000) per Budget Change Request:**

Account Description	Account Number	Amount
Health State Grant	011-05-5112-5115-425059-	(\$8,000)
FY20 Health Equity Grant	011-05-5112-5115-560000-205HE	\$8,000

2020-074 **Commissioner Chad Brown - DHHS (Social Services Division) - Proclamation - To Proclaim the Month of March 2020 as National Social Work Month**

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2020-075 Commissioner Jack Brown - EDC - To Authorize a Resolution to Provide a Sanitary Sewer Easement on Parcel ID # 220493 to Provide Service for Project CATAMOUNT as follows:

WHEREAS, Project CATAMOUNT is considering a total investment of \$20.6 million in new construction and machinery & equipment to establish an advanced manufacturing and technical facility in the Gastonia Technology Park (GTP) with the expectation to complete this investment on or before December 31, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, the Company intends to create at least fifty-nine (59) new jobs, within five years of establishing operations, expecting to pay an average annual wage of \$59,661 with the current average annual wage for Gaston County being \$39,852; and,

WHEREAS, this investment consists of not less than nine million seven hundred and sixty thousand dollars (\$9.76 Million) in real property investment and ten million eight hundred eighty-five thousand dollars (\$10.885 Million) in personal property (M&E) investment; and,

WHEREAS, the County owned parcel consisting of 1.36 acres and identified as Parcel #220493 was acquired for the purpose of providing access for Parcel #220176 to the sanitary sewer line that traverses Parcel #220493; and,

WHEREAS, in order for Parcel #220176 to be developed, an easement for the purposes of providing access to the sanitary sewer on Parcel #220493 is required; and,

WHEREAS, CATAMOUNT is considering purchasing Parcel #220176 for its intended investment in the County subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions, and access to the sewer line is required for CATAMOUNT to have the site conveyed from KRM Development in the GTP; and,

WHEREAS, this access to the sanitary sewer will allow the investment to occur.

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

Authorizes the Chairman of the Gaston County Board of Commissioners to execute any documents necessary to complete the granting of this easement once the following conditions have been satisfied:

1. Approval of the construction drawings and documents by the City of Gastonia and Two Rivers Utility to ensure that the sanitary sewer line for use by Project CATAMOUNT meets the requirements for the City.
2. A metes and bounds survey with legal description of the location of the sanitary sewer easement in a recordable form is provided to Gaston County staff for approval.
3. Authorizes the Chairman to sign all documents related to granting the easement.

2020-076 Commissioner Keigher - Finance - To Accept as Information the Attached Property Tax Refunds Less than \$100. These Tax Refunds Should Be Recorded in the Board's Minutes. (Total NCVTS Refunds - \$3,693.65) as follows:

Gaston County, North Carolina – Listing of Property Tax Refunds Less Than \$100.00 for Vehicles
To be Reported at the March 24, 2020 Board Meeting

TAXPAYER NAME	AMOUNT	TAXPAYER NAME	AMOUNT
NCVTS Refunds			
Adams, Jamille Queche	47.53	McTaggart, Gregory Scott	34.72
Barber, Rebecca Ann	53.23	Meek, Lauren Renee	69.31
Basheer, Sameer Musleh	90.89	Moody, Teddy Gray	16.18
bolynn, David Timothy	58.62	Nolan, Anthony Scott	39.21
Boylston, Daniel Lee	31.17	Pannell, Rita Maddy	29.82
Brooks, Mark Lynn Jr.	46.76	Pegram, Doris Gwendolyn	13.26

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Brown, Daniel Lee Jr.	48.71	Peindl, Paul Michael	26.62
Byrum, Clifford Conwell Jr.	27.31	Rabb, Walter Wagner Jr.	63.87
Cayax, Lynda Lynette	70.73	Reid, Christyn Lane	23.75
Cirillo, Wendy Danielle	11.57	Rhoten, Matthew Kevin	51.29
Cloninger, Ronald Franklin	25.84	Rick, Billy Joe	9.00
Cloningers Printing Inc.	94.74	Richgs, Debra McWaters	77.49
Collis, Mark Fredrick	82.08	Ross, Mary Roseboro	55.23
Cramerton Freewill Baptist Church	32.89	Rowell, Sylvia Priscilla Maxine	66.92
Eleg-6 Enterprise LLC	81.58	RTR Renovations LLC	46.93
Ferebee, Joseph Bryan	27.57	Scott, Doris Stroupe	18.09
Flack, Elizabeth Pate	32.88	Shelton, James William	51.00
Ford, Robert Abel Sr.	27.53	Smith, Milton Allen	7.57
Fraley, Marvin Lee	7.04	Smith, Robert Ray Jr.	56.21
Fralick, Lori Callaway	46.27	Smith, Ruth Bradley	10.14
Franklin, Michael Scott	44.82	Smith, Ruth Bradley	8.58
Friday, Kevin Lee	17.49	Springer, Rebecca Jean	37.43
Gabbert, John Clark	23.06	Stephenson, William Herbert	73.18
Glazewski, James Michael	24.64	Tarbush, Chelsea Morrow	38.16
Greene, Robert Stevenson II	55.90	Tarbush, Christopher James	44.02
Greene, Terry Wayne	32.82	Tatham, Jerri Stepp	48.62
Hammer, Howard Lynn	21.23	Thadavong, Phonesavath	9.09
Harbin, Edward Keith	78.77	Thadavong, Vong Phachanh	27.24
Harris, Beverly Martin	61.81	Thrasher, Rachel Lynn	25.00
Hilliard, Dianne Ashley Brown	79.10	Vargas Rodriguez, Juan Carolos	44.94
Hoffman, Dawn Eells	31.65	Watkins, Robert Mason	39.30
Howard, William Henry Jr.	16.01	Watson, Albert Marvin III	60.88
Hudson, Gary Daniel	12.44	West Franklin Baptist Church	83.45
Hunt, Jeffrey Glenn	52.73	West, Bobby Charles	35.13
Jackson, Melissa Antoinette	47.21	Westmoreland, Brandon Michael Donnel	25.00
Jones, Brenda Hargett	14.01	Westmoreland, Felicia Privette	25.00
Keepes, Nancy Coakes	46.87	Westmoreland, Michael Eugene	20.19
Kendrick, Eunice Elizabeth	66.08	Westmoreland, Michael Eugene	25.00
Kester, Grant Franklin	26.86	Westmoreland, Michael Eugene	25.00
Kitchen, Michael Wayne	4.74	Wilde, Randi Mason	20.59
Larkins, John Joseph Jr.	18.77	Wilkes, Richard Bruce	4.92
Lewis, Richard Tyler	93.50	Wilkinson, Thomas Alan	70.55
Lindstrom, Karen Lynn	15.04	Wilson, Dennis Lee Jr.	4.28
Loveday, Johnny Lloyd	69.42	Wilson, Dennis Lee Jr.	5.93
Lyles, Donald Bryant	89.47	Wilson, Dennis Lee Jr.	17.17
Martin, Nathan Dwight	24.45	Wrathall, Dallin Bailey	30.41
McClendon, Brittany Shantal	23.27	Wrathall, Dallin Bailey	32.97
Mckinney, Pamela Ponder	4.20	Zatorski, Michael Edward	3.71
Total VTS Vehicle Refunds for January 2020			\$ 3,693.65

2020-077 **Commissioner Chad Brown - Parks and Recreation - To Accept and Appropriate \$8,020 in Sponsorships for the 2020 Gaston County Senior Games per Budget Change Request:**

Account Description	Account Number	Amount
Donations	010-04-6130-0000-415001	(\$8,020)
Senior Games	010-04-6130-0000-560000-SRGMS	\$8,020

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2020-078 Commissioner Worley - Planning and Development Services - Proclamation - To Proclaim the Months of March and April 2020 as Census 2020 Awareness Months

2020-079 Commissioner Chad Brown - Police Department - To Accept and Appropriate the North Carolina 911 Board Funds and Transfer Monies to County Police Salary Account (\$1,329,670) per Budget Change Request:

Account Description	Account Number	Amount
Salaries	010-02-4310-4310-510001	[1,329,670]
Transfer from 911 Fund	010-98-9800-0000-480024	1,329,670
Transfer to General Fund	024-98-9800-0000-580010	[1,329,670]
Fund Balance Appropriated	024-99-9900-0000-490000	1,329,670

2020-080 Commissioner Chad Brown - Police Department - To Approve the Purchase of a Motorola Astro P25 Integration Audio Recording System by Carolina Recording Systems, LLC

2020-081 Commissioner Chad Brown - Police Department - Retirement Commendation - To Award the Service Side Arm and Badge to Retired Master Police Officer Jason C. May

2020-082 Commissioner Hovis - Police Department - Retirement Commendation - To Award the Service Side Arm and Badge to Retired Police Sergeant William "Blair" Hall

2020-083 Commissioner Hovis - Police Department - Retirement Commendation - To Recognize the Retirement of Police Records Specialist Mary E. "Suzie" McMillan

2020-084 Commissioner Fraley - Tax Collections - Pursuant to G.S. 105-381, the Tax Collector Requests that the Listed Tax Refunds be Made. (Real Estate - \$201,643.95; VTS Refunds - \$5,783.19; Grand Total - \$207,427.14) as follows:

TAXPAYER NAME	OWNER NAME	AMOUNT
FEBRUARY 2020 REAL ESTATE		
Williams, Gordon S		\$5,821.32
Dietrich, Robert E		\$100.00
Palmer, Peter		\$210.41
Alsop, Thomas A		\$166.89
Carpenter, J Dean		\$667.96
Drum, Lynn H		\$215.05
Farmer, Randy A		\$100.00
Duren, Jerome		\$5,708.48
Doster, John		\$465.00
SFR3 LLC		\$302.74
SFR3 LLC		\$1,279.31
Couchell Investment		\$1,027.98

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Hinson, Steven E	\$1,953.24
Corelogic	\$2,218.57
Corelogic	\$1,797.10
Corelogic	\$2,742.30
Corelogic	\$3,411.61
Corelogic	\$2,489.68
Corelogic	\$302.88
Gordon Builders Inc	\$496.88
Thornburg, Phyllis	\$973.73
Ramkissoon, Judy	\$170.50
Gaston County Tax Dept	\$300.00
State Employee Credit Union	\$230.34
Lima One Capital LLC	\$806.77
Lima One Capital LLC	\$827.79
Ryan Tax Compliance	\$4,653.79
Warren, Thomas Henry	\$1,156.96
Sand Dollar Properties	\$194.48
Shana Crawford Sole	\$106.57
Fowler, Karen K	\$2,316.63
Gaston County Tax Dept	\$110.91
Corelogic	\$1,568.35
Corelogic	\$1,905.22
Lereta Tax Service	\$913.51
Lereta Tax Service	\$2,188.92
Lereta Tax Service	\$1,321.51
Lereta Tax Service	\$2,525.93
Calyx, LLC	\$4,496.88
Med First Immediate	\$374.00
Trinh and Hguyen Pro	\$430.12
Robinson, Linda J	\$265.00
Watt, Sandra P	\$237.90
Shutler, Eric R	\$1,080.88
Lennar Carolinas LLC	\$1,086.50
Lennar Carolinas LLC	\$202.19
Lennar Carolinas LLC	\$186.69
Lennar Carolinas LLC	\$210.01
Lereta Tax Service	\$2,623.71
Raymond, Darlene F	\$735.62
Tap	\$133.92
Smith, Dana	\$1,808.45
Kinley, Frances M	\$300.00
Sparkles, LLC	\$670.26
A C Investment Properties	\$369.14
Strishak, Jon	\$1,682.59
Woodard, William R J	\$1,343.28
McCord, Debra Elliott	\$2,456.31
Bazarnyj, Diana	\$1,199.81
Langer, David L	\$2,323.64
Beam, Mona A	\$793.52

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Henkel, Joseph H Jr	\$100.00
Kincaid, Randy Steve	\$2,832.00
Lineberger, Dottie H	\$996.97
SFR JV-1 Property	\$1,499.69
R.E.D. 5 LLC	\$100.00
Ratchford, John B	\$858.45
Ratchford, John B	\$1,499.59
Young, Mark C	\$630.71
Zannis, Irene	\$1,407.05
Gaston County Tax Dept	\$18,726.40
Gaston County Tax Dept	\$1,698.10
CHH Properties	\$626.96
CHH Properties	\$142.54
CHH Properties	\$204.90
Fay Servicing	\$1,966.02
Fay Servicing	\$2,197.38
Fay Servicing	\$2,322.27
Belmont Saving Bank	\$150.48
Belmont Saving Bank	\$394.20
Belmont Saving Bank	\$638.60
Belmont Saving Bank	\$705.72
Belmont Saving Bank	\$176.20
Belmont Saving Bank	\$1,418.89
Davis, Kissah	\$240.00
Little, Leonard	\$894.89
O'Brien, Judith	\$206.00
Beam, Michael N	\$169.00
Interiors by Dean	\$100.00
State Employee Credit Union	\$1,660.63
Progres Res Sfr Hold	\$106.76
Gaston County Tax Dept	\$183.79
Harvey & Vallini LLC	\$1,700.00
Lewis Grading & Paving	\$343.68
Poole, Lester B Jr	\$431.00
Wesley Acres Swim	\$2,576.87
Caromont Health	\$25,146.90
Crossfit Ministries	\$1,531.98
Hardee, Bob H	\$482.53
Batista, Jose A	\$1,338.24
Conner, Anna J	\$1,984.65
Pittman, Katherine D	\$730.91
Flowers, Melvin F	\$2,747.26
Quicken Loans	\$158.98
Parker, Donna D	\$1,916.30
Quicken Loans	\$450.00
Convention Solutions	\$118.87
Mintz, Annette	\$288.20
Hoyle, David W Jr	\$464.55
Rick, Billy	\$215.99

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Homestead Construction	\$768.49
R L Price Co	\$3,245.55
JF Lawrence Properties	\$2,673.53
Belmont Abbey College	\$994.14
Boatwright, Thomas E	\$2,039.31
Francis, Melissa	\$3,147.54
Posey, Carol K	\$2,366.43
W Porter Rhoton III Attorney	\$240.25
Hawkins, James Eugene	\$200.89
Kelly, Zelma D	\$159.39
Bolin, L Bryant Jr	\$2,465.27
Poteat, David J	\$1,799.16
Price, Marla	\$101.32
Butterfield, Dorothy	\$553.29
Schwarz, Anna	\$195.75
Schwarz, Anna	\$126.02
Pace, Edgar A	\$132.60
Shaw, Janice	\$1,700.66
Corelogic	\$1,496.41
Kennedy, Elaine	\$536.45
Bella Abode Desgin	\$1,841.25
Corelogic	\$679.66
Sprott, Onwia L	\$108.29
Bonham, Paul W	\$100.00
Mclean, Blake	\$1,515.66
hodge, Tony D	\$582.72
Hester, Gary	\$658.55
Cherryville Masonic	\$165.51
Barnes Painting	\$113.59
LLM Properties	\$220.01
Stines, James R	\$412.78
Beattie, Preston D	\$391.46
Beattie, Preston D	\$188.91
Beattie, Ethel B	\$612.03
Jackson, Harold D	\$430.63
Stines, James R	\$520.54
Carver, Floyd	\$674.37
Murphy, Mark T	\$878.83
Creason, Steve A	\$365.88
TOTAL	\$201,643.95

FEBRUARY 2020 VEHICLES & ETC

TOTAL	\$0.00
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FEBRUARY VTS REFUNDS

Addington, Steven Austin	\$103.07
Agan, Ernest Watton III	\$252.30
Atkins, Brian Wayne	\$102.06

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Barlowe, Robert James	\$123.76
Cleveland County Tax Office	\$103.57
Decarlo, Lindsay Nicole	\$181.42
Denton, Robert Earl	\$222.52
Dunn, Eliabeth Penley	\$175.50
Garg, Ankush	\$134.45
Hill, Adriane Christine	\$117.13
Hoke, Robin Rechel	\$173.81
Horton, Phet Phomsane	\$160.82
Israel, Jeoiada Levi Ben	\$119.09
Keenum, Richard Dale	\$121.70
King, Chris Allen	\$112.33
Lakey, Faye Warren	\$156.19
Lincoln County Tax Dept	\$106.43
Liska, Gregory Dennis	\$1,216.11
Love, Mark Delane	\$146.25
Nance, Heather Marie	\$106.22
Nichols, Scott Tarrell	\$109.73
Norton, Jarrod Chase	\$138.12
Padgett, Herbert Winford Jr	\$101.13
Patel, Hansa Raman	\$148.29
Rayfield, Steven Bryant	\$132.26
Shepherds Landscape Maintenance LLC	\$234.15
Stokes, Melissa Marie	\$105.92
Trepel, Jeffrey Mark	\$292.40
Willis, Tara Michelle	\$210.40
Wood, Robert Lee	\$376.06
TOTAL	\$5,783.19
GRAND TOTAL	\$207,427.14

2020-085 **Commissioner Keigher - Veterans Services - To Accept and Appropriate North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Grant Funds to the Gaston County Department of Veterans Services (\$2,182) per Budget Change Request:**

Account Description	Account Number	Amount
Restricted Intergov't Rev/ Veteran Service: State	010-05-5820-0000-425056	[\$2,182]
Veterans State Matching Funds	010-05-5820-560000-16280	\$2,182

2020-086 **Commissioner Philbeck - BOC - To Authorize the Use of Electronic Means to Conduct Board of Commissioners' Meetings, in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic Crisis Should it be Deemed Necessary; and, to Authorize Staff to Pursue all Available Resources for Virtual Meetings including Teleconference and Video Conference Options and to Determine the Appropriate Mechanism for Public Comment**

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GASTON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Items Pulled from Consent Agenda

2020-087 Board of Commissioners - County Attorney - To Approve the Establishment of the Gaston County's Capital and Relief Expansion (CARE) Initiative and Authorize Budget Appropriations in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Commissioner Keigher introduced a motion to approve and Commissioner Chad Brown provided the second.

Chairman Philbeck called for discussion.

Commissioner Chad Brown thanked staff for working on this initiative; advised he is proud to be a part of this important project to help boost the current economy.

Commissioner Worley advised he was contacted by several local businesses that inquired about potential County assistance; he spoke with the County Manager about how the initiative will be rolled out. He noted a number of businesses have closed down and employees have been laid off; hopefully unemployment benefits will be available. He stated he feels this is the right step in making an impact locally and expressed his appreciation for the effort that went into putting this together.

Commissioner Fraley advised this action lets the County stimulate the economy and get a lot of much needed work and repairs done. He stated he has no doubt the County is doing the right thing but questioned if it is enough; staff may have to revisit this down the road. He expressed his appreciation for the efforts of everyone involved in this initiative and thanked Chairman Philbeck for his leadership during this time.

Commissioner Keigher asked for clarification on the process for obtaining funds from the \$1M allocated for the Community Task Force.

Chairman Philbeck deferred to the County Manager.

The County Manager responded \$1M will be allocated to seven programs outlined within the Department of Health and Human Services; staff is currently vetting how that criteria will work to expand those programs; anticipates having a fully formed implementation plan by end of week. Staff is working with the Public Information Officer (PIO) on getting the word out and on implementing a communication plan. The Board will receive more information in the next couple days.

Commissioner Hovis proposed that the BOC create a pay-as-you-go type program and eliminate the \$10M of interest the County will have to pay on debt service; County is currently in a better cash position and BOC should be able to identify FY2020-21 projects it can pay for on this list without having to put them under the finance umbrella. He added that he still thinks the best place to relocate Emergency Medical Services and Emergency Management is adjacent to the County Police Department by repurposing the facility that houses the Board of Elections.

The County Manager advised staff does not anticipate the need to issue debt for the \$2M for the CAC (Child Advocacy Center) facility and can provide more detail on how that works later. She

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requested that citizens with questions on the Care package be deferred to the County Manager until the formal process is established.

Chairman Philbeck proposed listing information and a phone number for citizens on the County's website; thanked staff for working on the CARE initiative; advised the plan puts people to work on shovel ready projects to help the local economy. He noted he spoke with Governor Cooper today and was advised there were over 100,000 unemployment claims. Through the Family Advisory Board, there is a huge opportunity for churches and organizations that help those impacted by COVID-19 to obtain funding to meet those needs; he is proud of expanding federal dollars and adding to that budget to have the ability to purchase food for food banks and help with rental/housing assistance, car repairs/maintenance, daycare supplements, homebound clients, prescription drugs assistance, foster care assistance, etc. This is a start and does not answer all the needs of our community but is a good foundation. The County will assess the needs, determine what can be done within the confines of government, and will do as much as possible, as quickly as possible to provide the needed assistance.

Chairman Philbeck called for the vote, and the BOC unanimously approved Resolution **2020-087** as follows:

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, has had and continues to have far-reaching negative impacts on our local, state, and national economy; and,

WHEREAS, one of the most fundamental roles of government in the United States is to protect the people, their liberties, and to promote the people's general welfare; and,

WHEREAS, citizens across Gaston County and throughout the State of North Carolina have suffered individual and businesses losses as a result of COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, the Gaston County Board of Commissioners is concerned about the negative impacts COVID-19 has had on Gaston County's individual citizens, families, and businesses; and,

WHEREAS, the Gaston County Board of Commissioners wishes to express its deep commitment to proactively care for its individual citizens, families, and businesses throughout the County; and,

WHEREAS, the Gaston County Board of Commissioners wishes to lead and not follow with respect to battling COVID-19 and to proactively do what it can to care for its people and to help maintain a strong local economy; and,

WHEREAS, the Gaston County Board of Commissioners encourages other counties across the State of North Carolina to proactively support their citizens and businesses both now and after the current public health emergency passes; and,

WHEREAS, the Gaston County Board of Commissioners wishes to exercise its authority within the limits of state and federal law, to support its citizens, businesses, and Gaston County's overall economy; and,

WHEREAS, the Gaston County Board of Commissioners, in consultation with staff, has identified \$50 million in already planned capital and community relief projects that can be responsibly but powerfully expedited for the ultimate benefit of Gaston County's families and businesses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners hereby establishes the Capital and Relief Expansion (CARE) Initiative, which will expedite up to \$50 million in already planned capital and community relief projects to be started as soon as practicable and for the purpose of supporting Gaston County's citizens, families, businesses, infrastructure, and overall economy.

Gaston County CARE Plan In Detail

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The following items have been identified as projects that are essential to Gaston County and will help stimulate economic growth.

Capital Funds would be used to begin the immediate projects in the current fiscal year (FY20). Immediate projects include ADA compliance updates to County facilities, County parking lot improvements, and construction of the Child Advocacy Center facility.

For the long-term projects identified, Gaston County could issue debt to finance the projects and provide an additional \$5 million in capital funds for design. Long-term projects include a facility to house GEMS, Emergency Management, and Telecommunications; and a new Fleet Maintenance facility.

Additionally, the Family Advisory Board and County programs targeting seven areas of key need would assist at-risk populations in Gaston County that are impacted the most from economic loss. Areas of assistance for these individuals have been identified below. However, these needs may change as the situation evolves. Several of the initiatives are existing programs that would be temporarily expanded or enhanced.

Immediate Projects**1. ADA Compliance Updates – \$2.7 Million**

Several Gaston County facilities were built before ADA requirements were in place. In order to comply with these ADA requirements, the County formed a plan to complete all ADA upgrades within two years, a total cost of \$5.4 million. The County allocated half of this cost (\$2.7 million) in FY20 and planned to allocate the remaining \$2.7 million in FY21. This action will accelerate this project in order to infuse money into the economy during uncertain economic times.

2. Parking Lot Improvement – \$2.0 Million

Much like the ADA improvements, the County allocated approximately half of the funding for necessary parking lot improvements in FY20 and planned to allocate the remaining amount in FY21. This action will also move up the FY21 plan for parking lot improvements to FY20.

3. Child Advocacy Center Facility – \$2.0 Million

The CAC in Gaston County serves over 300 children annually that are victims of sexual abuse. Bethlehem Church (now City Church in Gastonia) made a significant donation of land to locate a new CAC. The new CAC will create a more home-like atmosphere as part of a best practice model for this type of facility. The preliminary design of the facility is complete and these funds will complete the final design and construction of the facility.

Long-Term Projects**1. GEMS/Emergency Management/Telecommunications Facility – \$28.5 Million**

This facility relocation is included in the County's capital plan. This action directs staff to move up the planning and vetting process for the project in order to evaluate the fiscal viability. The current facility is inadequate in terms of space and functionality.

2. Fleet Maintenance Facility – \$11.25 Million

This facility relocation is included in the County's capital plan. This action directs staff to move up the planning and vetting process for the project in order to evaluate the fiscal viability. The current facility is inadequate in terms of space and functionality.

Infusion to Family Advisory Board - \$100,000

These are one-time funds to be allocated to the Family Advisory Board to help address the crisis. There will be criteria established around the allocation of funds as it pertains to the pandemic. Additionally, staff will continue to evaluate the structure and guidelines of this board in the future to ensure accountability and effectiveness.

County Programs - \$1 Million

Each of these programs will specifically target citizens that have been negatively impacted as a result of the crisis. The County will use federal funds first to address the needs before utilizing county dollars. The existing programs will be greatly enhanced and mobilized to meet the needs of our citizens as the situation evolves.

1. Food Bank
2. Rental/Housing Assistance
3. Vehicle Payment/Repair Assistance
4. Daycare Supplements
5. Homebound Clients
6. Prescription Assistance for Individuals not Qualified for Medicaid
7. Community Assistance for Foster Children Age 18-21

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Account Description	Account Number	Amount
Fund Balance Appropriated	010-99-9900-0000-490000	(100,000)
Other Contracts and Subsides	010-05-5830-0000-570006	100,000
Fund Balance Appropriated	020-99-9900-0000-490000	(2,200,000)
Care Plan (Coronavirus)	020-05-4790-0000-560000-20050	1,000,000
Transfer to Capital Fund	020-98-9800-0000-580040	1,200,000
Transfer from Public Assistance Fund	040-98-9800-0000-480020	(1,200,000)
Fund Balance Appropriated	040-99-9900-0000-490000	(5,500,000)
Child Advocacy Center Building	040-05-5585-0000-540005-20051	2,000,000
ADA Compliance	040-01-4265-4260-540005-18119	2,700,000
Parking Lot Improvements	040-01-4265-4260-540005-19033	2,000,000

Appointments

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

Motion Introduced	Seconded	Appointee	Term Ending
Commissioner Jack Brown	Commissioner Keigher	Mr. Andrew Blackmon	March 31, 2023
Commissioner Chad Brown	Commissioner Philbeck	Reverend John McCullough	March 31, 2023

On motions introduced and seconded, the following individuals were unanimously **reappointed** to the **Nursing Home Community Advisory Board**:

Motion Introduced	Seconded	Appointee	Term Ending
Commissioner Hovis	Commissioner Fraley	Ms. Clara Lowery	March 31, 2023
Commissioner Hovis	Commissioner Fraley	Mr. Robert Lancaster	March 31, 2023

On motion introduced by Commissioner Keigher and seconded by Commissioner Philbeck, the BOC unanimously appointed Dr. Edward Smith to the **Child Fatality Prevention Team** to an unexpired term ending January 31, 2022.

On motion introduced by Commissioner Worley and seconded by Commissioner Hovis, the BOC unanimously reappointed Mr. William S. "Bill" Melton to **SARA Local Planning Committee (LEPC)** to a term ending January 31, 2023.

Commissioners Committee Reports

No reports.

Chairman Philbeck advised he is working with the County Manager on putting an Intergovernmental Committee together to help address issues with the Mountain Island Lake Marine Commission (MILMC) and will provide the information to the BOC as soon as possible to determine the next steps.

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GASTON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

County Manager's Report

The County Manager presented:

- ***Re - CARE Initiative:*** The BOC was provided materials related to the CARE initiative and implementation information. She stated implementation is going quickly and she is pleased with how staff is proceeding
- ***Re - ADA Compliance Updates and Parking Lot Improvement Projects:*** The contracts are in place and can be easily amended; this will mobilize contractors quickly; staff can issue the Notice to Proceed and get local jobs back in progress
- ***Re - Child Advocacy Center (CAC):*** The CAC project must be formally bid per State procurement law; staff will reach out to local contractors and minority owned businesses to discuss how the County can support them in the bidding process. The County already has renderings and will be moving quickly to expedite completion of the architectural work
- ***Re - DHHS Funds and Family Advisory Board (FAB) Budget:*** The BOC was provided with additional information on the DHHS funds; the FAB's budget is doubling under the approved Resolution; staff is taking another look at its criteria and will bring forth any modifications it deems necessary to enhance the work of that committee given the increase in their budget. She added that from preliminary conversations, she did not anticipate that those modifications would be significant
- ***Re - Larger (Long-Term) Projects:*** Staff is expediting the internal vetting process for those larger projects and will keep the BOC apprised on how that moves forward.

Commissioner Keigher asked if the BOC needed to take any action now since it would not be meeting for another month.

The County Manager responded she did not believe any additional action from the Board would be necessary; will pull those existing contracts to see how much has been approved; staff should be able to do this mechanically.

Commissioner Hovis advised tonight's action duly authorizes the County Manager to proceed on any items already listed.

County Attorney's Report

No report.

Chairman Philbeck welcomed the new County Attorney, Mr. Jonathan Sink, and advised that Attorney Moore will be leaving the end of July.

Other Matters

Commissioner Keigher encouraged everyone to call on those they know are alone, handicapped or homebound during this time.

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Commissioner Chad Brown advised the BOC's message was very clear – that it supports its community, small businesses, and helping others in the community; this is not a time to panic or to hoard goods, but to love your neighbors, check on the elderly, practice good hygiene, be cognizant of your surroundings and adhere to the gatherings and six-feet distancing guidance.

Commissioner Hovis advised that today he spoke with Mr. Chris Peek, CaroMont Health's President, and CaroMont has one confirmed COVID-19 case and that some tests are awaiting results; there are no issues with CaroMont being overrun and collapsing. He encouraged everyone to be cognizant in terms of mitigating the spread of this virus.

Addressing recent rumors and misinformation, Chairman Philbeck stated the County has no immediate plans to issue a stay-at-home order; the BOC is meeting with local health care officials, DHHS and different community leaders to discuss and make those decisions. They are planning for the worse but hoping for the best. Regarding Mecklenburg County's order, anyone that works in essential services can travel to and from Gaston County to Mecklenburg County. He concluded that he plans to host a Town Hall (meeting) tomorrow to answer more questions and provide more transparency.

Chairman Philbeck asked if the County Manager was aware of any other significant rumors.

The County Manager responded staff is seeking clarification from Emergency Management regarding travel from Gaston County to Mecklenburg County for essential staff and clarification for non-essential staff.

Chairman Philbeck asked Dr. Pierre Crawford, Senior Pastor of Center Baptist Church, to lead in a prayer before adjournment and Dr. Crawford obliged.

Adjournment

Chairman Philbeck called for a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting.

On motion introduced by Commissioner Chad Brown and seconded by Commissioner Worley, the BOC unanimously adjourned the Regular Meeting of March 24, 2020 at 6:47 pm.

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

Tracy L. Philbeck, Chairman
Gaston County Board of Commissioners

Donna S. Buff
Clerk to the Board

SEAL