



**RESOLUTION TITLE: TO AUTHORIZE CONDEMNATION PROCEEDINGS TO ACQUIRE PERMANENT UTILITY EASEMENTS FOR THE DALLAS HIGH SHOALS INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT**

WHEREAS, in September 2022, the NC Division of Water Infrastructure awarded Gaston County \$5,478,000 in federal grant funds to meet urgent community needs in the wake of COVID-19. On September 27, 2022, Board Resolution 2022-294 approved and appropriated funds for the Dallas High Shoals Infrastructure Project (hereinafter, the "Project"). On March 28, 2023, Resolution 2023-114 appropriated an additional \$2,375,000 of gap funding from the Division of Water Infrastructure to cover a funding shortfall in the Project; and,

WHEREAS, on January 23, 2024, Resolution 2024-035 authorized the execution of interlocal agreements with the City of High Shoals and the Town of Dallas to set the terms and conditions by which the County will construct, and High Shoals and Dallas will operate and maintain the infrastructure; and,

WHEREAS, all the necessary easements have been acquired to construct the Project with the exception of 15 properties, as identified in attached Exhibit A; and,

WHEREAS, County staff will continue to work with the remaining property owners to reach an agreement as to the total compensation and terms of the easement agreements; and,

WHEREAS, if the County and the property owners are unable to reach agreements, the County may initiate proceedings to acquire the such easements through its power of eminent domain.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager and County Attorney, or their designees, to initiate condemnation proceedings, deposit the estimated fair market values of the properties with the Gaston County Clerk of Superior Court, and take other actions necessary to allow the County's acquisition of the necessary easements.

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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:

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