

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Cabarrus met for an Agenda Work Session in the Commissioners' Meeting Room at the Cabarrus County Governmental Center in Concord, North Carolina at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 7, 2025.

Public access to the meeting could also be obtained through the following means:

live broadcast at 5:00 p.m. on Channel 22

<https://www.youtube.com/cabarruscounty>

<https://www.cabarruscounty.us/cabcotv>

Present - Chairman:	Christopher A. Measmer
Vice Chairman:	Laura B. Lindsey
Commissioners:	Larry G. Pittman
	Kenneth M. Wortman
	Lynn W. Shue (by electronic means)

Also present were: Sean Newton, County Manager; Kelly Sifford, Deputy County Manager; Aalece Pugh, Assistant County Manager; Daniel Peterson, County Attorney and Lauren Linker, Clerk to the Board.

Commissioner Pittman provided the invocation.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Measmer called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

2. Approval of Work Session Agenda

ADDITIONS:

Discussion Items For Action

4.12 Risk Management - Budget Amendment

UPON MOTION of Vice Chair Lindsey, seconded by Commissioner Pittman and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda as amended.

3. Discussion Items - No Action

3.1 BOC - 2024 Child Protection and Fatality Report

Paula Yost, Child Protection and Fatality Team Chair, provided an introduction. She then along with Dr. Kamilah McKissick, Behavioral Health Director; Malisha Ross, Partners Health Management Regional Director; Amy Jewell, Cabarrus County Schools Director of Student and Family Support; Ashlie P. Shanley, District Attorney and Kara Clarke, Cabarrus County EMS Deputy Chief presented a PowerPoint presentation titled "The State of Our Children: A 2024 Report", which included the following:

- What is Child Protection and Fatality Team
- All other requirements/changes
- Community Partners
- 2024: Department of Human Services Numbers
 - Investigations worked with 3,516 children in 2024
 - DSS accepted 1,462 reports for abuse and neglect in 2024. A slight decrease from 1,694 cases in 2023
 - Of those accepted cases, 466 were investigative cases and 996 were family assessments. Investigative cases involve human trafficking or physical, sexual and emotional abuse
 - Out of the total amount of cases accepted, 134 had substance abuse allegations, and out of those, 14 cases alleged opiate use
 - Cabarrus County has completed 526 assist requests from other counties, an increase from 463 in 2023
 - We also had 13 substance abuse-impacted infants, 163 domestic violence cases, and 7 human trafficking cases
- Child Abuse: Department of Human Services Numbers
 - 68 families per month receiving in-home services as opposed to last year's 45
 - 177 children in foster care as opposed to last year's 182
- Essential Workers and County Impact
- 2023 Cabarrus County Child Fatalities
- Cabarrus County Child Fatalities, 2017-2023
- Child Suicide
- Cabarrus County Mental Health and Well-Being Efforts
 - Resource fairs/community events
 - Trainings and educational sessions
 - Suicide awareness and prevention (SAP) campaigns

- o Our partners
- School Mental Health and Suicide Prevention
- School Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Efforts
 - o QPR training available for all staff
 - o Mental health first aid training available for all staff
 - o Reconnect for resilience training available for all staff
 - o Wellness screeners given throughout the year
 - o Positivity project across all schools
 - o Say something anonymous reporting app
 - o All student services personnel trained in evidence-based suicide assessment protocol
 - o School-based therapy services available to all students (with parent permission)
 - o Parent education and family engagement
- Keeping Children Safe Online
 - o Internet crimes against children: Tips
 - o Sexual abuse victim data: age
 - o Sexual abuse offender demographics
 - o Apps offenders use
 - o Emerging and alarming on-line activity
- How You Can Help
- Cell Phones in School
- Legislation That Would Help
- Proactive Approach
- Goals
- 2025 Spring Into Safety - A Community Resource Expo - April 11, 2025, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m., EMS Headquarters

A discussion ensued. During discussion, Ms. Shanley and Ms. Yost responded to questions from the Board.

4. Discussion Items - For Action

4.1 Boards and Committees - Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee Appointment

Chairman Measmer noted the board/committee appointment item and asked if there were any questions or comments; none were received.

4.2 Boards and Committees - Early Childhood Task Force Advisory Board Removal

Chairman Measmer noted the board/committee removal item and asked if there were any questions or comments; none were received.

4.3 Construction Standards - Ordinance to Declare 4355 Rimer Rd unfit For Human Habitation and Order Demolition of Property

Matt Love, Construction Standards Director, reported staff received a complaint regarding a partially demolished doublewide. During the site inspection, it was found there was an empty above-ground pool and unsafe accessory structures on the property. The property owner was contacted multiple times and provided an opportunity to bring the property up to code or remove the structures, but no response was received. With no response, the Construction Standards Department declared the property unfit for human habitation and recommended demolition per NCGS 160D-1201 and 1203.

Mr. Love further reported after demolition, the owner will be invoiced and given 30 days to pay. If unpaid after that time, a lien will be placed on the property. Therefore, a budget amendment of \$19,300 was requested to cover demolition costs until reimbursement is received.

During discussion, Mr. Love responded to questions from the Board.

4.4 Construction Standards - Proposed Permit Fee Schedule From Fee Study

Matt Love, Construction Standards Director, reviewed the proposed updated Permit Fee Schedule. A recent study concluded that most fees remain appropriate, and no adjustments are necessary.

During discussion, Mr. Love responded to questions from the Board.

4.5 Emergency Management - NC Tier II Competitive Grant and Budget Amendment

Jason Burnett, Emergency Management Director, presented the Tier II Grant, which provides Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) with funding to enhance their hazardous materials emergency preparedness programs through

planning, training, and related exercises. The grant award is \$3,000, a \$1,000 increase from last year, and does not require a local match.

4.6 Emergency Management - Cabarrus Stanly Union Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Adoption

Jason Burnett, Emergency Management Director, presented the Cabarrus-Stanly-Union Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan update. He explained the State of North Carolina, through North Carolina Emergency Management, has a program to hire a vendor and cover the costs of writing and updating the plan for Cabarrus County and associated counties. This plan helps enhance the counties' resilience to natural hazards, such as floods, hurricanes, and other severe storms, providing a comprehensive strategy to reduce risks, protect lives, and improve community preparedness.

4.7 Finance - FY 2025 Audit Contract

Jim Howden, Finance Director, presented information regarding the upcoming 2025 audit contract with Martin Starnes & Associates, which is conducted every year as part of the county's routine audit process.

During discussion, Mr. Howden responded to questions from the Board.

4.8 Fire Services - Final Fee Study Updates and Fee Schedule Approval

Jacob Thompson, Fire Marshal, presented updates to the proposed fee schedule previously presented for the Board's consideration. It is proposed to keep new construction-related fees at 100% of the recommended amount. However, consumer-based fees are recommended at a 50% base fee from the recommended fee study. It is also recommended from prior discussions to remove fees for foster care homes, group homes, and food trucks.

During discussion, Mr. Thompson responded to questions from the Board. Additionally, during discussion, it was noted the Town of Midland opposed being charged for Cabarrus County Fire Marshal services. Cabarrus County Fire Marshal's office has not currently heard from Mt. Pleasant or Locust.

Lastly, Kelly Sifford, Deputy County Manager, suggested, if approved, the new fees should be implemented in the next fiscal year.

4.9 Human Resources - Health Insurance Plan Renewal FY26

Johanna Ray, Health and Wellness Manager, and Lynda Clyne, USI Senior Account Executive, presented the proposed FY2026 renewals for the health insurance plan, including medical, dental, pharmacy, health savings accounts (HSA), clinic, and administrative costs. If both plans remain unchanged, the total cost from the general fund will be approximately \$20,921,131.

There was discussion throughout the presentation. During discussion, concerns were expressed regarding the use of taxpayer funds for employee benefits at this level. It was noted that the county is self-funded, and any unused funds are held in a reserve to help cover costs in future years. Ms. Ray and Sean Newton, County Manager, responded to questions from the Board.

4.10 Library - Budget Amendment for Literacy Council Fund

Kelly Sifford, Deputy County Manager, on behalf of Melanie Hollis, Library Director, reported that the Cabarrus County Literacy Council donated \$14,882.21 to Cabarrus County libraries. The funds will be used to cover supply costs and special programs, including laptops and tablets for the literacy program. Ms. Sifford advised a budget amendment will be needed.

4.11 Planning & Development Department - Update to Current Fee Schedule

Susie Morris, Planning and Development Director, presented a request to update the current fee schedule. Unlike construction standards and fire services, the planning and development fee schedule has seen little change throughout the years. The department now seeks an increase. The last vote on this matter was in 2018 when the board chose not to raise the fees.

A brief discussion ensued.

4.12 Risk Management - Budget Amendment

Jon Bradley, Risk Management Director, presented a budget amendment for consideration to transfer funds obtained through a subrogation check to the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$27,172.50 to replace a vehicle involved in an accident in February.

5. Approval of Regular Meeting Agenda

5.1 BOC - Approval of Regular Meeting Agenda

The Board discussed the placement of the items on the agenda.

UPON MOTION of Vice Chair Lindsey, seconded by Commissioner Wortman, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda as follows for the April 22, 2025 regular meeting.

Approval or Correction of Minutes

- Approval or Correction of Meeting Minutes

Recognitions and Presentations

- Proclamation - Active Living and Parks - Older Americans Month
- Proclamation - Behavioral Health - Mental Health Awareness
- Proclamation - BOC - Clerks to Board of County Commissioners Week
- Proclamation - EMS - Cabarrus County Emergency Services Week
- Proclamation - Planning & Development Department - Fair Housing Month

Consent Agenda

- Boards and Committees - Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee Appointment
- Boards and Committees - Early Childhood Task Force Advisory Board Removal
- Construction Standards - Ordinance To Declare 4355 Rimer Rd Unfit For Human Habitation And Order Demolition Of Property
- Construction Standards - Proposed Permit Fee Schedule From Fee Study
- Emergency Management - NC Tier II Competitive Grant and Budget Amendment
- Emergency Management - Cabarrus Stanly Union Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Adoption
- Finance - FY 2025 Audit Contract
- Fire Services - Final Fee Study Updates and Fee Schedule Approval
- Human Resources - Health Insurance Plan Renewal FY26
- Library - Budget Amendment for Literacy Council Fund
- Planning & Development Department - Update To Current Fee Schedule
- Risk Management - Budget Amendment
- Tax Administration - Refund and Release Reports - March 2025

New Business

- Public Hearing - Fire Marshal - Fire District Change - Freeman Property
- Public Hearing - Fire Marshal - Fire District Change - Wallace Property

Reports

- BOC - Receive Updates From Commission Members Who Serve As Liaisons To Municipalities Or On Various Boards/Committees
- BOC - Request for Applications for County Boards/Committees
- Budget - Monthly Budget Amendment Report
- Budget - Monthly Financial Update
- Communications and Outreach - Monthly Summary Report
- County Manager - Monthly Building Activity Reports
- EDC - March 2025 Monthly Summary Report
- Super Cab Co - Monthly Report

Chairman Measmer announced that he has been appointed to the North Carolina Senate and will resign as Chairman of the Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners upon taking the oath of office. If his appointment does not proceed, he intends to remain as Chairman. His resignation becomes effective only upon being sworn in; until then, he will continue to serve as Chairman to the Board. To fill the vacancy, applications will be available soon both online and in person in the Clerk's office to everyone interested in applying.

Commissioner Pittman provided comments.

6. Closed Session

6.1 Closed Session -Pending Litigation

UPON MOTION of Vice Chair Lindsey, seconded by Commissioner Wortman and unanimously carried, the Board moved to go into closed session to discuss matters related to pending litigation as authorized by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3).

7. Return to Open Session

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Wortman, seconded by Vice Chair Lindsey and unanimously carried, the Board returned to open session.

6. Adjourn

UPON MOTION of Vice Chair Lindsey, seconded by Commissioner Pittman, the meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.



Lauren Linker

Lauren Linker, Clerk to the Board