

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Cabarrus met in regular session in the Commissioners' Meeting Room at the Cabarrus County Governmental Center in Concord, North Carolina at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 19, 2025.

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

live broadcast at 6:00 p.m. on Channel 22
<https://www.youtube.com/cabarruscounty>
<https://www.cabarruscounty.us/cabcotv>

Present - Vice Chair: Laura B. Lindsey
Commissioners: Kenneth M. Wortman
Larry G. Pittman
Lynn W. Shue
Jeff Jones

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 Jones was appointed by the Clerk of Superior Court. His oath was administered on May 13, 2025 and filed with the Cabarrus County Clerk to the Board.

Vice Chair Lindsey called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Vice Chair Lindsey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dan Marshall, Local Government Ministries, provided the invocation.

(A) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Vice Chair Lindsey reviewed the following changes to the agenda.

ADDITIONS:

Board Organization
B-1 Board of Commissioners - Election of the Chair
B-2 Board of Commissioners - Election of the Vice Chair

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

(B) BOARD ORGANIZATION

Election of Chair:

Vice Chair Lindsey turned the floor over to Sean Newton, County Manager. Mr. Newton opened the floor for nominations for Chairman of the Board.

Commissioner Pittman nominated Vice Chair Lindsey for Chairman of the Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Shue nominated Commissioner Wortman for Chairman of the Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Jones nominated himself for Chairman of the Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Newton called for further nominations. There were none. He then closed the floor for nominations.

Mr. Newton called for a vote on the nomination of Vice Chair Lindsey as Chairman. Voting was as follows: Ayes: Vice Chair Lindsey and Commissioner Pittman; Nays: Commissioners Shue, Jones and Wortman.

Mr. Newton called for a vote on the nomination of Commissioner Wortman as Chairman. Voting was as follows: Ayes: Commissioners Shue and Wortman; Nays: Vice Chair Lindsey, Commissioners Jones and Pittman.

Mr. Newton called for a vote on the nomination of Commissioner Jones as Chairman. Voting was as follows: Ayes: Commissioner Jones; Nays: Vice Chair Lindsey, Commissioners Jones, Pittman, Shue and Wortman.

As no nominee received a majority, no Chair was elected.

Daniel Peterson, County Attorney, advised, as the rules are silent on this specific circumstance, the Vice Chair continues to serve as Acting Chair until a majority is reached. Accordingly, Commissioner Laura Lindsey will remain Acting Chair. He further noted that the Board may hold another vote in the future if it so chooses; absent that, the state statute requires the Board to hold an organizational meeting in December.

A brief discussion ensued.

A break was called.

The meeting resumed at 6:18 p.m.

(C) INFORMAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Vice Chair Lindsey opened the meeting for Informal Public Comments at 6:18 p.m. She stated each speaker would be limited to three minutes.

Rich Wise, a resident at 3403 Brickwood Circle, Midland, announced the Town of Midland would hold a Veteran's Memorial Service on Monday, May 26th at 7:00pm.

Chris Cranston, a resident at 475 High Meadows Drive, Concord, commented on local government.

Ingrid Nurse, a resident of Concord, spoke regarding homelessness within the county and the local government deficit.

Keshia Sandidge, a resident of 270 Post Oak Ave SW, Concord, spoke regarding tax rates and teacher supplements.

Wesley Huneycutt, a resident of 2700 Cal Bost Road, Midland, commented regarding local government.

(D) OLD BUSINESS

None

(E) CONSENT AGENDA

(E-1) Active Living and Parks - Matching Incentive Grant Requests

Active Living and Parks offers a Matching Incentive Grant Program that provides seed money for civic, community and school groups to construct, improve or acquire recreational and park facilities in Cabarrus County. The grant will fund up to 50% of a project.

The Active Living and Parks Commission reviewed two requests totaling \$16,209.00 at their March 20, 2025, meeting. The Commission unanimously recommended awarding these community projects in full.

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Shue, seconded by Commissioner Wortman and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Matching Incentive Grant requests recommended by the Active Living and Parks Commission for FY25 as well as the related budget amendment.

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Budget Revision/Amendment Request

Date:5/19/2025

Amount:

Dept. Head:Londa Strong

Department:Active Living & Parks

☒ Internal Transfer Within Department

☐ Transfer Between Departments/Funds

☐ Supplemental Request

The matching incentive grant program provides seed money for civic and community groups to construct, improve or acquire recreational and park facilities in Cabarrus County. The purpose of this budget amendment is to assign funds from the approved budget to two different organizations, whose applications were recommended for funding by the Active Living and Parks Commission.

Fund	Indicator	Department/ Object/ Project	Account Name	Approved Budget	Increase Amount	Decrease Amount	Revised Budget
001	9	8110-9831	Matching Grants - Unassigned Funds	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -
001	6	8110-6813	Matching Grants - Unassigned Funds	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -
001	9	8110-9831-0154	Matching Grants - Unassigned Funds	\$ -	\$ 83,791.00	\$ -	\$ 83,791.00
001	6	8110-6813-0154	Matching Grants - Unassigned Funds	\$ -	\$ 41,895.00	\$ -	\$ 41,895.00
001	9	8110-9831-0217	Matching Grants - Weddington Hills PTO	\$ -	\$ 9,195.00	\$ -	\$ 9,195.00
001	6	8110-6813-0217	Matching Grants - Weddington Hills PTO	\$ -	\$ 4,598.00	\$ -	\$ 4,598.00
001	9	8110-9831-0084	Matching Grants - Mt. Pleasant Youth Baseball	\$ -	\$ 7,014.00	\$ -	\$ 7,014.00
001	6	8110-6813-0084	Matching Grants - Mt. Pleasant Youth Baseball	\$ -	\$ 3,507.00	\$ -	\$ 3,507.00

(E-2) Board of Commissioners - Approval or Correction of Meeting Minutes

The following meeting minutes were provided for correction or approval:

- February 21, 2025 (Budget Retreat)
- February 22, 2025 (Budget Retreat)
- March 10, 2025 (Work Session)

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Shue, seconded by Commissioner Wortman and unanimously carried, the Board approved the meeting minutes as presented.

(E-3) Board of Commissioners - Resolution Amending the Board of Commissioners' 2025 Meeting Schedule

Approval was requested to amend the Board's Resolution Amending the Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners' 2025 Meeting Schedule to reflect June 10-11, 2025, for the NCACC County Assembly Day and Legislative Reception in Raleigh, North Carolina. The resolution also included moving one of the Budget Workshops to June 4, 2025.

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Shue, seconded by Commissioner Wortman and unanimously carried, the Board approved the resolution.

Resolution No. 2025-06

Resolution Amending the Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners'
2025 Meeting Schedule

WHEREAS, the agenda work sessions of the Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners will be held on the first Monday of each month at 5:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room at the Governmental Center; and

WHEREAS, the regular meetings of the Board of Commissioners will be held on the third Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room at the Governmental Center; and

WHEREAS, the Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners' 2025 meetings may be conducted remotely in a virtual setting, as allowed by the Board's Remote Participation Policy; and

WHEREAS, the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday requires a change in the regular meeting date in January 2025; and

WHEREAS, the President's Day holiday requires a change in the regular meeting date in February 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Easter holiday requires a change in the regular meeting date in April 2025;

WHEREAS, the Labor Day holiday requires a change in the agenda work session meeting date in September 2025; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties (NACo) Conference requires a change in the work session meeting date in March 2025; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners, pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 153A-40(a), does hereby:

(1) Establish the Board's agenda work session schedule to meet at 5:00 p.m. (unless noted otherwise) in the Commissioners' Meeting Room at the Governmental Center on the following dates:

January 6, 2025	July 7, 2025
February 3, 2025	August 4, 2025
March 10, 2025	September 2, 2025 (Tuesday)
April 7, 2025	October 6, 2025
May 5, 2025	November 3, 2025
June 2, 2025*	December 1, 2025

*Commissioners' Meeting Room at 5:30 p.m.

(2) Establish the Board's regular meeting schedule to meet at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room at the Governmental Center on the following dates:

January 21, 2025 (Tuesday)	July 21, 2025
February 18, 2025 (Tuesday)	August 18, 2025
March 17, 2025	September 15, 2025
April 22, 2025 (Tuesday)	October 20, 2025
May 19, 2025	November 17, 2025
June 16, 2025	December 15, 2025

(3) Sets quarterly summits scheduled at 6:00 p.m. at the following locations:

January 15, 2025	Mt. Pleasant
April 16, 2025	Cabarrus Arena
July 16, 2025	TBD
October 15, 2025	TBD

(4) The Board will hold a Budget Public Hearing at the June 2, 2025 Work Session meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room at the Governmental Center; and

(5) Sets a Board retreat, to be held at the Governmental Center in the Multipurpose Room on February 21 at 5:00 p.m. to continue February 22 at 8:00 a.m.; and

(6) Sets the NACo Legislative Conference in Washington, DC, on March 1-4, 2025; and

(7) Sets the NCACC County Assembly Day and Legislative Reception in Raleigh, North Carolina on June 10-11, 2025; and

(8) Sets budget workshop meetings on April 15, 2025 and June 4, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room in the Governmental Center; and

(9) Sets the NACo Annual Conference in Allegheny County, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on July 11 - 14, 2025; and

(10) Sets the NCACC Annual Conference in Pitt County, North Carolina on August 20 - 23, 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any recessed, special or emergency meeting will be held as needed with proper notice as required by North Carolina General Statute 153A-40.

Adopted this the 19th day of May, 2025.

BY: /s/Laura Lindsey
Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners

Attest:
/s/ Lauren Linker
Clerk to the Board

(E-4) Board of Elections - Preliminary Approval of Upgrade of Elections Equipment

The Cabarrus County Board of Elections has approved a resolution to purchase a software upgrade for the voting system and has requested preliminary approval from the Board of Commissioners to proceed. The State Board of Elections requires testing and certification before final purchase. Once that process has been completed, staff plans to return with a final recommendation. Funding for the purchase has been allocated in the budget.

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Shue, seconded by Commissioner Wortman and unanimously carried, the Board approved the purchase of a voting system software upgrade.

(E-5) County Manager - Transfer of Properties to Cabarrus County Schools

Cabarrus County is required to maintain ownership of school properties used as debt collateral for construction and renovation projects. Eleven properties have satisfied their debt obligations and are ready to be returned to the school system. These include:

- Cabarrus County Bus Garage
- Cabarrus County School Administrative Building
- C.C. Griffin Middle School
- Central Cabarrus High School
- Concord High School
- Harris Road Middle School
- J.N. Fries Middle School
- Jay M. Robinson High School
- Mount Pleasant High School
- Rocky River Elementary School
- Weddington Hills Elementary School

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Shue, seconded by Commissioner Wortman and unanimously carried, the Board approved to return the listed properties to Cabarrus County Schools and authorized the County Manager to execute the necessary documents.

(E-6) Juvenile Crime Prevention Council - FY 2025-26 County Funding Plan and Annual Certification

The County receives annual funding from the North Carolina Department of Public Safety (DPS) and then distributes the majority of those funds to JCPC-approved subrecipients. For FY 2025-26, the County will receive \$459,927. Of this amount, \$444,427 will be awarded to youth programs, and \$15,500 will be allocated for administrative expenses under the JCPC County Funding Plan.

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Shue, seconded by Commissioner Wortman and unanimously carried, the Board approved the FY 2025-26 JCPC County Funding Plan and Annual Certification.

(E-7) Library - Budget Amendment

The Library requested to amend the library budget to reappropriate donated funds into Circulation Stock and Special Program Supplies line items and to correct two miscodes into the correct budget lines.

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Shue, seconded by Commissioner Wortman and unanimously carried, the Board approved the budget amendment.

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Date:5/19/2025

Amount:

Dept. Head:Melanie Holles

Department:Library

☐ Internal Transfer Within Department

☐ Transfer Between Departments/Funds

☒ Supplemental Request

\$210.00 has been donated throughout the year to purchase books in memory of someone, those funds need to be moved into Circulation Stock to cover the purchase of those memorial materials. The various Friends of the library donated \$425.00 to help cover costs of the annual summer reading program and those funds need to be transferred into special program supplies.

Fund	Indicator	Department/ Object/ Project	Account Name	Approved Budget	Increase Amount	Decrease Amount	Revised Budget
001	6	8240-6805	Contributions and Private Donations		425.00		425.00
001	9	8210-9356	Special Program Supplies		425.00		425.00
001	6	8210-6805	Contributions and Private Donations		210.00		210.00
001	9	8210-9302	Circulation Stock		210.00		210.00

(E-8) Sheriff's Office - Acceptance of K9 American Kennel Club Grant Funds

The Cabarrus County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) K9 unit is a vital part of community safety, assisting with tracking criminals, locating evidence and illegal drugs, detecting IEDs, finding missing or vulnerable individuals, and more. Maintaining the program requires ongoing costs for animal care and replacing retired K9s. To help offset these expenses, the CCSO K9 Unit applied for and was awarded an American Kennel Club (AKC) Reunite Grant. The grant provides \$7,500, with no county match required, to support the purchase of the next budgeted K9. A budget amendment was presented for consideration.

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Shue, seconded by Commissioner Wortman and unanimously carried, the Board accepted the grant award and approved the associated budget amendment.

Date:5/19/2025

Amount:7,500.00

Dept. Head:Sheriff Van W. Shaw

Department:2110 - Sheriff's Office

☐ Internal Transfer Within Department

☐ Transfer Between Departments/Funds

☒ Supplemental Request

Purpose: This Budget Amendment records the receipt of grant funding to aid in the purchase of a working K-9. The Cabarrus County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit applied for the American Kennel Club (AKC) Reunite Grant and was awarded \$7,500; no matching funds are required.

Fund	Indicator	Department/ Object/ Project	Account Name	Approved Budget	Increase Amount	Decrease Amount	Revised Budget
001	6	2110-639999	One Time Grants Other		7,500.00		7,500.00
001	9	2110-9960	Equipment & Furniture		7,500.00		7,500.00

(E-9) Social Services - Home and Community Care Block Grant

The Department of Social Services serves as the lead agency for the Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG), which supports health and well-being services for Cabarrus County residents ages 60 and older. Funding is distributed to community providers, including DSS, Transportation Services, Housing Home & Improvement Program, Active Living & Parks, and Cabarrus Meals on Wheels.

The recipients of the Home and Community Care Block Grant funding consist of the following community service providers: Department of Social Services, Transportation Services, Housing Home & Improvement Program, Active Living & Parks and Cabarrus Meals on Wheels.

The grant is administered by the North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services through the Centralina Area Agency on Aging, which directed the County to request the same funding for FY26 as in FY25. In FY25, Cabarrus County received \$1,066,283 in HCCBG funds, with a required 10% County match of \$118,478, for a total of \$1,184,761. Staff requested approval to submit an application for the grant.

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Shue, seconded by Commissioner Wortman and unanimously carried, the Board approved the FY26 Home and Community Care Block Grant submission to the Centralina Agency on Aging for consideration.

(E-10) Tax Administration - Refund and Release Reports - April 2025

The Release Report lists taxpayers’ names, bill numbers, valuations, and tax amounts, along with the justification for releasing valuations or tax amounts in accordance with N.C.G.S. 105-381. The Refund Report provides a summary of refund requests, including supporting justifications, also in accordance with N.C.G.S. 105-381.

Note: With the transition to the North Carolina Vehicle Tax System (NCVTS), motor vehicle-related refunds and releases will now appear on reports generated by NCVTS.

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Shue, seconded by Commissioner Wortman and unanimously carried, the Board approved the April 2025 Refund and Release Reports as submitted and granted authority to the Tax Collector to process the refunds and releases.

(E-11) Tourism Authority - FY 2026 Budget

The Cabarrus County Tourism Authority presented its FY2026 budget for consideration along with a tourism update.

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Shue, seconded by Commissioner Wortman and unanimously carried, the Board approved the FY26 Cabarrus County Tourism Authority budget of \$7,556,550.

(E-12) Veterans Services - Grant Acceptance

The Cabarrus County Veterans Services Office was awarded a North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (NC DMVA) grant in the amount of \$18,288.97 for FY2025, up from the previous maximum of \$2,500. The funds will support veteran outreach, staff training, personnel support, and office enhancements. Planned uses will include promotional materials, professional development, temporary staffing and extended service hours, and office equipment upgrades. A budget amendment for the funds was provided for consideration.

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Shue, seconded by Commissioner Wortman and unanimously carried, the Board approved the budget amendment as presented.

Date:5/19/2025

Amount:18,289.00

Dept. Head:Tony Miller

Department:Veterans Services

☐ Internal Transfer Within Department

☐ Transfer Between Departments/Funds

☒ Supplemental Request

Veterans Services has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$18,289.00. There is no county match. The grant will be used to cover operation expenses such as office supplies, minor office equipment, advertising, and contracted personnel services.

Fund	Indicator	Department/ Object/ Project	Account Name	Approved Budget	Increase Amount	Decrease Amount	Revised Budget
460	6	5110-6201-GPCVO	Veterans Services Grant	-	18,289.00		18,289.00
460	9	5110-9301-GPCVO	Office Supplies	-	3,500.00		3,500.00
460	9	5110-9331-GPCVO	Minor Office Equipment & Furniture	-	5,000.00		5,000.00
460	9	5110-9110-GPCVO	Contracted Personnel Services	-	7,289.00		7,289.00
460	9	5110-9601-GPCVO	Advertising	-	2,500.00		2,500.00

(E-13) Veterans Services - Memorial Day 2025 Proclamation

The Memorial Day proclamation recognizes the service and sacrifice of veterans who have fought and died for the freedom of our country.

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Shue, seconded by Commissioner Wortman and unanimously carried, the Board adopted the proclamation.

Proclamation No. 2025-09

MEMORIAL DAY PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, our ancestors shaped the structure of our political system, laid the groundwork for higher discoveries in science and medical research, started long-lasting traditions that enrich our heritage, and fought in wars so that future generations would have freedom; and

WHEREAS, it is important to cherish the memories of our friends and family members who have died, and to remember their contributions towards making our lives better; and

WHEREAS, the veterans who fought and died for our country helped preserve the freedoms and rights guaranteed to all people under the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, on Memorial Day, Americans remember the enormous debt of gratitude we owe to our veterans who have lost their lives in the defense of freedom and pursuit of peace and we reflect on the past and renew our patriotism so that we may continue to live in freedom and seek peace so that our veterans will not have died in vain.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners do hereby recognize May 26, 2025 as

MEMORIAL DAY 2025

in Cabarrus County and urges all residents in the county to take time on this special day of remembrance to honor those who have sacrificed and died to improve our quality of life, and to strengthen our nation.

ADOPTED this 19th day of May, 2025.

/s/ Laura Lindsey
Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

/s/ Lauren Linker
Lauren Linker, Clerk to the Board

(F) APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Vice Chair Lindsey presented comments regarding the appointment of new members to the Boards.

(F-1) Boards and Committees - Appointment - Early Childhood Task Force Advisory Board

The term for Seat #5 on the Early Childhood Task Force Advisory Board has expired and needs to be filled.

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Pittman, seconded by Commissioner Wortman and unanimously carried, the Board appointed Jennifer Threadgill to fill seat #5 on the Early Childhood Task Force Advisory Board, term expiring February 28, 2029; and to include any necessary exceptions to the Appointment Policy.

(F-2) Boards and Committees - Appointment - Early Childhood Task Force Advisory Board

The term for Seat #6 on the Early Childhood Task Force Advisory Board has expired and needs to be filled.

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Wortman, seconded by Commissioner Pittman and unanimously carried, the Board appointed Anna Lee Taylor to fill the seat #6 on the Early Childhood Task Force Advisory Board, with a term expiring February 28, 2029; and to include any necessary exceptions to the Appointment Policy.

(F-3) Boards and Committees - Appointment - Early Childhood Task Force Advisory Board

The term for Seat #16 on the Early Childhood Task Force Advisory Board has expired and needs to be filled.

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Pittman, seconded by Commissioner Shue and unanimously carried, the Board appointed Willmarie Austin to fill seat #16 on the Early Childhood Task Force Advisory Board, with a term expiring on February 28, 2029; and to include any necessary exceptions to the Appointment Policy.

(F-4) Boards and Committees - Removal - Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee

A request to remove Valerie Miller from the Nursing Home Community Advisory Board for failure to meet the attendance requirements was received.

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Shue, seconded by Commissioner Pittman and unanimously carried, the Board removed Valerie Miller from the Nursing Home Community Advisory.

(F-6) Boards and Committees - Appointment - Senior Centers Advisory Council

A discussion ensued to include term limits.

The term for Seat #5 on the Senior Centers Advisory Council has expired and needs to be filled.

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Wortman, seconded by Commissioner Pittman and unanimously carried, the Board appointed Myra Baumgardner to fill seat #5 on the Senior Centers Advisory Council, with a term expiring December 31, 2027; and to include any necessary exceptions to the Appointment Policy.

(F-7) Boards and Committees - Appointment - Senior Centers Advisory Council

The term for Seat #6 on the Senior Centers Advisory Council has expired and needs to be filled.

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Wortman, seconded by Commissioner Shue and unanimously carried, the Board appointed Ronnie Tucker to fill seat #6 on the Senior Centers Advisory Council, with a term expiring December 31, 2027, and to include any necessary exceptions to the Appointment Policy.

(F-8) Boards and Committees - Appointment - Senior Centers Advisory Council

The term for Seat #5 on the Senior Centers Advisory Council has expired and needs to be filled.

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Wortman, seconded by Commissioner Shue and unanimously carried, the Board appointed William Del Eudy to fill seat #5 on the Senior Centers Advisory Council, with a term expiring December 31, 2027; and to include any necessary exceptions to the Appointment Policy.

(F-5) Boards and Committees - Appointment - Senior Centers Advisory Council

The term for Seat #4 on the Senior Centers Advisory Council has expired and needs to be filled.

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Kenny, seconded by Commissioner Pittman and unanimously carried, the Board appointed Elizabeth Bennett to fill seat #4 on the Senior Centers Advisory Council, term expiring December 31, 2027; and to include any necessary exceptions to the Appointment Policy.

(F-8) Boards and Committees - Appointment - Senior Centers Advisory Council

The term for Seat #7 on the Senior Centers Advisory Council has expired and needs to be filled.

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Pittman, seconded by Commissioner Wortman and unanimously carried, the Board appointed Christine Barrier to fill seat #7 on the Senior Centers Advisory Council, with a term expiring December 31, 2027; and to include any necessary exceptions to the Appointment Policy.

(F-9) Boards and Committees - Appointment - Senior Centers Advisory Council

The term for Seat #10 on the Senior Centers Advisory Council has expired and needs to be filled.

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Pittman, seconded by Commissioner Wortman and unanimously carried, the Board appointed Teresa Small to fill seat #10 on the Senior Centers Advisory Council, with a term expiring December 31, 2026; and to include any necessary exceptions to the Appointment Policy.

(F-10) Boards and Committees - Appointment - Senior Centers Advisory Council

The term for Seat #11 on the Senior Centers Advisory Council has expired and needs to be filled.

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Pittman, seconded by Commissioner Wortman and unanimously carried, the Board appointed Steve Ayers to fill seat #11 on the

Senior Centers Advisory Council, with a term expiring December 31, 2026; and to include any necessary exceptions to the Appointment Policy.

(G) NEW BUSINESS

(G-1) Board of Commissioners - Cabarrus County Sports Hall of Fame

Commissioner Wortman read aloud a Resolution in support of the Cabarrus County Sports Hall of Fame. Commissioner Wortman then presented it to Coach E.Z. Smith, Jimmy Alton, Harry Mills, and Hailey Lowery, board members of the Cabarrus County Sports Hall of Fame. Cabarrus County Sports Hall of Fame member Brian Tyson was unable to attend.

Coach Smith expressed his appreciation.

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Wortman, seconded by Commissioner Shue and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Resolution.

Resolution No. 2025-07

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE CABARRUS COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME TO
BE HOSTED IN THE CABARRUS ARENA AND EVENTS CENTER**

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners to honor and pay tribute to those individuals whose commitment to promoting the richness and diversity of sports programs in Cabarrus County and, the Cabarrus County Sports Hall of Fame memorializes such actions through recognition of notable Cabarrus County athletes' excellence and achievements; and

WHEREAS, athletes devoted to improving the quality the athletic competition in all sports are deserving of praise and recognition; and have contributed to the strength, vitality, and economic enrichment of Cabarrus County; and

WHEREAS, athletics provide the building blocks of cooperation and teamwork; they are central to American culture; they enlighten us and inspire the imagination; while providing variety to educational institutions, individuals, and organizations that further such exciting purposes merit the recognition and appreciation of the Board of Commissioners and the people of the Cabarrus County and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioners are in full support of the county's long-standing athletic traditions and excellence, the Board of Commissioners are proud to support hosting the Cabarrus County Sports Hall of Fame at the Cabarrus Arena and Events Expo; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners do hereby agree to provide a home to the Cabarrus County Sports Hall of Fame at the Cabarrus County Arena and Events Center.

Adopted this day the 19th of May, 2025.

/s/ Laura Lindsey
Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

/s/ Lauren Linker
Clerk to the Board

(G-2) County Manager - Presentation of the FY26 Recommended Budget

Sean Newton, County Manager, presented the FY26 Recommended Budget. A copy has been filed with the Clerk to the Board and made available for public inspection at the Cabarrus County Government Center during business hours, as well as online at cabarruscounty.us.

A public hearing will be held on June 2 at 5:30 p.m. at the Government Center (65 Church St. S, Concord). If needed, a budget workshop is scheduled for June 4 at 5:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room. Adoption is scheduled for June 16, 2025.

Honorable members of the Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners:

It is my distinct pleasure to submit the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (FY26) Recommended Budget and the FY26 Capital Investments Plan for Cabarrus County.

Completing the Recommended Budget for FY26 is no small task on its own. This year, challenges were compounded by the onboarding of a new County Manager who joined the team a few months prior to budget deadlines and a request cycle saddled with a \$6 million deficit. I am proud to say that staff rallied around strong financial stewardship and budgetary principles. They partnered to create a strong Recommended Budget that removed the projected deficit and found ways to invest above planned spending in key areas such as education.

This budget is built on discipline, data, and dedication to the people of Cabarrus County. Departments across the County are rising to the challenge of absorbing growth demands and modernizing services while thoughtfully reducing spending in non-critical areas.

The Recommended Budget continues a flat tax rate of 57.6 cents per \$100 of assessed value - which maintains last year's adopted rate. This rate allows the County to sustain and invest in existing services with a priority emphasis on public safety and education. Education continues to see large growth requests for budget increases from the school systems with another year of double-digit growth in operating costs. This year's budget also continues to fund a healthy Community Investment Fund (CIF) capable of supporting the debt associated with past Board decisions, such as the remodel and construction of our new County buildings at Progress Place (the former ACN building and the Stephen M. Morris Behavioral Health Center under construction) while still supporting needed investment in new Capital Improvement Projects. While I am confident that this tax rate can continue to support County operations in our five-year outlook, external impacts such as inflationary and recessionary factors, increased cost of living in the area and recurrently large year-over-year growth in education spending will continue to require forward thinking and strong budgetary practices to account for increased expense needs.

The recommended General Fund budget totals \$399 million - a 5% increase over last year's adopted budget. Across all funds, including those supported by user fees, the FY26 budget totals \$548 million. The budget also supports continued capital improvements and the Community Investment Fund.

Stewardship and Intentional Budgeting Practices

As staff created this Proposed Budget, we faced a need to address a projected deficit of just under \$6 Million for FY26. Since the retreat in February, we closed that gap with two primary strategies:

1. Challenging each department to use strong financial stewardship of taxpayer dollars to create a budget that fully supports services while reducing spending on activities with no direct impact on services, such as travel to organizational conferences.
2. Employing intentional budgeting practices to accurately align the Proposed Budget with the reality of historical spending. The proposals of the past several years have consistently created between \$20 and \$40 million in surplus funds. Our approach this year involved evaluating actual spending levels and adjusting proposed budget numbers that reflect reality while remaining conservative.

Sustaining County Operations

Our budget is designed to support the essential operations of the County, including public safety, health and human services and infrastructure. We have made significant investments in our workforce in recent years, ensuring that employees are well-equipped to serve the community effectively. Except for 24 job reclassifications to better align with job duties and support growth, our workforce size is budgeted to stay level for FY26.

Our dedicated employees continue to be one of the County's greatest assets, ensuring stability and excellence in services delivered to residents. As such, this year's Recommended Budget contains funding to maintain existing benefits and traditional cost-of-living and merit increases for eligible employees. We have been very fortunate to see relatively low turnover over the past year. Continued investment in the employee workforce should maintain that low turnover.

In addition to investing in our workforce, the FY26 budget provides ongoing funding to support quality services and investments that continue to produce results. There are many great examples of the amazing work employees are doing throughout the Budget Book, but here are just a few highlights. Accomplishments below represent data for the first half of FY25 (July 2024-December 2024):

- Responding to ~20,000 calls with an average response time of under 7.5 minutes, down ~12 seconds from the first half FY24 (Emergency Medical Services)
- Assisting veterans in receiving more than \$7.6 million of earned benefits, a 58% increase compared to the first half of FY24 (Veterans Services)
- Seizing narcotics with a street value of \$5.2 million (Sheriff’s Office)
- Helping connect inmates with services needed while in jail and when they re-enter the community through a partnership between the Sheriff’s Office and Cabarrus Health Alliance
- Issuing over 8,000 construction related permits (Construction Standards)
- Redirecting over 120,000 pounds of household hazardous waste and over 55 tons of electronics screens from landfills (Environmental Management)

Meeting the Increasing Cost of Education

Investing in our local schools and supporting the education of our children is important for a community to thrive. Providing local investment in education comes in two regular forms: funding of operating budgets to support annual recurring expenses and funding of capital needs to address one-time/irregular costs, such as building maintenance and new construction. The County has consistently supported dramatic growth in both categories this decade and this year’s Proposed Budget provides continued support above and beyond State-mandated levels as outlined below.

Operating Budget

Historically, staff has planned for a 4.5% operating increase for our education budget as a whole. However, operational budget requests for public school systems (Cabarrus County Schools (CCS), Kannapolis City Schools (KCS) and Rowan Cabarrus Community College (RCCC) have consistently been over that planned 4.5% growth. Additionally, equitable funding requires that our two public school systems’ funding grows equally based on Average Daily Membership which ensures that both schools get the same per student funding percentage increase even if one system does not request that large of an increase. This year’s funding requests from the schools involved a requested increase of 12.69% from CCS and a 9.75% increase from KCS. After reductions on County Operational spending were complete as discussed above, staff was able to support a 10% increase to support the school systems above and beyond the planned 4.5% increase.

For the past several years, operational funding for public schools (CCS and KCS) has been growing at approximately 10% per year (with the exception of FY23) with total school system funding growing 41% since FY21. By contrast, property and sales tax revenue have grown 30% since FY21 and continue to be outpaced by the demands created for more allocation in the education space. The total student enrollment across CCS and KCS has increased ~5% over this same period of time.

	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
Regular Instruction	\$59,850,173	\$59,625,563	\$61,675,264	\$70,105,625	\$79,911,948	\$86,569,143
Building Maintenance	\$12,400,633	\$12,412,311	\$12,867,766	\$13,085,985	\$13,651,241	\$15,907,909
Grounds Maintenance	\$108,680	\$270,364	\$270,364	\$113,783	\$113,783	\$141,600
Technology	\$6,326,300	\$7,296,300	\$7,632,745	\$7,657,541	\$6,985,370	\$7,939,889
School System Total	\$78,685,786	\$79,604,538	\$82,446,139	\$90,962,934	\$100,662,342	\$110,558,541
Charter Schools & Contingency	\$5,759,117	\$5,953,304	\$7,089,910	\$7,215,515	\$8,471,408	\$9,529,552

RCCC continues to be the only public higher education institute in Cabarrus County. Its operating budget growth is about 6% annually, which equates to a 34% increase since FY21. SINCE WHEN and has seen a 20% increase of students with over 22,000 annually enrolled currently.

Capital Investment

In addition to operational expenses, capital investment for schools continues to be a priority for County budget planning. This year's recommended capital investment across schools totals \$29,050,000 and represents over 82% of the County's total recommended capital investment for FY26. The list of projects below accounts for prioritized deferred maintenance for each organization along with technology upgrades. Additionally, this year's Proposed Budget provides design funding for KCS school additions, RCCC S201 renovations, and design for the future construction of the RCCC Workforce Innovations Center. There is a large list of new building requests across all 3 school organizations and staff expects to prepare a debt package in FY26 that, if approved, will create funding beginning in FY27 to address prioritized needs. Discussions will begin in the coming months to identify the target projects to incorporate within this future debt package.

Proposal Name	FY26
CCS - Deferred Maintenance	\$ 10,117,624
CCS - Paging/Intercom Systems	\$ 800,000
CCS - Replace Outdated TVs and Smart Boards/Student Chromebooks	\$ 3,144,617
CCS - Security Cameras	\$ 850,000
KCS - Activity Bus	\$ 100,000
KCS - Deferred Maintenance	\$ 1,945,000
KCS - System Capital for Energy Savings	\$ 196,891
KCS - Technology Capital Support and Upgrade	\$ 833,868
KCS - A.L. Brown Addition - Design	\$ 1,950,000
KCS - Jackson Park Elementary Addition - Design	\$ 1,040,000
RCCC - Deferred Maintenance	\$ 400,000
RCCC - Parking Lots at South Campus/CBTC	\$ 500,000
RCCC - South Campus Elevators	\$ 350,000
RCCC - S201 Renovations - Design	\$ 900,000
RCCC - Workforce Innovations Center	\$ 5,922,000
TOTAL	\$ 29,050,000

Adoption of the Capital Project Ordinance to include both County and Education related projects is planned for the June 16 regular meeting.

Continuing to Support County Capital Needs

The County has invested a large amount of capital through both capital investment and debt obligations in recent years. This funding established several new buildings such as the recently opened Afton Ridge Library and Active Living Center as well as the acquisition and remodel of the ACN building (now called Progress Place) and the current construction of the Stephen M. Morris Behavioral Health Center. These investments, along with the aforementioned education-related investments, require thoughtful, conservative, and intentional County-level Capital Improvement planning over the next several years to ensure base needs are met while accounting for past obligation commitments.

For FY26, 13 County-level projects will be funded, including key maintenance and design work for future renovations at Camp T.N. Spencer and the Concord branch of the Public Library System. Additionally, funds will be allocated for the design of the new Cabarrus County Animal Shelter, which is targeted for construction in FY27.

Project	Total Cost
ADA Transition Plan	\$150,000

Camp T.N. Spencer Park Multiple Building Consolidation and Renovations - Design	\$550,000
Concord Library Exterior Renovations - Design	\$80,000
Concord Library Interior Renovations - Design	\$350,000
Governmental Center Generator Replacements	\$600,000
Human Services Center HVAC Replacements	\$200,000
Multi Building Exterior Envelope Repairs	\$400,000
Phase 5 C&D Landfill Expansion	\$600,000
Prime Farmland Soil & Water Conservation Easement	\$170,000
Sheriff's Department Animal Shelter - Design	\$2,000,000
Sheriff's Office 7th Floor Renovation	\$150,000
Vietnam Veterans Park Boardwalk Replacement	\$900,000
TOTAL	\$6,150,000

Adoption of the Capital Project Ordinance, to include both County- and education-related projects, is planned for the June 16 Regular Meeting.

5-Year Outlook

The annual budget process establishes decisions for this fiscal year, but it is important to keep in mind that each set of annual decisions also impacts the future for years to come. As part of the annual budget process, staff develops a five-year plan that illustrates how revenues and expenditures are expected to change.

Past five-year plans have incorporated forecasts for education partners (4.5%) and the cost for County staffing (6%), while smaller increases are projected for general operating expenses (3%) and the Cabarrus Health Alliance (4%) which have been used for the FY26 five-year plan as well. Expense growth has consistently outpaced staff's previous estimates which has continued to create pressure on revenue to also beat projections and requires an emphasis on reducing noncritical spending to maintain tax rates.

Our current 5-year plan projects for increasing deficits in each of the upcoming years. Given the current outlook and recent expense growth, staff will undergo an overhaul of spending analysis in FY26 working to generate partnerships across the county to appropriately plan for expected expense increases and ensure continued investment in services to support residents.

Acknowledgements

In closing, thank you to all the team members who show up day in and day out to make Cabarrus County an amazing place for America to thrive. A special thank you to all the employees, department leadership, and budget team who provided input and countless hours to create the FY26 Proposed Budget, we truly could not have created a budget this well positioned without you.

I would also like to thank the Board of Commissioners for their continued dedication and leadership to Cabarrus County. Your selfless service to the County provides a strong foundation of decision making to ensure the right investments are made to support staff and the residents of Cabarrus County.

We look forward to your thoughtful consideration of the Recommended Budget and input from residents and businesses before the budget adoption on June 16.

A lengthy discussion ensued.

(H) REPORTS

(H-1) BOC - Receive Updates From Commission Members Who Serve As Liaisons To Municipalities Or On Various Boards/Committees

Commissioner Pittman reported on the following: Cabarrus-Rowan MPO Commission, the Fire Departments, First Responder Advisory Committee, attendance

of a workshop regarding preserving agricultural lands, attendance of an emergency planning meeting by Norfolk Southern, Home and Community Care Block Grant Committee.

Commissioner Wortman provided updates on Active Living and Parks and the Mt. Pleasant Friends of the Library, Centralina Regional Council.

Vice Chair Lindsey reported on the Soil and Water Awards Ceremony held at Frank Liske Park. She then invited Wesley Honeycutt who reported on the Commission on Financial Efficiency meeting.

(H-2) BOC - Request for Applications for County Boards/Committees

Applications are being accepted for the following County Boards/Committees:

- Active Living and Parks Commission - 1 Vacant and 4 Expired Positions
- Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee - 13 Vacant Positions
- Concord Planning and Zoning Commission (ETJ) - 1 Vacant Position
- Juvenile Crime Prevention Council - 1 Vacant Position
- Library Board of Trustees - 2 Expired Positions
- Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee - 10 Vacant Positions
- Region F Aging Advisory Committee - 2 Vacant Positions
- Transportation Advisory Board - 5 Vacant Positions
- Youth Commission - 7 Vacant Positions

(H-3) Budget - Monthly Budget Amendment Report

The Board received the monthly budget amendment report for informational purposes. No action was required of the Board

(H-4) Budget - Monthly Financial Update

The Board received the monthly financial update report for informational purposes. No action was required of the Board.

(H-5) Communications and Outreach - Monthly Summary Report

The Board received the monthly summary report for informational purposes. No action was required of the Board.

(H-6) County Manager - Monthly Building Activity Reports

The Board received the monthly building activity reports for informational purposes. No action was required of the Board.

(H-7) EDC - April 2025 Monthly Summary Report

The Board received the monthly new development report for informational purposes. No action was required of the Board.

(H-8) Super Cab Co - Monthly Report

The Board received the monthly Super Cab Co report for informational purposes. No action was required of the Board.

(I) GENERAL COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Commissioner Pittman provided comments regarding lowering taxes, increasing supplements and benefits. He advised that he does not want to accept any pay raises or any other benefits that would add to the county's spending. He stated he will continue to work for lower property taxes.

Commissioner Wortman commented that he also does not accept the county's insurance. He then recognized Byron Haigler as having received the Certified Park and Recreation Executive designation. This is the highest certification offered by the National Recreation and Park Association, reserved for top tier leaders in the field who have demonstrated advanced knowledge, skills and experience related to parks and recreation management.

Commissioner Jones expressed his wish to work with and bring the board together.

Vice Chair Lindsey shared a video highlighting two animals available for adoption at the Cabarrus Animal Shelter.

(J) WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT OF CABARRUS COUNTY

None.

(K) CLOSED SESSION

(K-1) Closed Session - Pending Litigation and Economic Development

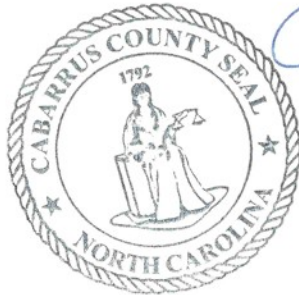
UPON MOTION of Commissioner Wortman, seconded by Commissioner Shue and unanimously carried, the Board moved to go into closed session to discuss matters related to pending litigation as authorized by NCGS 143-138.11(a) (3) and (4).

(L) RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

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

(M) ADJOURN

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Wortman, seconded by Commissioner Pittman and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 10:16 p.m.



Lauren Hinker
Clerk to the Board