

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Cabarrus met for the 4th Quarter Cabarrus Summit at the Cabarrus Areana and Events Center, Concord, North Carolina at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 16, 2025.

Present - Chairman: Jeff Jones
 Vice Chairman: Laura Lindsey
 Commissioner: Larry Pittman

Also present were Kelly Sifford, Interim County Manager; Aalece Pugh, Assistant County Manager; David Thrift, Tax Administrator; and Ariadne Olvera, Clerk to the Board.

Municipal representatives from Kannapolis, Harrisburg, Mount Pleasant, Midland, Concord, and Locust were also present.

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Welcome

Chairman Jones welcomed municipal elected officials, city managers and other guests.

Introductions / Updates

Each mayor/municipal representative provided an update on current and future projects.

Dinner & Networking/General Discussion

The Board took a dinner break around 6:30 p.m. The meeting resumed shortly afterward.

Presentations

Economic Development Corporation

Brian Hiatt, Interim Executive Director; Samantha Grass, Economic Development Manager; and Stephanie Burlison, Local Business Support Manager; presented a PowerPoint Presentation, which included the following:

- EDC Overview
- Our Mission
- Highlights of Cabarrus County Economic Development Over the Years
 - Textiles and Hosiery
 - Charlotte Motor Speedway
 - Creation of the EDC
 - Phillip Morris
 - International Business Park
 - Suburban Residential Growth and Annexations
 - Concord Regional Airport
 - WSACC
 - Motorsports
 - Concord Mills
 - Evolution and Growth of Health Care Services
 - Pillowtex Bankruptcy
 - Hospitality and Tourism
 - Phillip Morris Closure Announcement
 - The Great Recession
 - North Carolina Research Campus
 - Competition and the Investment in Speculative Buildings
 - Explosion of Distribution Facilities
 - Covid
 - Advanced Manufacturing and Life Sciences
- Average Manufacturing Employment - Cabarrus County
- Entrepreneurship and Start-Ups
- Local Start-Ups
 - Strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem
 - Increase access to funding
 - Support tech/scalable startups
 - Collaborative business support
- Cabarrus Center Overview
 - Cabarrus Center - Building
 - Flywheel - Management Company
 - Private Offices

- Co-working Memberships
- Meeting Space
- Flywheel Foundation
 - Programming
- Cabarrus Center Overview
- Venture Mentoring Service - Retail Lab
- Business Retention & Expansion
- Existing Businesses - Supporting business retention and expansion
 - Build relationships
 - Educate and inform
 - Serve as concierge
 - Acknowledge and celebrate
- Retention and Expansion - FY24-25
 - 56 unique company visits
 - 85 company engagement (not including phone calls)
 - 800+ student engagements
- Workforce Initiatives
 - Student Track
- Recruitment
 - Recruiting new industry
 - Responding to RFIs
 - Decision drivers
 - FY24-25 Recruitment Numbers
 - FY24-25 Projects by industry and source
 - Project Activity
 - Current Project Activity
- Grant Programs
 - Impact on local government budget
 - Balancing the scales
 - Grant agreements
- Project ABC
 - Project ABC impact

A brief discussion ensued.

Closing

Chairman Jones thanked everyone for attending.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned around 8:00 p.m.



Aimee Ohms
Clerk to the Board