

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Cabarrus met for an Agenda Work Session in the Multipurpose Room at the Cabarrus County Governmental Center in Concord, North Carolina at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7, 2026.

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 - Chair:	Laura B. Lindsey
Vice Chair:	Ian Patrick
Commissioners:	Larry G. Pittman
	Kenneth M. Wortman
	Jeff Jones

Also present were: Kelly Sifford, Interim County Manager; Aalece Pugh, Assistant County Manager; Kyle Bilafer, Assistant County Manager; Doug Hall, County Attorney and Ariadne Olvera, Clerk to the Board.

Commissioner Pittman provided the invocation.

Chair Lindsey called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

1. Approval Of The Agenda

1.1 BOC - Changes to the Agenda

Chair Lindsey reviewed the following changes to the agenda:

UPDATED:

Discussion Items - No Action

2.1 2025 Child Protection and Fatality Team Report

3.12 Facilities Design and Construction - Bid Award for Construction Standards and Planning and Zoning Renovation

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Pittman and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda as amended to include a Consult with the County Attorney in Closed Session.

2. Discussion Items - No Action

2.1 2025 Child Protection and Fatality Team Report

Paula Yost, Chair of the Cabarrus County Child Protection and Fatality Team, presented the 2025 Child Protection and Fatality Team Annual Report. Her presentation included an overview of Department of Human Services case types and caseloads for 2024 and 2025, foster care statistics, including the number of licensed foster homes, youth in foster care, youth eligible for adoption, and adoptions resulting in permanency, as well as Cabarrus County child fatality data for 2024.

Ms. Yost then introduced Ashley Shanley, District Attorney, and Captain Chris Smith of the Cabarrus County Sheriff's Office, who presented information regarding juvenile violence in Cabarrus County. They reported an increase in violent offenses committed by juveniles, noting that the most common incidents involved shootings into occupied vehicles and occupied dwellings.

The presenters also discussed ongoing collaborative efforts to address juvenile crime, including participation in the Juvenile Summit with legislators and advocacy for legislative changes. They requested the Board's support for House Bill 430 (Protect Youth From Harms of Vaping & Nicotine) and Senate Bill 318, companion bills intended to strengthen protections for youth related to vaping and nicotine products.

Ms. Yost returned to present an overview of youth suicide prevention efforts in Cabarrus County. The presentation included information on school-based mental health resources, including school counselors, social workers, and school psychologists, as well as current student-to-staff ratios. She also reviewed Cabarrus County suicide risk assessment data, school-based suicide prevention strategies and initiatives, gun lock distribution programs, safe sleep education, streamlined processes with the Medical Examiner's Office, interdepartmental collaboration to support prevention efforts, and community prevention and public education initiatives.

Ms. Yost returned to the podium to present information on youth suicide prevention and youth fatality efforts in Cabarrus County. Topics included:

There was discussion throughout the presentation. Ms. Yost, Ms. Shanley and Captain Smith responded to questions from the Board.

3. Discussion Items For Action

3.1. Boards and Committees - Active Living and Parks Commission - Appointment

This item was reviewed by the Board.

3.2. Board and Committees - Early Childhood Taskforce Advisory Board - Removal

This item was reviewed by the Board.

3.3. Boards and Committees - Early Childhood Task Force Advisory Board - Appointment

This item was reviewed by the Board.

3.4. Boards and Committees - Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee - Appointment

This item was reviewed by the Board.

3.5. Consolidated Human Services Agency - Opioid Settlements - Opt In Notice - Six Remnant Defendant

Kelly Sifford, Interim County Manager, advised the Board of an opportunity to opt in to an additional opioid settlement. She reported that six new entities have reached settlement agreements. Cabarrus County must opt in by May 4, 2026, to participate in the settlement. The amount of funding available to the County will not be determined until all 100 North Carolina counties have elected whether to participate and the allocation process completed.

3.6. County Manager - Camp T.N. Spencer Park Property Lease Discussion

Kyle Bilafer, Assistant County Manager, reported that the current lease agreement expires on June 28, 2028. The Boys & Girls Club discussed the matter with its Board of Directors and determined that it does not have the financial resources to assume ownership or operation of the park. However, the organization expressed its desire for park operations to continue as they currently exist.

Inquiry was made as to whether the Boys & Girls Club would be willing to transfer ownership of the park to the County. Mr. Bilafer requested the Board's permission to continue discussions with the organization and to conduct the necessary due diligence, particularly regarding the financial implications of such a transfer.

A discussion ensued during which Mr. Bilafer responded to questions from the Board.

3.7. County Manager - EV Car Charging Stations Removal Request

Kyle Bilafer, Assistant County Manager, provided an update on his research regarding electric vehicle charging stations used by other municipalities.

Based on research, including station usage compared to operating costs, the Management Team recommended the charging stations be removed.

A brief discussion ensued during which Mr. Bilafer responded to the Board.

3.8. County Manager - Vietnam Veterans Park Update

Kyle Bilafer, Assistant County Manager, provided an update on discussions with the lessor of the park, the City of Kannapolis. He reported that the park received a PARTF grant in 2005, which requires that the park continue to be maintained through 2030.

Mr. Bilafer reported the City of Kannapolis has expressed interest in acquiring the park in the future. He recommended renewing the current lease for one year, with an additional one-year renewal option, allowing the lease to

extend for a total of two years. During that time, the City and the County would continue discussions regarding potential future terms.

A brief discussion ensued during which Mr. Bilafer responded to questions from the Board.

3.9. Emergency Management - Adoption of 2026 Cabarrus County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) Revisions

Jason Burnett, Emergency Management Director, presented the updated Cabarrus County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) for consideration following a comprehensive review and revision.

Mr. Burnett advised that periodic updates and formal adoption of the EOP are considered best practices in emergency management and help ensure the plan remains current, relevant, and aligned with evolving hazards, policies, and operational procedures. Further, he reviewed the updates.

3.10. Emergency Management - Duke Energy McGuire Nuclear Station Grant Funding Increase & Budget Amendment

Jason Burnett, Emergency Management Director, reported Cabarrus County Emergency Management has received an increase in its annual grant funding from \$25,000 to \$31,000 to continue and strengthen emergency preparedness efforts as a host county for the Duke Energy McGuire Nuclear Station.

Mr. Burnett advised the additional funding reflects rising costs and critical needs identified through ongoing planning, training, and equipment assessments. The additional \$6,000 will be used to address increased equipment and supply costs necessary to support the operation of the Reception and Congregate Care Center. These resources will help ensure Cabarrus County is prepared to effectively register, decontaminate, shelter, and care for displaced residents from Mecklenburg County in the event of a radiological emergency.

3.11. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) - Proposed EMS Rate Increases

Chief Jimmy Lentz and Deputy Chief Justin Brines presented a PowerPoint outlining EMS Fiscal Year 2025 performance, including net collection percentages.

Chief Lentz requested an increase in its rates for service. He noted the proposed fee increase was discussed during the FY27 Budget Retreat and aligns with 300% of the Medicare Fee Schedule (MFS), as recommended by the County's billing company, EMS Management & Consultants.

Kim Stanley, Chief Client Advocacy Officer, EMS Management & Consultants, was in attendance by virtual means.

A brief discussion ensued, during which Chief Lentz, Chief Brines and Kelly Sifford, Interim County Manager responded to questions from the Board.

3.12. Facilities Design and Construction - Bid Award for Construction Standards and Planning and Zoning Renovation

Michael Miller, Design and Construction Director, advised that the project budget was approved at the November 2025 Regular Meeting. The project consists of a full renovation of the Construction Standards and Planning & Zoning office suites, as well as the first-floor restroom at the Governmental Center. The renovation plans have been completed, and a pre-bid meeting was held on March 19, 2026.

Sealed bids were received on April 2, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. in the Board of Commissioners Chambers. Three bids were submitted. Staff presented the bid tabulations and recommended that the contract be awarded to the lowest responsive bidder, GW Liles Construction Company, Inc., in the amount of \$950,821.

3.13. Finance - FY 2026 Audit Contract Approval

Jim Howden, Finance Director, presented the Fiscal Year 2026 audit contract for approval.

Mr. Howden advised the Local Government Commission (LGC) requires the Board of Commissioners to approve the audit contract each year, regardless of the contract amount. The proposed contract for the Fiscal Year 2026 audit was with Martin Starnes & Associates, CPAs.

The base audit fee was \$102,770, which included two single audits. The contract provides for a maximum cost of \$120,770, which would include up to four additional single audit programs should they be required. Mr. Howden noted that the Fiscal Year 2026 single audit threshold is \$1 million in annual federal expenditures.

A discussion ensued during which Mr. Howden and Kelly Sifford, Interim County Manager, responded to questions from the Board.

3.14. Finance - LGC Debt Application in May for High School and Elementary School - Board Resolutions

Jim Howden, Finance Director, presented a preliminary resolution authorizing the Local Government Commission (LGC) to approve the County's limited obligation bond financing for the construction of a new high school and a new elementary school in the northwestern portion of the County.

Mr. Howden stated the proposed financing would not exceed \$200 million. He also requested that the Board authorize a public hearing to be held on April 20, 2026, as part of the LGC approval process.

Due to time constraints, it was requested that the Board suspend its Rules of Procedure to consider the item.

Commissioner Jones **MOVED** to approve the preliminary resolution making certain findings and determinations regarding the issuance of limited obligation bonds for school improvements in Cabarrus County, North Carolina; requested the Local Government Commission to approve the financing arrangement; and called for a public hearing on the financing to be held on April 20, 2026. Commissioner Wortmann Seconded. The **MOTION** carried 4-1, with the following vote: AYES: Chair Lindsey, Vice Chair Patrick, Commissioner Jones, and Commissioner Wortman. NAYS: Commissioner Pittman.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Wortman, the Board suspended the Rules of Procedure by the following 4-1 vote: AYES: Chair Lindsey, Vice Chair Patrick and Commissioners Jones and Wortman. NAYS: Commissioner Pittman.

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Wortman, the Board approved the preliminary resolution making certain findings and determinations regarding the issuance of limited obligation bonds of the County of Cabarrus, North Carolina for school improvements; requesting the Local Government Commission to approve the financing arrangement and call for a public hearing in connection with financing to be held on April 20, 2026 by the following 4:1 vote: Ayes: Chair Lindsey, Vice Chair Patrick and Commissioners Jones and Wortman; Nays: Commissioner Pittman.

3.15. Planning & Development Department - HOME Renewal 2026-2029

Susie Morris, Planning and Development Director, presented the required planning documents for Cabarrus County's continued participation in the HOME Investment Partnerships Program and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs. The documents are adopted on a three-year cycle and would be effective from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029. The plans address federal program requirements. A resolution was provided for consideration.

3.16. BOC - 2026 Commissioner Board Appointments Update

This item was reviewed by the Board.

Chair Lindsey presented the updated 2026 commissioner Board appointments for review and consideration.

A brief discussion ensued during which Kelly Sifford, Interim County Manager, responded to questions from the Board.

4. Approval of Regular Meeting Agenda

4.1. BOC - Approval of Regular Meeting Agenda

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Jones seconded by Commissioner Pittman and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda for the April 20, 2026, regular meeting.

APPROVAL OR CORRECTION OF MINUTES

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Proclamation - Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month

- Proclamation - Cooperative Extension - National Volunteer Week
- Proclamation - Emergency Medical Services (EMS) - Cabarrus County Emergency Services Week
- Proclamation - National Library Week
- Proclamation - Mental Health Awareness Month
- Proclamation - BOC - Clerks to Board of County Commissioners Week
- Planning and Development - Recognition of Senior Zoning Enforcement
- Officer James "Jay" Lowe on his retirement from Cabarrus County
- Government

INFORMAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

CONSENT AGENDA

- Boards and Committees - Active Living and Parks Commission - Appointment
- Board and Committees - Early Childhood Taskforce Advisory Board - Removal
- Boards and Committees - Early Childhood Task Force Advisory Board - Appointment
- Boards and Committees - Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee - Appointment
- Consolidated Human Services Agency - Opioid Settlements - Opt In Notice - Six Remnant Defendant
- County Manager - Camp T.N. Spencer Park Property Lease Discussion
- County Manager - EV Car Charging Stations Removal Request
- County Manager - Vietnam Veterans Park Update
- Emergency Management - Adoption of 2026 Cabarrus County
- Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) Revisions
- Emergency Management - Duke Energy McGuire Nuclear Station Grant Funding Increase & Budget Amendment
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) - Proposed EMS Rate Increases
- Facilities Design and Construction - Bid Award for Construction Standards and Planning and Zoning Renovation
- Finance - FY 2026 Audit Contract Approval
- Sheriff's Office - Awarding of Service Weapon to Senior Deputy Ashley Verble upon his Retirement
- Tax Administration - Refund and Release Reports - March 2026

NEW BUSINESS

- Finance - LGC Debt Application in May for High School and Elementary School - Board Resolutions - Public Hearing 6:00 P.M.

REPORTS

ADJOURN

5. Closed Session**5.1. Closed Session - Economic Development**

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Wortman and unanimously carried, the Board moved to go into closed session to discuss matters related to consult with attorney and economic development as authorized by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) and (4) by the following 4:1 vote: Ayes: Chair Lindsey, Vice Chair Patrick and Commissioners Jones and Wortman, Nays: Commissioner Pittman.

6. Return to Open Session

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

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Wortman, seconded by Commissioner Pittman and unanimously carried, the Board corrected the vote to go into closed session to reflect 4:1 (as stated above) and to correct the statute to go into closed session as 143-318.11(a)(3) and (4) (as stated above).

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

6. Adjourn

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Pittman, seconded by Commissioner Jones, the meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.


Ariadne Olvera, Clerk to the Board

