

Regular Session, October 5, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

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The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, October 5, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., in the Board of Commissioners Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, Catawba County Justice Center, 100 Government Drive, Newton, North Carolina.

Present were Chair Randy Isenhower, and Commissioners Robert C. Abernethy, Jr., Barbara G. Beatty, and Cole Setzer. Vice-Chair Austin Allran was not present. Commissioner Barbara G. Beatty was late, entering the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Also present were County Manager Mary S. Furtado, Assistant County Manager Paul Murray, Assistant County Manager Adam Lindsay, County Attorney Jodi Stewart, and County Clerk Dale Stiles.

1. Chair Randy Isenhower called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., noting a quorum was present.
2. Chair Isenhower led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Commissioner Robert Abernethy, Jr. offered the invocation.

4. Commissioner Abernethy made a motion to approve the Minutes from the Board's Regular Meeting of September 21, 2026. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Recognition of Special Guests:
Chair Isenhower welcomed everyone present.
6. Public Comments.
Michael McRee came forward and spoke in favor of the purchase of the Western Steer property and the school merger. Sherrill Watkins came forward and concurred with Mr. McRee's statements and spoke about the Department of Justice and Federal Bureau of Investigations investigation of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. Sybil Schneider, Community Resource Advocate with Kintegra Health, came forward and spoke about various resources Kintegra Health provides to the community. Ms. Schneider also provided a packet of information to each Board member.
7. Presentations.
 - a. Commissioner Cole Setzer presented a Proclamation Declaring October 4-10th, 2026 as Fire Prevention Week to Fire Marshal Troy Scott.
8. Department Reports.
 - Tax
Tax Administrator Brian Myers provided a copy of the Schedule of Values – 2027 Real Property Reappraisal to the Board and requested the Board of Commissioners accept the proposed Schedule of Values, Standards and Rules for the 2027 Property Revaluation as prescribed by North Carolina General Statutes and set a public hearing to consider adoption of this Schedule for November 2, 2026.

Pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners on September 18, 2023, Catawba County's next countywide revaluation will become effective January 1, 2027. Catawba County has approximately 95,000 parcels of land, all of which are required by state law to be appraised at 100% of market value as of the effective date of the revaluation.

To that end, staff worked for many months analyzing data derived from qualified real estate sales, building cost data, and income and expense statements from income-producing properties in the County. This has culminated in the formulation of a proposed Schedule of Values, Standards, and Rules to be utilized to generate market value appraisals for all real property in Catawba County.

The Schedule of Values is a set of standards and rules used as an appraisal manual by County staff to assure properties are valued in an accurate and consistent manner. The schedule contains information on methods used to determine land and building values based upon criteria such as location, age, type of construction, zoning, income potential, cost, etc.

Also included in the proposed Schedule of Values is a special schedule for appraising eligible agricultural, horticultural, and forestland at its "present use" value. This schedule is a statewide schedule formulated by the North Carolina Department of Revenue. Properties whose owners qualify for "present use" assessment will receive two values: a market value mandated by law and a "present use" value.

The first step in the revaluation process is submittal of the proposed Schedule of Values, Standards and Rules to the Board of Commissioners not less than 21 days before the meeting where it will be considered for adoption. The Tax Assessor will also file a copy of the Schedule in the Tax Office, where it shall remain available for public inspection.

The proposed timeline for these steps includes:

- Monday, October 5th – Proposed Schedule of Values submitted to Board of Commissioners; Commissioners call for Public Hearing.
- Tuesday, October 6th – County publishes statement in newspaper of general circulation informing citizens that Schedule of Values has been submitted to the Board and is available for public inspection,

and that a Public Hearing will be held to consider its adoption on November 2nd at 7 pm in the Board of Commissioners meeting room.

- Monday, November 2nd - Board of Commissioners hold Public Hearing on proposed Schedule of Values.
- Monday, November 16th – Board of Commissioners considers adopting proposed Schedule of Values.

After Mr. Myers' presentation, there were no questions. Commissioner Setzer confirmed statutory requirements and touched on the reappraisal principles of equity and uniformity between properties. Commissioner Barbara G. Beatty made a motion to accept the proposed Schedule of Values, Standards and Rules for the 2027 Property Revaluation as prescribed by North Carolina General Statutes and set a public hearing to consider adoption of this Schedule for November 2, 2026. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Consent Agenda.

County Manager Mary Furtado presented the following four items under the consent agenda. Chair Isenhower asked if any commissioner wished for the item to be broken out of the consent agenda for individual consideration. None was requested.

a. The Finance and Personnel Subcommittee recommended the Board of Commissioners appropriate \$301,419.20 for state-appropriated Law Enforcement Officer bonuses, in compliance with Session Law 2026-41, section 41.3.

Session Law 2026-41 section 41.3 directs the State Bureau of Investigation to award local law enforcement officers with a lump sum compensation bonus in the amount of \$1,750. To be eligible for the bonus, officers must be sworn, employed as a law enforcement officer as of June 30, 2026, and be either employed full-time or permanent part-time. Additional State funding is provided to cover the cost of the County's share of FICA payroll taxes related to the bonuses. The total amount of State funding provided equates to \$1,883.37 per FTE. Applying the criteria for eligibility, the County has determined 160 FTEs are eligible for the bonus. Legislation requires the bonus to be paid separately from the employee's regular salary, and payable as close as practicable to October 15, 2026. Staff is requesting an appropriation of \$301,419.20 (160 x \$1,883.37) to process the LEO state-funded bonuses. No County funding is required for the bonuses.

Supplemental Appropriation

Revenue

110-210050-630101	LEO Bonus-State Reimbursement	\$301,419.20
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Expense

110-210050-812101	LEO State Funded Bonus	\$280,000.00
110-210050-821101	LEO State Funded Bonus-FICA	\$ 21,419.20

b. The Policy and Public Works Subcommittee recommended the Board of Commissioners approve proposed changes to the WPCOG's Charter and Bylaws, consistent with the actions taken by WPCOG Executive Committee and Policy Board.

The memo from WPCOG Executive Director Anthony Starr (incorporated below) details the proposed changes to the Western Piedmont Council of Governments Charter and Bylaws. It also details the process for member local governments' ratification of those changes. Commissioner Setzer represents Catawba County on the WPCOG Policy Board and may be able to add additional context, as needed.

The WPCOG memo is hereto attached:



Western Piedmont Council of Governments

1880 Second Avenue NW | Hickory, 28601
PO Box 9026 | Hickory, NC 28603
828.322.9191 | Fax: 828.322.5991 | www.wpcog.org

Creative Regional Solutions Since 1968

Memorandum

Date: September 23, 2026
To: WPCOG Local Government Managers, Administrators, and Clerks
From: Anthony W. Starr, Executive Director
Subject: WPCOG Charter and Bylaws Updates – ACTION NEEDED BY YOUR BOARD/COUNCIL

The Western Piedmont Council of Governments Policy Board proposes to update the WPCOG Charter and Bylaws. Last updated in 2007, the Charter and Bylaws updates serve to increase transparency and clarity for our local governments. The Executive Committee and the Policy Board unanimously approved and recommended these changes. These updates have also been reviewed by WPCOG legal counsel. The draft Charter and Bylaws are included with this communication for your review.

Summary of Changes

- Adds explicit language regarding the COG's authorization to act as the regional public housing authority (Article VI, Section 1). This was recommended to clarify authority to assist in bonds (no obligation to WPCOG or local governments) for tax advantages for developers of affordable housing projects. Original authorization for the WPCOG to act as a regional public housing authority was given in 1977.
- Changes the vote threshold for action to a simple majority instead of a two-thirds majority. (Article VII, Section 4; Article XI, Section 4). This is consistent with local government voting procedures.
- Eliminates the Treasurer position, while adding another at-large position on the Executive Committee (Article VIII, Sections 1 and 2). This is consistent with common local government structure.
- Eliminates the Secretary position while adding another at-large position on the Executive Committee and add reference to a staff Clerk to the Board (Article VIII, Section 2). This is consistent with common local government structure.
- A reference to the WPCOG finance officer was added. (Article X, Section 3). WPCOG is subject to the NC Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act like its municipalities and counties.
- Minor language clarifications that don't impact the intent or structure of a section.

As outlined in the Charter and Bylaws, any modification must be sent to each member government for ratification, with approval by three-fourths of the members of the WPCOG required (21 of the 28 members). Following approval by member governments, a second reading of the changes must be held at the next regular Policy Board meeting, at which time actions of the members will be reported and accepted.

The effective date of the revised Charter and Bylaws would be the second reading of the Policy Board following ratification by the required number of members. The Policy Board intends to give final approval at its November meeting. Please let us know if you have questions or require further information.

We request that our local government's governing boards approve the proposed changes and let us know by Thursday, November 12, 2026.

Executive Committee: Randy Burns, Chair | Larry Yoder, Vice Chair | Larry Chapman, Secretary | George B. Holleman, Treasurer | Joseph L. Gibbons, Past Chair | **At-Large Members:** Mike LaBrose | Cole Setzer | Jill Patton | Chris Jernigan | **Executive Director,** Anthony W. Starr

Serving: Alexander County | Taylorsville | Burke County | Connelly Springs | Drexel | Glen Alpine | Hildebran | Morganton | Rutherford College | Valdese | Caldwell County | Cahah's Mountain | Cedar Rock | Gamewell | Granite Falls | Hudson | Lenoir | Rhodhiss | Sawmills | Catawba County | Brookford | Catawba | Claremont | Conover | Hickory | Long View | Malden | Newton

October 5, 2026, MB#58

A copy of the proposed Charter of WPCOG is hereto attached:

CHARTER OF THE WESTERN PIEDMONT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

I. Name

The Council shall be called Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG).

II. Powers, Duties and Functions

The Western Piedmont Council of Governments shall have the following powers:

- A) To apply for, accept, receive and dispense funds and grants made available to it by the State of North Carolina or any agency thereof, the United States of America or any agency thereof, any unit of local government (whether or not a member of the Council) and any private civic agency;
- B) To employ personnel;
- C) To contract with consultants;
- D) To contract with the State of North Carolina, any other state, the United States of America, or any agency thereof, for services;
- E) To study regional governmental problems, including matters affecting health, safety, welfare, education, recreation, economic conditions, regional planning and regional development;
- F) To promote cooperative arrangements and coordinated action among its member governments;
- G) To make recommendations for review and action to its member governments and other public agencies which perform functions within the region in which its member governments are located;
- H) For the purpose of meeting the council's office space and program needs, to acquire real property by purchase, gift, or otherwise, and to improve that property. The council may pledge real property as security for indebtedness used to finance acquisition of that property or for improvements to that real property, subject to approval by the Local Government Commission as required under North Carolina General Statute 159—153. The council may not exercise the power of eminent domain;
- I) Any other powers that are exercised or capable of exercise by its member governments and desirable for dealing with problems of mutual concern to the extent such powers are specifically delegated to it from time to time by resolution of the governing board of each of its member governments which are affected thereby.
- J) Any other powers authorized by applicable law and duly conferred upon or delegated to the Council in the manner required by such law.

III. Delegates

Each member government shall appoint a representative of such member government to serve as the official delegate to the Policy Board of the Western Piedmont Council of Governments. An alternate delegate shall also be appointed to serve when the official delegate is unable to attend regular and special Council meetings.

A majority of the appointed representatives must be elected officials. No member government employee shall be eligible to serve as a delegate or alternate delegate.

In addition, the Policy Board shall appoint seven (7) additional delegates to satisfy requirements of the Economic Development Administration (EDA) for board composition.

The term of office, method for filling vacancies, and method of compensation and allowances shall be as set forth in the Council Bylaws.

IV. Financial Support

The Western Piedmont Council of Governments shall receive financial support for its operations and programs as follows:

- A) Regular Assessments – The member governments of the Western Piedmont Council of Governments shall fund the Council operations by means of assessments on a per capita basis as determined by the Policy Board of the Council. The per capita share of a member government shall be based on the latest North Carolina Office of State Budget estimates and shall include the population within the geographic area of the member government. Counties shall provide funds per capita after subtracting the populations of member governments within the geography of such county.
- B) Special Assessments – The member governments shall fund certain Council operations and programs by means of special assessments as prescribed by law and determined by the Policy Board.
- C) State and Federal Grants – The Council shall apply for and receive state and federal grants for programs approved by the Policy Board of the Council.
- D) Private and Charitable Contributions – The Council shall apply for and receive and be entitled to receive funds for its operations and programs from charitable and private sources approved by the Policy Board of the Council.

V. Dissolution

- A) The Western Piedmont Council of Governments shall be dissolved upon the unanimous vote of all member governments comprising the Council and the adoption of concurrent resolutions of all members of the Western Piedmont Council of Governments setting forth the dissolution and the reason therefore.

- B) Any member government may withdraw from the Western Piedmont Council of Governments at the end of any fiscal year by giving at least 60 days' written notice to each of the other members. Withdrawal of a member government shall not dissolve the Council if at least two members remain.
- C) Following adoption of concurrent resolutions dissolving the Western Piedmont Council of Governments or following withdrawal of all member governments from the Western Piedmont Council of Governments, the Council shall proceed to liquidate its assets and pay all liabilities within a 12-month period beginning with the date of the adoption of such resolutions or withdrawal of such members. Any assets remaining following the payment of liabilities shall be distributed in cash or in kind to the member governments in such proportions as the Policy Board of the Council may decide. Such distribution shall be made only after a unanimous vote of the members authorizing the distribution.

VI. Amendment

The Charter of the Western Piedmont Council of Governments may be amended upon the adoption of concurrent resolutions by three fourths of the existing members of the Council approving such amendment. A three-fourths majority shall be required to approve amendments to the Charter.

VII. This revised Charter shall be effective upon ratification by the required three-fourths majority of member governments.

This _____ of _____, 2026.

Amended 11/27/90
Amended 2/23/04
Amended 5/22/07
Amended 3/23/2010
Amended _____/2026

BYLAWS OF THE WESTERN PIEDMONT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Article I. Charter

Section 1. Charter Agreement

The Western Piedmont Council of Governments is organized and exists pursuant to concurrent resolutions and amendments thereto adopted by and among the Counties of Alexander, Burke, Caldwell and Catawba; and the municipalities of Brookford, Cahah's Mountain, Catawba, Cedar Rock, Claremont, Connelly Springs, Conover, Drexel, Gamewell, Glen Alpine, Granite Falls, Hickory, Hildebran, Hudson, Lenoir, Long View, Maiden, Morganton, Newton, Rhodhiss, Rutherford College, Sawmills, Taylorsville and Valdese, in accordance with N.C. General Statute 160A-470, et. seq., as amended.

Article II. Creation

Section 1. Name of Council

The name of the regional council of governments hereby created is the "Western Piedmont Council of Governments," hereinafter referred to as the "Council." The address of the Council is 1880 2nd Avenue NW, Hickory, NC 28601.

Section 2. Legal Authority

The Council shall exist and function pursuant to N.C. General Statute 160A-470, et. seq., and other applicable laws governing regional councils of governments and public authorities.

Article III. Definition of Terms

Section 1. Terms

- A. Council – the Western Piedmont Council of Governments.
- B. Delegate – a representative of a member government appointed to the Policy Board by the participating member government.
- C. Appointed Delegate – a minority representative or private citizen appointed to the WPCOG Policy Board by its delegates. It is the goal of the WPCOG, in compliance with the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) regulations, to provide for minority representation and private citizen membership on the WPCOG Policy Board. In order to achieve this goal, seven additional delegates will be appointed by the WPCOG Policy Board who are broadly representative of the principal economic interests of the WPCOG area including the interests of the area's minority and low-income populations. These Appointed Delegates must be private citizens who are neither elected

officials nor employees of a member government. Minority representation will be obtained by working with minority groups and agencies in the area covered by the WPCOG.

- D. Member Governments – those local governmental units which are charter members of the Council or approved for membership pursuant to the provisions of these Bylaws.
- E. Policy Board – the governing body of the Council comprised of one representative from each member government, known as a delegate, and seven non-elected representatives.
- F. Region E – Region E consists of the geographic area of Alexander, Burke, Caldwell and Catawba Counties.
- G. Year – fiscal year of July 1 through June 30, unless otherwise defined.

Article IV. Membership

Section 1. Membership

The members of the Council shall be the following governmental units within Region E: Counties of Alexander, Burke, Caldwell and Catawba; and the municipalities of Brookford, Cahah's Mountain, Catawba, Cedar Rock, Claremont, Connelly Springs, Conover, Drexel, Gamewell, Glen Alpine, Granite Falls, Hickory, Hildebran, Hudson, Lenoir, Long View, Maiden, Morganton, Newton, Rhodhiss, Rutherford College, Sawmills, Taylorsville and Valdese, and such other governmental units within as may apply for and be accepted as a member government pursuant to these Bylaws.

Section 2. Application for Membership

- A. Any county or municipality within Region E is eligible for membership in the Council. Upon written application, a prospective member shall be subject to the approval of a two-thirds majority of existing members. Such approval shall be given or withheld by each member government through its delegate on the Policy Board of the Council.
- B. Following approval, a prospective new member shall adopt a resolution adopting the Charter and Bylaws of the Council, as amended.
- C. Following approval, a new member shall appoint a delegate and an alternate delegate to represent it on the Policy Board of the Council.

Section 3. Withdrawal

Any member may withdraw from membership on the Council at the end of any fiscal year provided notice of withdrawal is made to the Policy Board of the Council by a resolution of withdrawal delivered to the Policy Board at least 60 days from the end of any fiscal year. The Council shall continue and exist so long as two or more member governments from Region E remain members of the Council.

Section 4. Dissolution

Dissolution shall take place as set forth in the Charter. Dissolution shall be incomplete until approval of dissolution and liquidation is approved by appropriate state and federal authorities.

Article V. Purpose

Section 1. Purposes

The Council is formed and serves the following purposes:

- A. To promote intergovernmental coordination in communications, planning efforts, and common regional problem solving;
- B. After survey and analysis, to develop and formalize policy recommendations concerning matters within the jurisdiction of local governments and having regional significance;
- C. To provide an expert resource for information and in-the-field assistance in planning for a broad mix of local government services;
- D. To help establish and meet regional development goals;
- E. To develop and implement policy recommendations concerning local government matters having regional significance;
- F. To represent the interests and needs of WPCOG member governments to state and federal agencies;
- G. To be the umbrella agency for all policy and administrative coordination for area-wide multi-jurisdictional problems and agencies;
- H. To retain enough flexibility in staff time and organizational structure to be able to respond to unforeseen local and regional needs;
- I. To identify and respond to potential local or regional threats or opportunities;
- J. To be efficient with staff time and resources available to the WPCOG.

The Council shall strive to promote harmony and cooperation among its members. It shall seek to deal with urban and rural problems in a manner which is mutually satisfactory and shall respect the autonomy of all local governments within the region.

Article VI. Powers, Duties, Functions

Section 1. Powers, Duties, Functions

The Western Piedmont Council of Governments shall have those powers set forth in N.C. General Statute 160A-475, as amended, which powers are incorporated herein by reference. In addition, the Council shall have the following powers:

- A. To purchase equipment, rent office space, and enter into contracts to the extent that such activities are authorized by budgets or by specific resolutions duly adopted by all participating governmental units and are within the limits of funds appropriated to the Council by the participating governmental units for such purposes;
- B. To request and receive contributions of research assistance from its own agencies, private research organizations, civic foundations, institutions of higher learning and other organizations;
- C. To act as the official clearinghouse and reviewing agency of the participating governmental units for all programs (federal, state or private) requiring regional review;
- D. To adopt such rules and regulations relating to the procedures to be followed by the Council as the said Council shall find to be appropriate;
- E. To perform and carry out such other powers, duties and responsibilities as may be authorized by North Carolina law, except insofar as the same may conflict with the provisions of these Bylaws; provided, however, the Council shall have no power to levy any tax or to acquire any property by condemnation;
- F. To act as the regional public housing authority, as originally authorized in 1977, with all the associated duties and powers pursuant to federal and state law and regulations including Chapter 157 of the N.C. General Statutes, as amended.

Article VII. Policy Board

Section 1. Governing Body

The governing body of the Council shall be known as the "Policy Board."

Section 2. Number, Term and Composition of Policy Board

The Policy Board shall consist of one delegate from each member government. An alternate delegate from each member shall be selected to attend Policy Board meetings and otherwise act for the delegate in the event the delegate is unable to attend. Each member government shall be entitled to one vote on all matters coming before the Council requiring a vote.

A delegate and an alternate delegate shall be a representative of a member government who shall serve on the Policy Board of the Council at the pleasure of the member government. Such delegates shall serve at the pleasure of such member government until their successors are appointed. The alternate delegate shall attend Council meetings when the delegate is unable to attend.

In addition, there will be seven delegates appointed by the WPCOG Policy Board. Each of these members shall be entitled to one vote on all matters coming before the Council requiring a vote. The term of the appointment shall be for a period of two years and may be renewed at the option of the Board.

Section 3. Vacancies

In the event a delegate or alternate delegate to the Policy Board dies, retires, resigns, or otherwise ceases to serve, the member government shall fill the vacated position with a representative of such member government appointed to serve in the capacity of delegate or alternate delegate, as the case may be.

If this person is an appointed delegate, the Policy Board will appoint another person to meet non-elected or minority requirements.

Section 4. Quorum

A simple majority of the membership of the Council shall constitute a quorum for conducting business. The number required for a quorum shall not be affected by vacancies. A delegate who has withdrawn early from a meeting without being excused by a simple majority vote of the remaining delegates and appointed delegates present shall be counted as present for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present.

The affirmative vote of a simple majority of the delegates and appointed delegates present shall be necessary to act favorably on any matter unless otherwise required in these Bylaws or the Charter.

Section 5. Meetings

- A. Regular – The Council shall regularly meet bimonthly on the fourth Tuesday of each month beginning in January of each calendar year at 6:00 pm at member government offices, or other locations in their jurisdictions, on a rotation basis, or such other time or place as the Policy Board may select.

Notice of each regular meeting shall be emailed to delegates, alternate delegates and appointed delegates prior to such meeting at their respective addresses or such other address as a member government may designate.

- B. Special – Special meetings may be called by the Board Chair, Vice-Chair, or any five delegates of the Council upon five-day written notice, or two-day written notice if such notice is personally delivered to the delegates, alternate delegates and appointed delegates.

Written notice of special meetings shall contain a brief description of the business to be conducted at such special meeting and be consistent with the provisions of North Carolina law as it pertains to open meetings.

Section 6. Open Meetings

Meetings of the Policy Board, Executive Committee, and any other committee or public body of the Council shall comply with the North Carolina Open Meetings Law, Article 33C of Chapter 143 of the North Carolina General Statutes, to the extent applicable. The schedule of regular meetings will be maintained with the Clerk to the Board of the Council and made available from the Clerk to the Board or from the Executive Director during regular office hours at the normal place of business.

Section 7. Voting

Each member government shall be entitled to one vote on all matters that come before the Council requiring a vote. The vote may be cast by the delegate or alternate delegate of each member government.

Each appointed delegate shall also be entitled to one vote on all matters that come before the Council requiring a vote.

Section 8. Excuses from Voting

No member or appointed delegate shall be excused from voting except upon matters involving the consideration of his or her own financial interest or official conduct. In all other cases, a failure to vote by a delegate or appointed delegate who is physically present at a regular or special meeting, or who has withdrawn without being excused by a simple majority vote of the remaining delegates and appointed delegates, shall be recorded as an affirmative vote.

Section 9. Minutes to be Kept; Ayes and Noes

The Clerk to the Board shall keep full and accurate minutes of the meetings and proceedings of the Council, which shall be available for public inspection. The Clerk to the Board shall record the results of each vote in the minutes. Upon the request of any member of the Council, the ayes and noes upon any question shall be taken and recorded.

Section 10. Procedures

Procedural matters coming before the Council shall be conducted according to generally accepted rules of parliamentary procedure.

At all meetings of the Council, the order of business shall be as follows:

- A. Meeting Called to Order.
- B. Minutes of Previous Meeting (Correction of Minutes).
- C. Unfinished Business.
- D. New Business.
- E. Announcements.
- F. Adjournment.

Section 11. Compensation

The officers, delegates, alternate delegates and appointed delegates shall serve without compensation or remuneration for their services. This section shall not, however, prohibit reimbursement for expenses incurred while on Council business and in accordance with Council fiscal policies.

Article VIII. Organizational Structure, Procedures

Section 1. Election of Officers

At the last regular meeting of the Policy Board in a calendar year, the Council shall elect a board chair, vice-chair, immediate past chair, six at-large executive committee members, and such additional officers as the Council finds necessary in the proper performance of its duties, to serve for one year or until their successors have been duly installed. Installation of officers shall take place at the next regular meeting of the Council following their election.

Section 2. Duties of Officers

- A. Board Chair – The Board Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Council at which he or she is present and shall conduct said meetings in an orderly and impartial manner so as to permit a free and full discussion by the membership of such matters as may be brought before the Policy Board.

The Board Chair shall have the same voting rights as other members. He or she shall be responsible for the implementation of the policies established and the action taken by the Council; appoint such committees as he or she finds necessary or desirable; have all the powers and duties customarily pertaining to the office of Chair of the Board; and perform such further duties as may be assigned to him or her by the Council.

- B. Vice-Chair – The Vice-Chair shall perform all duties of the Chairman in the absence of the Chairman or in event of the inability of the Chairman to act, and shall perform such other duties as the Council may delegate.

All other officers elected by the Council shall perform such duties as may be prescribed by the Council.

Section 3. Reports

The Council shall prepare and submit an annual written report of its activities, including a financial statement, to the participating governmental units and the public.

Article IX. Committees

Section 1. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall be composed of the following elected officers: Board Chair, Vice-Chair, the Immediate Past Chair, and six At-Large Members. In the event an immediate Past Chair is not eligible to serve as a Council delegate, an additional at-large member shall be chosen to serve for a one-year term. If the Past Chair office continues to be vacant beyond the first year, the at-large position may be filled for an additional one-year term.

The Executive Committee shall meet at a minimum in the months of February, April, June, August, October and December, and such other times as called by the Chair. The time and place shall be determined by the Chair.

The Executive Committee is empowered to act for the Policy Board in matters of personnel, legal, administration, finance, and other matters as expressly authorized by the Policy Board through resolution.

Representation on the Executive Committee shall also meet the Economic Development Administration's requirements for board composition.

Should any vacancy occur after November, the Executive Committee shall recommend appointment of a member to fill the vacancy at the next regularly scheduled Policy Board meeting.

Section 2. Nominating Committee

The Board Chair shall appoint an ad hoc nominating committee of four persons from the membership to research and seek out suitable candidates for nomination to Council office. Their report is due at the regular November meeting of the Council in the calendar year for consideration and action. This report shall be received along with general nominations from the floor and shall constitute the only legitimate candidates for offices to be filled.

Section 3. Additional Committees

The Board Chair may appoint such additional committees as he or she finds necessary or desirable.

Section 4. Committee Procedures

Committees shall, in the absence of additional directives from the Board Chair and Council, follow procedures outlined in "Council Committee Policies and Procedures." Voting procedures for committees shall be as for the Council, as provided in Article VII, Sections 7-9.

Article X. Staff and Administration

Section 1. Staff

It shall be the policy of the Council to employ a staff of qualified professionals and other support staff and pay to them such compensation as it shall deem necessary and advisable to carry out their duties and implement Council projects, programs and functions.

Section 2. Appointment of Executive Director

The Executive Director shall be appointed by the Policy Board based on recommendations of the Executive Committee and shall serve at the pleasure of the Policy Board. The Executive Director shall be appointed solely on the basis of his or her executive and administrative qualifications.

Section 3. Powers and Duties of Executive Director

The Executive Director is the chief administrator of the Council. He or she is responsible to the Policy Board for the administration of all departments under the Policy Board's general control and has the following powers and duties:

- A. He or she shall appoint and suspend or remove all Council employees and agents. Such appointments, suspensions and removals shall be in accordance with any general personnel rules, regulations, policies or ordinances as the Policy Board may adopt.
- B. He or she shall direct and supervise the administration of all Council offices, departments, boards, committees and agencies under the general control of the Policy Board, subject to the general direction and control of the Policy Board.
- C. He or she shall attend all meetings of the Policy Board and Executive Committee and recommend any measure that he considers expedient.
- D. He or she shall see that the orders, resolutions and regulations of the Policy Board are faithfully executed within the Council.

- E. He or she shall prepare and submit the annual budget to the Policy Board and act as budget officer.
- F. He or she shall annually submit to the Policy Board and make available to the public a complete report on the finances and administrative activities of the Council as of the end of the fiscal year.
- G. He or she shall appoint and supervise a finance director/officer to fulfill the requirements of N.C. General Statutes Chapter 159, the N.C. Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.
- H. He or she shall appoint and supervise a clerk to the board who shall keep all official minutes, books, and records and make them available for public inspection to the extent required by law. The clerk to the board shall attest to official actions of the Council and certify actions and accounts taken by that body.
- I. He or she shall make any other reports that the Policy Board may require concerning the operations of Council offices, departments, committees and agencies.
- J. He or she shall perform other duties that may be required or authorized by the Policy Board.

Article XI. Fiscal Control

Section 1. Policy Board to Direct Fiscal Policy of the Council

The Policy Board has and shall exercise the responsibility of developing and directing the fiscal policy of the Council under the provisions and procedures of the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act as they apply to a "public authority." The Policy Board shall use a full accrual accounting system until another is adopted in accordance with Article XIII of the Bylaws entitled "Amendments."

Section 2. Annual Balanced Budget

The Council shall operate under an annual balanced budget adopted and administered in accordance with the Local Government Budget & Fiscal Control Act. The budget ordinance shall cover a fiscal year beginning July 1 and ending June 30. Only expenditures authorized in the budget may be disbursed.

Section 3. Budget Officer

The Executive Director shall serve as the Budget Officer. He or she shall have the power to sign on behalf of the Council, agreements or other instruments to be executed by the Council in the conduct of its business. Unless otherwise provided, he or she shall sign or countersign checks and vouchers in payment of obligations of the Council. In case of absence of the

Executive Director, any other Executive Committee member, or other designated official, may be empowered to countersign checks and vouchers in payment of obligations to the Council.

Section 4. Budget Requests

At the March meeting of the Council, a proposed balanced budget for the next fiscal year shall be presented. This preliminary budget as amended constitutes a first reading and shall be submitted the first week in April to each participating government for its review. At the next regular meeting of the Council in May, the Council shall conduct a public hearing and perform a second reading making any final changes necessary. The results of this meeting will constitute final action and adoption of the budget through a simple majority vote.

The budget request shall be an estimate of the financial requirements of the Council for the budget year and shall be made in such form and detail with such supporting information and justifications as the Budget Officer may prescribe. The revenue estimate shall be an estimate of all revenues to be realized by the Council during the budget year.

Section 5. Regular Assessments

The annual budget shall set forth the per capita share of the budget to be funded by each member as provided in the Charter.

Section 6. Special Assessments

If, as a result of participation in a Council program with special funding requirements, a governmental unit is required to offer separate funding for its share, this shall be made known in the budget request to that governmental unit.

Section 7. Budget Approval

Upon approval of the budget by all participating governmental units, each participant governmental unit shall appropriate its share of the budget and shall forward this amount to the Council at the beginning of each fiscal year.

Section 8. Annual Independent Audit

The Council shall have its accounts audited as soon as possible after the close of each fiscal year by a certified public accountant. The auditor shall be selected by and shall report directly to the Policy Board. Upon completion of the examination, the auditor shall prepare a written report embodying financial statements and his or her opinion and comments relating thereto.

Copies of this report shall be distributed to each Council delegate or alternate at the next regular Policy Board meeting following the publication of the report.

Article XII. Prohibited Activities

Section 1. Prohibited Activities

Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, this organization shall not carry on any activities prohibited by the following.

- A) An organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law, or
- B) An organization contribution to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or any other corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.

Article XIII. Amendment of Bylaws; Effective Date

Section 1. Amendment of Bylaws

Any proposed amendment, repeal, or alteration, in whole or in part, of these Bylaws shall be submitted in writing and presented for a first reading at a regular meeting of the Policy Board. This shall constitute an official first reading, after which the proposed amendment shall be transmitted to each member government for consideration and ratification. Ratification by three-fourths of the existing member governments shall be required. At the next regular meeting of the Policy Board following receipt of the required ratifications, the proposed amendment shall be presented for a second reading, at which the member governments' actions shall be reported and accepted.

Section 2. Effective Date

These revised Bylaws shall be in full force and effect from and after the date ratified by the required three-fourths majority of member governments and the Policy Board.

ADOPTED THIS _____ OF _____, 2026.

Amended November 27, 1990

Amended February 23, 2004

Amended May 22, 2007

Amended _____, 2026

c. Staff recommended the Board of Commissioners adopt a resolution amending the list of Map Review Officers.

North Carolina General Statutes require all counties to appoint Review Officers to review plats and maps before recordation to certify they meets statutory mapping requirements. The law requires appointments to be by name, not by job title, so changes in staffing necessitate the Board of Commissioners approving new resolutions for subsequent recordation in the Register of Deeds Office.

City of Newton is requesting Randy Williams be removed. City of Conover is requesting Madeleine Epley be removed. Town of Longview is requesting Susan Matheson be removed, and Elizabeth Moss and Laney Lancaster be added. Town of Catawba is requesting Elizabeth Moss and Laney Lancaster be added.

With approval of the attached resolution incorporating the changes noted above, the active list of Review Officers will be:

Catawba County: Chris Timberlake, Laurie LoCicero, Diana Gandia, Blake Wright, Jonathan Pilkenton
City of Hickory: Brian Frazier, Cal Overby, Mike Kirby, and Wilson Elliott
City of Newton: Alex S. Fulbright
City of Conover: Stephanie Watson, Heather Stephens and Erik Schlichting
City of Claremont: Bryce Carter
Town - Long View: Elizabeth Moss, Laney Lancaster, Daniel Odom
Town of Maiden: Addyson Ikard
Town of Catawba: Elizabeth Moss, Laney Lancaster, Daniel Odom
Town of Brookford: Marshall Eckard

The following resolution applies:

RESOLUTION #2026-23
APPOINTMENT OF MAP REVIEW OFFICERS

WHEREAS, S.L. 1997-309 (SB875) made a number of significant changes in the procedures for recording maps and plats; and

WHEREAS, the main purpose of the law was to transfer the responsibility for reviewing plats to determine whether they meet recording requirements from the Register of Deeds to a Review Officer; and

WHEREAS, G.S. 47-30.2 requires the Board of County Commissioners in each County, by resolution, to appoint a person or persons to serve as Review Officer to review each plat or map before it is recorded and certify that it meets the statutory requirements for recording; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Catawba County Board of Commissioners to insure an expeditious review of all maps and plats as required by G.S. 47-30.2 before they are presented to the Register of Deeds for recording; and

WHEREAS, the Catawba County Board of Commissioners on July 20, 2026 adopted Resolution #2026-17 which included names of individuals who were appointed as Review Officers for representative jurisdictions in Catawba County; and

WHEREAS, said Resolution was recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds in Book 04036 Pages 0018-0019; and

WHEREAS, staffing changes have occurred in the City of Newton, the City of Conover, the Town of Longview and the Town of Catawba which necessitate an amendment to the approved list of Map Review Officers.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Elizabeth Moss and Laney Lancaster hereby be added to the list of appointed review officers for Town of Longview and Town of Catawba and that Randy Williams hereby be removed from the list of appointed review officers for the City of Newton and Madeleine Epley hereby be removed from the list of appointed review officers for the City of Conover and Susan Matheson hereby be removed from the Town of Longview.

With the above change, the comprehensive list of Map Review Officers is as follows:

Catawba County:	Chris Timberlake, Laurie LoCicero, Diana Gandia, Blake Wright, Jonathan Pilkenton
City of Hickory:	Brian Frazier, Cal Overby, Mike Kirby, and Wilson Elliott
City of Newton:	Alex S. Fulbright
City of Conover:	Stephanie Watson, Heather Stephens and Erik Schlichting
City of Claremont:	Bryce Carter
Town of Long View:	Elizabeth Moss, Laney Lancaster, Daniel Odom
Town of Maiden:	Addyson Ikard
Town of Catawba:	Elizabeth Moss, Laney Lancaster, Daniel Odom
Town of Brookford:	Marshall Eckard

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution designating the Review Officers be recorded in the Catawba County Register of Deed's Office and indexed in the names of the Review Officers.

Adopted this the 5th day of October, 2026.

d. Staff recommended the Board of Commissioners approve a resolution to retire drug interdiction K-9s Odin and Thor and transfer ownership of Odin to K-9 handler Dustin Ladd and Thor to K-9 handler Daniel Ikerd.

Odin is a drug interdiction K-9 owned by Catawba County Sheriff's Office who has performed his duties diligently for 6 years. Odin is 8 years old and is no longer able to perform law enforcement duties. Odin was specifically trained in certain law enforcement procedures, and it is in the best interest of Odin that he remain under the care and supervision of a trained handler. Dustin Ladd is currently Odin's handler. Deputy Ladd possesses the necessary expertise to manage and care for Odin and provide a safe and suitable home for retirement.

Thor is a drug interdiction K-9 owned by Catawba County Sheriff's Office who has performed his duties diligently for 7 years. Thor is almost 10 years old and is no longer physically able to perform law enforcement duties. Thor was specifically trained in certain law enforcement procedures, and it is in the best interest of Thor that he remain under the care and supervision of his trained handler. Thor's trained K-9 handler is Daniel Ikerd, and he possesses the necessary expertise to manage and care for Thor and provide a safe and suitable home for retirement.

Adoption of the resolution, pursuant to NCGS § 17F-21, would allow the Catawba County Sheriff's Office to retire and transfer ownership of Odin and Thor to their handlers. The Deputies must agree to keep the K-9's retired and assume all liability and responsibility for the care of the dogs for the remainder of their lives.

The following resolution applies:

RESOLUTION 2026-24
AUTHORIZING THE RETIREMENT OF
K-9 "Thor" and "Odin"

WHEREAS, Drug Interdiction K-9 "Thor" has been a great benefit to Catawba County for 7 Years and Drug Interdiction K-9 "Odin" has been a great benefit to Catawba County for 6 Years; and

WHEREAS, Thor retired from service effective September 1, 2026, and Odin retired from service effective September 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Thor and Odin were specifically trained in certain law enforcement procedures; and

WHEREAS, Daniel Ikerd and Dust Ladd each possess the necessary expertise to manage and care for Thor and Odin, providing a safe and suitable home for retirement; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners finds that Thor should be retired and ownership transferred to Daniel Ikerd, and that Odin should be retired and ownership transferred to Dustin Ladd, so that they may provide a safe and suitable home for retirement, in recognition of Thor's and Odin's period of dedicated service and due to the additional training and responsibility which is required; and

WHEREAS, G.S. § 17F-21 permits the Board of Commissioners to authorize the transfer of ownership of Thor and Odin to the Officers, upon the Officers accepting custody of the K-9's, ensuring they remain retired, and assuming all liability and responsibility for their care for the remainder of their lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners authorizes the transfer of ownership of K-9 Thor to Daniel Ikerd, and the transfer of K-9 Odin to Dustin Ladd, effective October 19, 2026, or upon the execution of the Assumption of Liability and Release, ensuring that the Officers assume all liability and responsibility for the care of the animals.

ADOPTED, this the 5th day of October, 2026.

The consent agenda items came in the form of a motion by Chair Isenhower, which carried unanimously.

10. Other Items of Business.

11. Manager's Report. None.

County Manager Mary Furtado reported the following completed budget transfers to the Board, pursuant to Board authority granted to her:

1. Contingency Transfer: Land Purchase Contingency Transfer

Transfer

From:

110-190100-994000	Contingency	\$2,000
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To:

410-460100-480050-987000	Purchase of Land	\$2,000
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Contingency transfer to cover property purchase through NCDOT auction for parcel adjacent to South Newton Elementary for purposes of addressing driveway encroachment.

2. Contingency Transfer: Sherrills Ford EMS Base Contingency Transfer

Transfer

From:

110-190100-994000	Contingency	\$7,150
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To:

110-190100-995110	To General Capital Projects	\$7,150
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Supplemental Appropriation:

Sherrills Ford EMS Base Contingency Transfer

Increase

Appropriation:

410-460100-987000-12049	Purchase of Land Sherrills Ford EMS Base	\$7,150
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Revenue:

410-460100-695110	From General Fund	\$7,150
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Contingency transfer to cover purchase of Sherrills Ford EMS Base.

3. Transfer

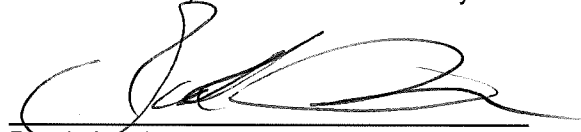
From:		
410-460100-993000-12029	Future Public Safety Reserves	\$65,000
To:		
410-460100-866820-12029	Conover Capital	\$65,000

Transfer from Future Public Safety Capital Project reserve to account for second year of funding in 2-year funding arrangement.

12. Attorney's Report.

County Attorney Jodi Stewart requested the Board consider moving into Closed Session pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged. Attorney Stewart did not anticipate any action upon return to open session. Commissioner Setzer made a motion to enter closed session for that purpose. The motion carried unanimously.

13. Adjournment. No further action was taken. Upon a motion by Commissioner Beatty which unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.



Randy Isenhower, Chair
Catawba County Board of Commissioners



Dale R. Stiles
County Clerk