

May 4, 2026

MINUTES

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF HENDERSON

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, MAY 4, 2026

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners met for a regularly scheduled meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Historic Courthouse on Main Street, Hendersonville.

Present were: Chairman William Lapsley, Vice-Chair J. Michael Edney, Commissioner Rebecca McCall, Commissioner Sheila Franklin, Commissioner Jay Egolf, County Manager John Mitchell, Assistant County Manager Chris Todd, Public Safety Director Jimmy Brissie, Financial Services Director Samantha Reynolds, County Attorney Russ Burrell, and Clerk to the Board Denisa Lauffer.

Also present were: Budget Manager Sonya Flynn, Chief Communications Officer Mike Morgan, Code Enforcement Director Matt Champion, Budget Analyst Jennifer Miranda, Cooperative Extension Director Dr. Terry Kelley, Director of Public Health David Jenkins, Infrastructure Manager Mike McKinney, Parks and Recreation Director Bruce Gilliam, Social Services Director Lorie Horne, Deputy DSS Director Debbie Dunn, County Engineer Marcus Jones, Director of Human Resources Karen Ensley, Tax Assessor Kevin Hensley, Tax Collector Luke Small, Strategic Behavioral Health Director Jodi Grabowski, Planning Director Autumn Radcliff, Planner Austin Parks, Sheriff Lowell Griffin, Sheriff's Office Budget Specialist Anita Pace, Site Development Director Deborah Johnston, Social Media Coordinator Tiffany Lucey, and Finance Director Randall Cox. Deputies Matt Covil and Jesse Blankenship provided security.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Commissioner Lapsley called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

INVOCATION

Pastor Jesse Carr with Mud Creek Baptist Church provided the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Connor Corn with the Barnyard Bandits 4-H Club led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

RESOLUTIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

2026.043 Proclamation – Public Service Recognition Week

The Board of Commissioners was requested to adopt a Proclamation of Public Service Recognition Week in Henderson County, May 3 – 9, 2026.

Commissioner McCall made the motion that the Board adopt the Proclamation of Public Service Recognition Week in Henderson County. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

2026.044 Resolution – Service Badge and Sidearm Request – Master Deputy Jerry Williams

The Sheriff's Office requested the service badge and sidearm of Master Deputy Jerry Williams be given to him in recognition of his retirement from the Henderson County Sheriff's Office.

Master Deputy Jerry Williams began his career with the Henderson County Sheriff's Office on February 16, 2001, and has held the ranks of Deputy, Master Deputy, Sergeant, and Lieutenant during his 18-year tenure. To honor him and express gratitude, the Sheriff's Office

Approved:

intended to present his service badge and service sidearm.

Sheriff Griffin made this request on behalf of the Henderson County Sheriff's Office pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 17F-20.

Vice-Chair Edney made the motion that the Board allow Sheriff Lowell S. Griffin to present the service badge and sidearm as a token of appreciation to Master Deputy Jerry Williams. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

2026.052 Proclamation – Professional Clerks to the Board of County Commissioners Week (Add-on)

Chairman Laplsey presented a Proclamation designating May 3 through May 9, 2026, as Professional Clerks to the Board of County Commissioners Week.

Chairman Laplsey made the motion that the Board adopt the Proclamation designating May 3 through May 9, 2026, as Professional Clerks to the Board of County Commissioners Week.

PUBLIC COMMENT *(Comments are the views and opinions of the speaker)*

There were none.

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT OF AGENDA

Vice-Chair Edney added a closed session for: Attorney-Client privilege

Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 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.

Vice-Chair Edney moved to approve the agenda with the revision discussed. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes were presented for Board review and approval for the following meetings:

April 6, 2026, and April 15, 2026

Motion: I move the Board approve the minutes from April 6, 2026, and April 15, 2026.

Tax Collector's Report

The following report from the office of the Tax Collector was provided for the Board's information.

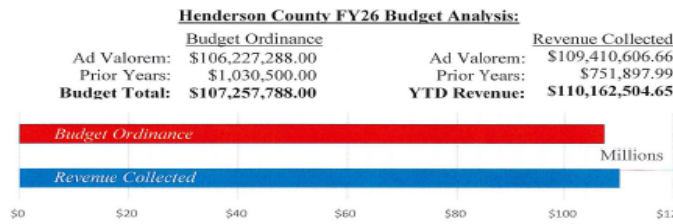
Approved:

Please find outlined below collections information through April 22, 2026 for 2025 real and personal property bills mailed on July 31, 2025. Vehicles taxes are billed monthly by NC DMV.

Henderson County Annual Bills (Real and Personal Property):		
2025 Beginning Charge:	\$103,844,885.28	
Discoveries & Imm.	\$261,381.42	
Releases & Refunds:	(\$157,115.31)	
Net Charge:	\$103,949,151.39	
Unpaid Taxes:	\$1,217,388.97	
Amount Collected:	\$102,731,762.42	
	Paid	Unpaid
	98.83%	1.17%



Henderson County Registered Motor Vehicles (As Collected by NC DMV):		
Net Charge:	\$6,697,613.39	
Unpaid Taxes:	\$18,769.15	
Amount Collected:	\$6,678,844.24	99.72%



2026.045 Pending Releases and Refunds

The pending releases and refunds were reviewed by the Assessor. As a result of that review, the Assessor's opinion was that the findings are in order. Supporting documentation is on file in the County Assessor’s Office.

These pending release and refund requests were submitted to the Henderson County Board of Commissioners for approval.

Type:	Amount:
Total Taxes Released from the Charge	\$ 6,984.52
Total Refunds as a Result of the Above Releases	\$ 1,010.20

Motion: I move the Board to approve the Combined Release/Refund Report as presented.

County Financial Report and Cash Balance Report – March 2026

The March 2026 County Financial and Cash Balance Reports were presented for the Board’s review and approval.

The following are explanations for departments/programs with higher budgets to actual percentages for the month of March:

- Governing Body – timing of payment of Board approved expenditures.
- Administrative Services – timing of payment of Board approved expenditures.
- Tax Collector – timing of payment of Board approved expenditures.
- Medical Services – timing of payment of Board approved expenditures.
- Juvenile Justice Programs – timing of payment of Board approved expenditures.
- Public Education – payment of 9 of 10 annual appropriations made to public school system.
- Interfund Transfers – timing of Board approved transfers.

Approved:

Year to Date Net Revenues under Expenditures for the Emergency Telephone System Fund is due to timing of receipts and disbursements of approved expenditures in FY26.

Year to Date Net Revenues under Expenditures for the Public Transit Fund is due to timing of receipts and disbursements of approved expenditures in FY26.

Year to Date Net Revenues under Expenditures for the Opioid Fund is due to timing of receipts and disbursements of approved expenditures in FY26.

Year to Date Net Revenues under Expenditures for the Hurricane Helene Fund is due to timing of expenditures and receipt of FEMA reimbursements in FY26.

Year to Date Net Revenues under Expenditures for the Etowah Community Sewer Fund is due to timing of receipts and disbursements of approved expenditures in FY26.

HENDERSON COUNTY
FINANCIAL REPORT
MARCH 2026

GENERAL FUND REVENUES						
	REVISED BUDGET	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	% USED	ENCUMBRANCES	TOTAL
General Fund	227,847,260.00	14,019,589.04	172,724,546.28	75.81%	-	172,724,546.28

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES						
	REVISED BUDGET	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	% USED	ENCUMBRANCES	TOTAL
Governing Body	713,432.00	67,269.09	576,591.90	80.82%	-	576,591.90
Dues/Non Profit Contributions	1,408,431.00	11,461.67	1,036,902.69	73.62%	330,593.18	1,367,495.87
Country Manager	412,944.00	31,354.97	257,366.04	62.32%	-	257,366.04
Administrative Services	1,042,667.00	96,075.18	802,776.55	76.99%	-	802,776.55
Human Resources	1,602,266.00	113,231.96	1,107,749.94	69.14%	-	1,107,749.94
Elections	1,502,192.00	212,434.92	725,789.40	48.32%	57,405.56	783,194.96
Finance	1,459,519.00	104,393.45	968,680.63	66.37%	2,120.00	970,800.63
Country Assessor	2,389,025.00	140,590.32	1,412,579.85	59.13%	12,439.46	1,425,019.31
Tax Collector	625,023.00	49,887.96	505,958.65	80.95%	-	505,958.65
Legal	1,153,432.00	80,806.25	843,964.09	73.17%	-	843,964.09
Register of Deeds	804,235.00	65,393.71	589,955.54	73.36%	2,416.80	592,372.34
Facility Services	6,938,247.00	494,281.57	4,210,976.23	60.69%	220,441.81	4,431,418.04
Garage	465,069.00	41,468.72	320,768.86	68.97%	-	320,768.86
Court Facilities	153,000.00	13,518.64	101,477.73	66.33%	-	101,477.73
Information Technology	6,730,676.00	464,943.46	4,141,709.25	61.53%	738,893.71	4,880,602.96
Sheriff Department	26,970,171.00	1,776,634.11	18,483,930.45	68.53%	427,941.17	18,911,871.62
Detection Facility	7,255,267.00	553,023.62	5,022,727.24	69.23%	111,860.55	5,134,587.79
Emergency Management	2,263,426.00	99,568.50	1,415,555.23	62.54%	41,602.47	1,457,157.70
Fire Services	1,274,999.00	73,403.47	720,225.97	56.49%	49,165.23	769,391.20
Building Services	1,933,820.00	125,011.59	1,377,848.42	71.25%	8,061.82	1,385,910.24
Wellness Clinic	1,551,790.00	99,514.74	1,071,127.86	69.03%	45,094.34	1,116,222.20
Emergency Medical Services	14,920,361.00	932,823.76	10,366,771.79	69.48%	73,801.40	10,440,573.19
Animal Services	1,006,894.00	74,145.12	753,015.60	74.79%	22,425.00	775,440.60
Rescue Squad	821,888.00	(547.46)	615,868.54	74.93%	205,472.00	821,340.54
Forestry Services	131,219.00	5,181.26	41,999.42	32.01%	-	41,999.42
Soil & Water	1,854,052.00	42,883.44	401,404.50	21.65%	14,911.00	416,315.50
Planning	1,418,811.00	123,895.14	1,053,428.89	74.25%	35,635.20	1,089,064.09
Code Enforcement	368,640.00	19,119.81	265,280.44	71.96%	2,004.20	267,284.64
Site Development	247,581.00	17,549.35	169,557.62	68.49%	-	169,557.62
Heritage Museum	100,000.00	-	75,000.00	75.00%	25,000.00	100,000.00
Cooperative Extension	794,654.00	52,298.95	535,925.01	67.44%	1,750.00	537,675.01
Project Management	412,211.00	31,603.38	280,332.43	68.01%	-	280,332.43
Economic Development	2,152,642.00	-	325,500.00	15.12%	108,500.00	434,000.00
Public Health	14,320,548.00	840,451.17	8,684,269.70	60.64%	1,288,761.68	9,973,031.38
Environmental Health	2,051,804.00	129,023.56	1,391,472.09	67.82%	17.08	1,391,489.17
H&CC Block Grant	863,502.00	60,082.75	557,549.75	64.57%	-	557,549.75
Medical Services - Autopsies	95,000.00	18,525.00	79,825.00	84.03%	-	79,825.00
Strategic Behavioral Health	611,929.00	28,612.17	324,614.08	53.05%	41,099.00	365,713.08
Mental Health Services	528,612.00	-	396,459.00	75.00%	-	396,459.00
Rural Transportation Assist Program	201,384.00	28,353.77	137,532.02	68.29%	-	137,532.02
Social Services	25,321,619.00	1,885,428.33	17,213,291.16	67.98%	345,436.20	17,558,727.36
Juvenile Justice Programs	346,020.00	34,472.22	267,583.02	77.33%	-	267,583.02
Veterans Services	343,766.00	25,771.03	241,523.79	70.26%	5,110.96	246,634.75
Library	4,578,514.00	342,743.83	3,385,735.25	73.95%	133,009.58	3,518,744.83
Recreation	3,776,930.00	230,319.93	2,574,207.10	68.16%	102,661.08	2,676,868.18
Public Education	43,641,463.00	4,243,312.97	38,377,316.73	87.94%	-	38,377,316.73
Debt Service	17,594,644.00	2,263,343.60	10,375,092.61	58.97%	-	10,375,092.61
Non-Departmental	5,155,445.00	232,512.00	2,627,458.79	50.96%	-	2,627,458.79
Interfund Transfers	15,537,496.00	597,104.17	12,086,359.53	77.79%	-	12,086,359.53
TOTAL	227,847,260.00	16,973,277.15	159,299,036.38	69.91%	4,453,630.48	163,752,666.86
Net Revenues over (under) Exp.	-	(2,953,688.11)	13,425,509.90			8,971,879.42

Approved:

APPROPRIATIONS DETAIL						
	REVISED BUDGET	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	% USED	ENCUMBRANCES	TOTAL
SOCIAL SERVICES						
Staff Operations	21,098,120.00	1,590,813.54	14,747,875.01	69.90%	265,436.20	15,013,311.21
Federal & State Programs	4,123,499.00	289,234.26	2,412,823.75	58.51%	80,000.00	2,492,823.75
General Assistance	100,000.00	5,380.53	52,592.40	52.59%	-	52,592.40
TOTAL	25,321,619.00	1,885,428.33	17,213,291.16		345,436.20	17,558,727.36
EDUCATION						
Schools Current/Capital Expense	37,891,463.00	3,764,146.30	34,064,816.70	89.90%	-	34,064,816.70
Blue Ridge Community College	5,750,000.00	479,166.67	4,312,500.03	75.00%	-	4,312,500.03
TOTAL	43,641,463.00	4,243,312.97	38,377,316.73		-	38,377,316.73
DEBT SERVICE						
Public Schools	9,440,800.00	232,312.50	4,383,514.28	46.43%	-	4,383,514.28
Blue Ridge Community College	3,141,195.00	125,356.20	1,776,896.03	56.57%	-	1,776,896.03
Henderson County	5,012,649.00	1,682,670.39	3,991,677.79	79.63%	-	3,991,677.79
TOTAL	17,594,644.00	2,040,339.09	10,152,088.10		-	10,152,088.10
INTERFUND TRANSFERS						
Capital Projects Fund	1,439,038.00	16,666.67	150,000.03	10.42%	-	150,000.03
Capital Reserve Fund	6,712,422.00	-	6,712,422.00	100.00%	-	6,712,422.00
Fire Districts Fund	60,000.00	5,000.00	45,000.00	75.00%	-	45,000.00
HPCS MRTS	4,603,500.00	383,625.00	3,452,625.00	75.00%	-	3,452,625.00
BRCC MRTS	2,301,750.00	191,812.50	1,726,312.50	75.00%	-	1,726,312.50
Solid Waste	420,786.00	-	-	0.00%	-	-
TOTAL	15,537,496.00	597,104.17	12,086,359.53		-	12,086,359.53
SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS						
	REVISED BUDGET	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	% USED	ENCUMBRANCES	TOTAL
FIRE DISTRICTS FUND						
Revenues:	17,285,114.00	284,159.03	17,249,274.74	99.79%	-	17,249,274.74
Expenditures:	17,285,114.00	405,150.01	16,968,584.86	98.17%	-	16,968,584.86
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	(120,990.98)	280,689.88		-	280,689.88
REVALUATION RESERVE FUND						
Revenues:	1,309,290.00	96,959.68	1,143,030.19	87.30%	-	1,143,030.19
Expenditures:	1,309,290.00	59,057.91	1,007,767.94	76.97%	36,736.78	1,044,504.72
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	37,901.77	135,262.25		36,736.78	98,525.47
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM (911) FUND						
Revenues:	302,500.00	24,814.49	205,593.53	67.96%	-	205,593.53
Expenditures:	302,500.00	24,814.99	229,332.60	75.81%	-	229,332.60
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	(0.50)	(23,739.07)		-	(23,739.07)
PUBLIC TRANSIT FUND						
Revenues:	1,758,861.00	195,453.45	442,430.83	25.15%	-	442,430.83
Expenditures:	1,758,861.00	122,585.01	628,614.06	35.74%	436,450.06	1,065,064.12
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	72,868.44	(186,183.23)		436,450.06	(622,633.29)
MISC. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES						
Revenues:	954,000.00	68,013.21	456,625.07	47.86%	-	456,625.07
Expenditures:	954,000.00	64,518.35	425,150.55	44.57%	-	425,150.55
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	3,494.86	31,474.52		-	31,474.52
ARPA FUND						
Revenues:	536,051.00	35,926.06	510,375.27	0.00%	-	510,375.27
Expenditures:	536,051.00	-	-	0.00%	50,000.00	50,000.00
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	35,926.06	510,375.27		50,000.00	460,375.27
OPIOID FUND						
Revenues:	1,339,390.00	13,578.09	193,920.08	14.48%	-	193,920.08
Expenditures:	1,339,390.00	63,261.18	477,557.02	35.65%	214,749.56	692,306.58
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	(49,683.09)	(283,636.94)		214,749.56	(498,386.50)
HURRICANE HELENE						
Revenues:	\$ 78,048,550.00	\$ 3,688,171.15	\$ 43,205,863.07	55.36%	\$ -	\$ 43,205,863.07
Expenditures:	\$ 78,048,550.00	\$ 779,405.61	\$ 53,652,740.19	68.74%	\$ 3,901,270.62	\$ 57,554,010.81
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	\$ -	\$ 2,908,765.54	\$ (10,446,877.12)		\$ 3,901,270.62	\$ (14,348,147.74)
CAPITAL PROJECTS						
	REVISED BUDGET	CURRENT MONTH	PROJECT TO DATE	% USED	ENCUMBRANCES	TOTAL
JUDICIAL CENTER PROJECT - DETENTION (2064)						
Revenues:	78,625,813.00	199,264.58	79,734,814.01	101.41%	-	79,734,814.01
Expenditures:	78,625,813.00	4,229,836.29	11,313,667.41	14.39%	60,575,610.59	71,889,278.00
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	(4,030,571.71)	68,421,146.60		60,575,610.59	7,845,536.01
JUDICIAL CENTER PROJECT - COURTHOUSE (2086)						
Revenues:	6,738,241.00	-	-	0.00%	-	-
Expenditures:	6,738,241.00	12,305.00	4,729,557.53	70.19%	1,961,557.30	6,691,114.83
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	(12,305.00)	(4,729,557.53)		1,961,557.30	(6,691,114.83)
MEDICAL OFFICE BUILDING PROJECT - SPARTANBURG HWY (2074)						
Revenues:	27,607,087.00	-	27,615,209.42	100.03%	-	27,615,209.42
Expenditures:	27,607,087.00	572,079.91	4,233,257.89	15.33%	21,741,820.17	25,975,078.06
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	(572,079.91)	23,381,951.53		21,741,820.17	1,640,131.36

Approved:

ENTERPRISE FUNDS						
	REVISED BUDGET	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	% USED	ENCUMBRANCES	TOTAL
SOLID WASTE LANDFILL FUND						
Revenues:	11,543,825.00	831,664.97	8,395,840.24	72.73%	-	8,395,840.24
Expenditures:	11,543,825.00	782,815.91	7,515,657.72	65.11%	2,366,893.00	9,882,550.72
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	48,849.06	880,182.52		2,366,893.00	(1,486,710.48)
JUSTICE ACADEMY SEWER FUND						
Revenues:	72,091.00	5,703.10	60,936.48	84.53%	-	60,936.48
Expenditures:	72,091.00	2,990.47	41,900.01	58.12%	2,565	44,465.01
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	2,712.63	19,036.47		(2,565.00)	16,471.47
ETOWAH COMMUNITY SEWER FUND						
Revenues:	553,480.00	12.28	175,751.80	31.75%	-	175,751.80
Expenditures:	553,480.00	20,838.66	198,496.72	35.86%	273,882.50	472,379.22
Net Revenues over (under) Exp	-	(20,826.38)	(22,744.92)		(273,882.50)	(296,627.42)

HENDERSON COUNTY
CASH BALANCE REPORT
MARCH 2026

Fund(s)	02/28/26 Beg. Cash Balance	Debits Revenues	(Credits) Expenditures	03/31/26 Ending Cash Balance
General	\$ 119,615,725.52	\$ 13,184,659.20	\$ (16,379,312.03)	\$ 116,421,072.69
Special Revenue	48,648,298.38	4,401,141.99	(4,701,824.79)	\$ 48,347,615.58
Capital Projects	9,201,112.95	6,536,145.60	(6,330,829.09)	\$ 9,406,429.46
Enterprise	2,001,451.17	834,000.58	(801,800.02)	\$ 2,033,651.73
HCPS - Maint. and Repair	6,301,124.68	383,625.00	-	\$ 6,684,749.68
BRCC - Maint. and Repair	5,531,729.81	191,812.50	-	\$ 5,723,542.31
Custodial	823,415.55	363,513.22	(565,745.34)	\$ 621,183.43
Total	\$ 192,122,858.06	\$ 25,894,898.09	\$ (28,779,511.27)	
Total cash available as of 3/31/2026				\$ 189,238,244.88

Motion: I move that the Board of Commissioners approve the March 2026 County Financial Report and Cash Balance Report as presented.

Henderson County Public Schools Financial Report – March 2026

The Henderson County Public Schools March 2026 Local Current Expense Fund / Other Restricted Funds Report was presented for the Board’s review and approval.

HENDERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
LOCAL CURRENT EXPENSE/OTHER RESTRICTED FUNDS
as of March 31, 2026

	LOCAL CURRENT EXPENSE FUND		OTHER RESTRICTED FUND		Combined Total	Prior YTD
	Budget	YTD Activity	Budget	YTD Activity		
REVENUES:						
3200 State Sources	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 158,523	\$ 103,898	\$ 103,898	\$ 58,244
3700 Federal Sources-Restricted	-	-	2,240,718	707,080	707,080	667,667
3800 Other Federal-ROTC	-	-	150,000	78,429	78,429	108,479
4100 County Appropriation	36,141,463	32,527,317	-	-	32,527,317	31,840,200
4200 Local -Tuition/Fees	-	-	71,754	71,659	71,659	55,588
4400 Local-Unrestricted	658,000	425,643	161,703	236,939	662,883	556,356
4800 Local-Restricted	-	-	459,932	321,922	321,922	936,057
4900 Fund Balance Appropriated/Transfer From school	759,025	-	825,014	29,114	29,114	26,106
TOTAL FUND REVENUES	\$ 37,558,488	\$ 32,953,260	\$ 3,867,644	\$ 1,549,019	\$ 34,502,279	\$ 34,251,677

Approved:

EXPENDITURES:

	Budget	YTD Activity	Budget	YTD Activity	Combined Total	Prior YTD
Instructional Services:						
5100 Regular Instructional Services	\$ 10,123,361	\$ 5,720,184	\$ 755,869	\$ 529,936	\$ 6,250,121	\$ 7,171,844
5200 Special Populations Services	1,349,257	705,643	848,343	538,698	1,244,341	1,196,319
5300 Alternative Programs and Services	351,791	177,573	843,850	569,490	747,063	611,700
5400 School Leadership Services	3,682,927	2,687,845	15,503	21,222	2,709,067	2,544,347
5500 Co-Curricular Services	1,131,818	765,374	57,000	22,082	787,456	816,707
5600 School-Based Support Services	2,248,164	1,507,867	435,238	97,179	1,605,046	1,463,221
Total Instructional Services	\$ 18,867,318	\$ 11,564,486	\$ 2,955,603	\$ 1,778,608	\$ 13,343,094	\$ 13,804,138
System-Wide Support Services:						
6100 Support and Development Services	\$ 554,593	\$ 390,778	\$ 5,250	\$ 9,970	\$ 400,748	\$ 360,630
6200 Special Population Support	88,215	60,175	12,200	1,805	61,980	81,133
6300 Alternative Programs	146,574	99,048	431	431	99,479	97,816
6400 Technology Support Services	1,407,468	978,986	44,849	33,210	1,012,196	978,720
6500 Operational Support Services	9,503,843	6,332,486	516,728	311,429	6,643,915	6,571,205
6600 Financial and Human Resource Services	2,600,753	2,370,089	73,289	107,663	2,477,753	2,328,243
6700 Accountability Services	222,130	157,474	1,400	1,400	158,874	151,443
6800 System-Wide Pupil Support Services	428,507	307,949	538	538	308,487	300,385
6900 Policy, Leadership and Public Relations	735,363	539,357	13,220	13,220	552,576	553,466
Total System-Wide Support Services	\$ 15,687,476	\$ 11,236,342	\$ 667,904	\$ 479,666	\$ 11,716,009	\$ 11,422,841
Ancillary Services:						
7100 Community Services	\$ 388	\$ 388	\$ 181,685	\$ 133,847	\$ 134,235	\$ 402,245
7200 Nutrition Services	267,557	102,014	-	-	102,014	104,122
Total Ancillary Services	267,944	102,402	181,685	133,847	\$ 236,249	\$ 506,366
Non-Programmed Charges:						
8100 Payments to Other Governments	\$ 2,735,750	\$ 2,085,664	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,085,664	\$ 1,620,296
8400 Interfund Transfers			15,664	21,858	21,858	37,456
8500 Contingency						-
8600 Educational Foundations			46,788	37,312	37,312	26,652
Total Non-Programmed Charges	\$ 2,735,750	\$ 2,085,664	\$ 62,452	\$ 59,170	\$ 2,144,834	\$ 1,684,404
TOTAL FUND EXPENDITURES	\$ 37,558,488	\$ 24,988,894	\$ 3,867,644	\$ 2,451,291	\$ 27,440,185	\$ 27,717,749

**HENDERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CAPITAL OUTLAY
as of March 31, 2026**

REVENUES:

	YTD			Prior Year
	Budget	Activity	Balance	
3200 State Allocations	\$ 500,000	\$ 750,000	\$ (250,000)	\$ -
3400 State Allocations Restricted to Capital	\$ 124,758		124,758	
3700 Federal Sources-Restricted		453,199	(453,199)	
4100 County Appropriation	1,500,000	1,350,000	150,000	900,000
4400 Windsor-Aughtry Donations		750	(750)	2,250
4800 Lease Purchases/Insurance Settlement	722,067	41,045	681,022	870,598
4900 Fund Balance Appropriated/Transfers In	630,697		630,697	
Total Fund Revenues	\$ 3,477,522	\$ 2,594,994	\$ 882,528	\$ 1,772,848

EXPENDITURES:

	YTD			Prior Year
	Budget	Activity	Balance	
5100 Regular Instructional Services-Equipment	\$ -	\$ 6,532	\$ (6,532)	\$ 2,927
6400 Technology Support Services		40,220	(40,220)	
6500 Operational Support Services	1,245,067	525,447	719,620	73,192
7200 Nutrition Services			-	
8100 Payments to Other Governments			-	
8300 Debt Service	124,758		124,758	
9000 Capital Outlay-Land/Buildings	2,107,697	1,199,104	908,593	1,349,359
Total Fund Expenditures	\$ 3,477,522	\$ 1,771,303	\$ 1,706,219	\$ 1,425,479

Motion: I move that the Board of Commissioners approve the March 2026 County Henderson County Public Schools Financial Report as presented.

Approved:

Notification of Vacancies

The Notification of Vacancies was provided for the Board's information. They will appear on the next agenda under "Nominations.

1. Cemetery Advisory Committee – 1 vac.
Seat #2
2. Farmland Preservation Task Force – 6 vacs.
Seats #3, 5, 7, 9, 11, & 13
3. Hospital Corporation Board of Directors – 1 vac.
Seat # 2

Opioid Settlement Fund – Authorized Expenditures Update

The Opioid Settlement Fund's authorized expenditures update as of March 31, 2026, was provided for the Board's review and approval. Amounts received and expended will be reported annually to the Community Opioid Resources Engine for NC (CORE-NC) in compliance with the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

Motion: I move that the Board of Commissioners approve the March 31, 2026, Authorized Expenditures Update as presented.

2026.046 Set Public Hearing to Close Unopened 30-foot Right-of-Way

Planning and Property Addressing staff received a petition to close a 30-foot unopened right-of-way. Under North Carolina General Statute (NCGS) 153A-241, counties have the power to close any public road or easement not within a city, except public roads or easements for public roads under the control of the Department of Transportation. To close any road, the Board must:

- Vote to adopt a resolution declaring its intent to close the public road or easement.
- Call and notice a public hearing on closing the road or easement, with notice "reasonably calculated to give full and fair disclosure of the proposed closing to be published once a week for three successive weeks before the hearing, a copy of the resolution to be sent by registered or certified mail to each owner as shown on the county tax records of property adjoining the public road or easement who did not join in the request to have the road or easement closed, and a notice of the closing and public hearing to be prominently posted in at least two places along the road or easement."
- Hold the public hearing, where the Board must "hear all interested persons who appear with respect to whether the closing would be detrimental to the public interest or to any individual property rights."
- Then, if the Board "is satisfied that closing the public road or easement is not contrary to the public interest and (in the case of a road) that no individual owning property in the vicinity of the road or in the subdivision in which it is located would thereby be deprived of reasonable means of ingress and egress to his property, the Board may adopt an order closing the road or easement."

Approved:

- File a copy of the Board's order with the Register of Deeds.

Motion: I move that the Board approve the proposed resolution and set the public hearing for June 3, 2026, at 3:00 pm, and sign the Order of Closure.

Vendor Selection – Restroom Facilities at Berkeley Park Sports Complex

The Board was requested to approve a proposal from Ryse Construction and authorize staff to proceed with the construction of the Restroom Facilities at the Henderson County Sports Complex at Berkeley Park.

The proposal from Ryse Construction totals \$796,295, which is within the budgeted amount for this portion of the project.

Motion: I move the Board to award the contract for the Construction of the Restroom Facilities at the Henderson County Sports Complex at Berkeley Park to Ryse Construction for \$796,295.

Vendor Change Order – Berkeley Park Sports Complex

The Board was requested to approve a contract change order from Tennoca Construction Company for the Henderson County Sports Complex Project. The total value of this Change Order was \$83,637.25 for additional tennis court changes generated from USTA revisions and additional storm and site plan revisions. This revision will be funded by grants totaling \$205,000 received by the US Tennis Association.

Motion: I move the Board approve Change Order #6, issued by Tennoca for the Berkeley Park Sports Complex Project in the amount of \$83,637.25.

2026.047 Tax Collection Agreement Extensions – City of Hendersonville and Laurel Park

The County currently has a tax collection agreement with the City of Hendersonville and the Town of Laurel Park, under which the County collects the two municipalities' *ad valorem* property taxes. This agenda item seeks approval for staff to obtain an extension of those agreements on the same terms as presently exist for the next four (4) years.

Motion: I move that the Board direct staff to complete tax collection agreement extensions with the City of Hendersonville and the Town of Laurel Park on the same terms as presently exist, and execute the same on behalf of this Board.

Grant Application – Bureau of Justice Assistance Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use, Site-Based Program Grant Funding

Henderson County was the first county in North Carolina to fully fund its Adult Recovery Court through opioid settlement funds. This is an allowable use of the resources through the NC-MOA, Exhibit B. The Henderson County Strategic Behavioral Health Department aims to braid additional funding resources wherever possible to make efficient use of the funds.

The Strategic Behavioral Health Department asked for approval to pursue funding through a Department of Justice Grant for a "Diversion to Recovery" Program. In 2025, Henderson County entered into a contract with the Office of the District Attorney to support funding for an ADA assigned specifically to the Adult Recovery Court and other substance-related cases, as allowable

Approved:

under the NC MOA governing the opioid settlement funding. This funding will support the Prosecutor-led Diversion Project for three years. We will apply under “Category 1b: Local-Suburban area or medium-size jurisdiction.”

The total funding amount is not yet known, but the anticipated award is \$1,300,000 over 36 months.

Motion: I move that the Board approve the grant application by the Henderson County Department of Strategic Behavioral Health for a maximum of \$1,300,000 from BJA FY25 Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use, Site-based Program (COSSUP).

2026.048 Grant Award – North Carolina Amateur Sports

Henderson County’s Recreation Department was awarded a \$10,000 Youth Sports Grant from North Carolina Amateur Sports. Funds will be used to purchase soccer goals and nets per the grant submission.

The Board was requested to approve and accept the Youth Sports Grant from North Carolina Amateur Sports and approve the related budget amendment.

Motion: I move the Board approve the Grant provided and the Budget Amendment as presented.

Acceptance of Donation - Town of Fletcher

A Resolution R-25-11 from the Town of Fletcher was presented for the Board’s review and approval, declaring one (1) 2018 Harley Davidson Electra Glide FLHTP no longer used by the Town of Fletcher as surplus property, to be donated to Henderson County.

The Sheriff’s Office requested the Board’s approval to accept the motorcycle.

Upon acceptance of this donation, the Sheriff’s Office plans to surplus (2) 2009 BMW R1200 Motorcycles shown on Exhibit B: Proposed Surplus Property.

Motion: I move that the Board approve the acceptance of a 2018 Harley Davidson Electra Glide FLHTP from the Town of Fletcher.

2026.049 Surplus and Donation Request - Henderson County Rescue Squad

A resolution was presented for the Board’s review and approval declaring one (1) Ambulance no longer used by Henderson County Emergency Medical Services as surplus property and the donation of the Ambulance to the Henderson County Rescue Squad as allowed by N.C.G.S. 160A-280 to be used for patient care and ambulance transportation.

Motion: I move the Board to approve the resolution declaring the ambulance presented as surplus and to authorize the donation to the Henderson County Rescue Squad, as allowed by N.C.G.S. 160A-280.

2026.050 Lease Renewal - Housing Assistance Corporation

In June 2025, the Board of Commissioners approved a lease with Housing Assistance Corporation in the 100 N King St. Building. Housing Assistance Corporation has requested a renewal of its

Approved:

current lease agreement with Henderson County. The term of the lease renewal begins on June 1st, 2026, and shall continue for twelve (12) months, ending on May 31, 2027. Housing Assistance Corporation provides an important service to the residents of Henderson County and has been a good neighbor in the King St. office building.

Motion: I move the Board approve the Real Property Lease renewal between Henderson County and Housing Assistance Corporation.

Facility Use Policy Exemption – Vehicles

The Board was requested to allow Jimmie Johnson's race car to park in the courtyard at the Historic Courthouse on Thursday, May 21, 2026.

To allow for this, the Board is requested to grant a one-time exemption to Footnote 1 of the “Application for Use of the Historic Courthouse Courtyard,” which prohibits vehicles on the courtyard.

Motion: I move that the Board grant an exemption to the County Facility Use Policy to allow Jimmie Johnson’s race car to park in the courtyard at the Historic Courthouse on Thursday, May 21, 2026.

Chairman Lapsley made the motion to adopt the consent agenda as presented. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Lapsley made a motion to go into the Public Hearing. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

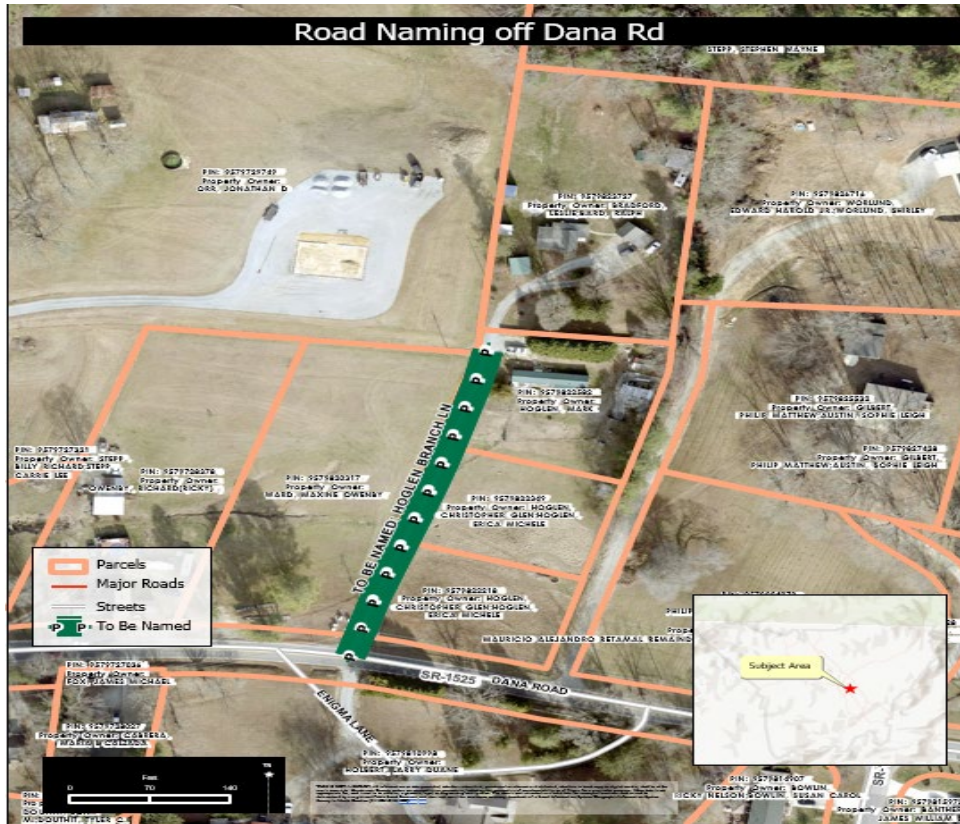
2026.051 Name One Unnamed Right-of-Way

Staff received confirmation from all owners, and they have agreed on the new proposed road name, Hoglen Branch Ln. The ROW is required to be named under the Property Addressing Ordinance for E911 purposes.

Staff sent letters to all property owners notifying them of the date and time of the public hearing and the proposed road name, and the hearing was advertised in the Hendersonville Lightning.

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Approved:



Public Input: There was none.

Vice-Chair Edney made a motion to go out of the Public Hearing. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Vice-Chair Edney made a motion to approve renaming the ROW as shown on the map presented to Hoglen Branch Ln. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

DISCUSSION

County Manager’s FY 2026–2027 Recommended Budget

County Manager John Mitchell presented his FY 2026–2027 Recommended Budget to the Board. The Board was requested to schedule the Public Hearing on the FY 2026–2027 Budget for Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.

FY 2026-2027 RECOMMENDED BUDGET

Priorities:

- Non-expansion budget
- Recommended tax rate - \$0.431

Approved:

BUDGET WORKSHOP – COMMISSIONER PRIORITIES

Hurricane Helene Closeout	Workforce Housing
Farmland Preservation	Berkeley Park Lighting and Restrooms
Judicial Center Expansion	Aquatics Center
Land Use Plan Implementation	Clear Creek Sewer System
Fletcher Library	HCSO Impound Lot
East Henderson High School	HCPS Bus Garage
Economic Development	Tennis Courts at High Schools
Access Controls	Pursuit of Grants – Tier II Designation

FY 2026-2027 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

\$ 227,208,372

FY 2026-2027 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

	FY26 Revised	FY 27 Proposed	\$ Change	% Change
County Government	\$ 164,724,485	\$ 167,436,068	\$ 2,711,583	1.6%
HC Public Schools				
Current/Capital	\$ 37,891,463	\$ 37,391,463	\$ (500,000)	-1.3%
Debt Service	\$ 9,440,800	\$ 7,480,757	\$ (1,960,043)	-20.8%
MRTS	\$ 4,603,500	\$ 4,603,500	\$ -	0.0%
BRCC				
Current	\$ 5,750,000	\$ 5,750,000	\$ -	0.0%
Debt Service	\$ 3,144,577	\$ 2,244,834	\$ (899,743)	-28.6%
BRCC - MRTS	\$ 2,301,750	\$ 2,301,750	\$ -	0.0%
TOTAL	\$ 227,856,575	\$ 227,208,372	\$ (648,203)	-0.28%

Approved:

FY 2026-2027 RECOMMENDED BUDGET

FY27 Proposed Expenditures -	\$ 227,208,372
FY26 Revised Budget -	\$ 227,856,575
	\$ Variance = (\$ 648,203)
	% Variance = (0.28%)

FY 2026-2027 FUNDING PRIORITIES

Education	\$ 62,420,841	27%
Public Safety	\$ 58,020,691	26%
Human Services	\$ 42,302,971	19%
	\$ 162,744,503	72%

FY 2026-2027 RECOMMENDED REVENUES

Revenue	FY 25 Actuals	FY 26 Revised	FY 27 Recommended
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$ 108,623,517	\$ 107,479,377	\$ 111,577,474
Local Option Sales Taxes	\$ 42,840,294	\$ 41,768,049	\$ 42,840,294
Medicaid Hold Harmless	\$ 4,129,761	\$ 2,202,384	\$ 2,000,000
Other Taxes and Licenses	\$ 5,580,345	\$ 5,432,000	\$ 1,723,000
Unrestricted Intergovernmental Revenue	\$ 71,535	\$ 61,000	\$ 65,000
Restricted Intergovernmental Revenue	\$ 20,942,834	\$ 21,781,911	\$ 16,111,177
Permits and Fees	\$ 3,011,063	\$ 2,257,113	\$ 2,392,862
Sales and Services	\$ 10,159,799	\$ 9,221,381	\$ 12,756,246
Investment Earnings	\$ 5,170,471	\$ 3,010,000	\$ 3,520,000
Other Revenues	\$ 2,564,568	\$ 1,750,676	\$ 1,549,915
Transfers from Other Funds	\$ 4,601,942	\$ 8,936,831	\$ 14,622,632
Fund Balance Appropriated	\$ -	\$ 23,955,853	\$ 18,049,772
TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES	\$ 207,696,129	\$ 227,856,575	\$ 227,208,372

Approved:

FY 2026-2027 RECOMMENDED BUDGET

Proposed Expenditures	\$ 227,208,372
Proposed Revenues*	\$ 209,158,600
Variance	\$ 18,049,772

* - Excluding appropriated fund balance

FY 2026-2027 RECOMMENDED BUDGET

FY27 Recommended Budget \$ 227,208,372

Tax Rate \$ 0.431

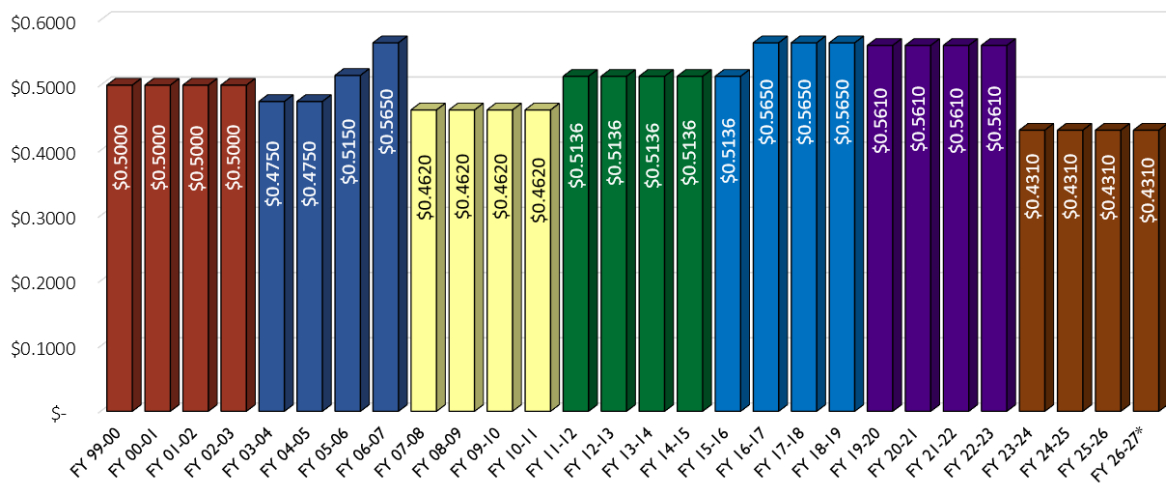
Fund Balance Appropriated \$ 17,713,432

Fund Balance Appropriated \$336,340

TAX RATE

FY 26-27 RECOMMENDED RATE = \$0.431

Historic Tax Rates vs FY27 Recommended



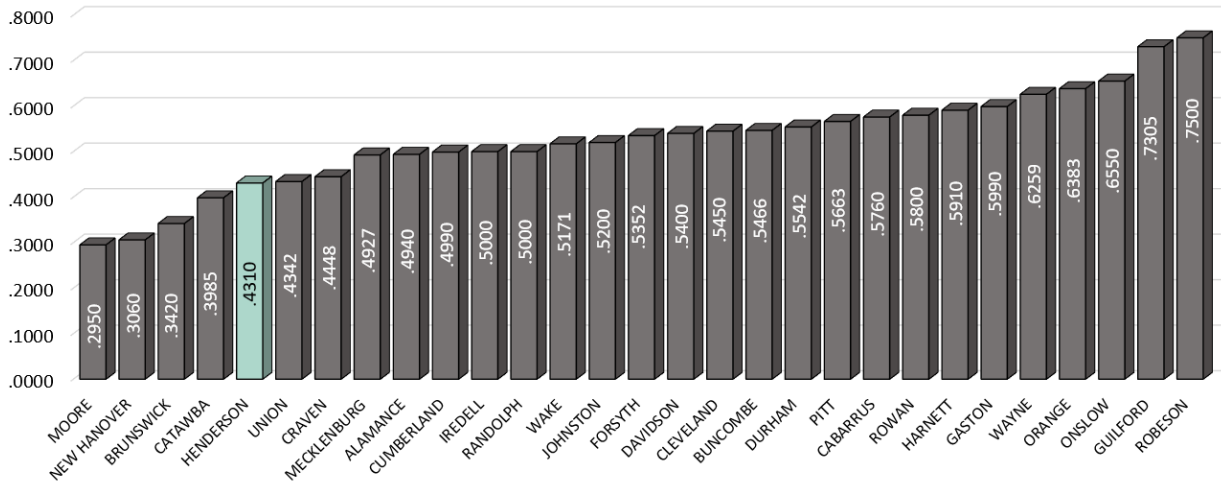
* FY 26-27 Recommended Tax Rate

Approved:

TAX RATE

FY 26-27 RECOMMENDED RATE = \$0.431

FY27 Henderson County Proposed vs FY26 Adopted Rates for 29 Urban Counties



NEXT STEPS

FY 2027 BUDGET PROCESS

- **May 4, 2026 – Regularly Scheduled Meeting**
 - Present County Manager’s Recommended Budget to Board of Commissioners
 - Schedule the Public Hearing for Monday, June 1, 2026
 - Following presentation, recommended budget slides will be posted to County website

- **May 6, 2026 – Advertisement and Publication**
 - Advertise the presentation and publication of the County Manager’s Recommended Budget
 - June 1st Public Hearing
 - Advertisement in Hendersonville Lightening
 - Publication on Henderson County website

- **May 20, 2026 – Regularly Scheduled Meeting**
 - FY2027 Budget workshop
 - Introduction of new Budget Book

- **June 2, 2026 – Regularly Schedule Meeting**
 - Public Hearing on the County Manager’s Recommended Budget

Approved:

Etowah Sewer Fund Update

During the Board’s June 2, 2025, meeting, the Board approved an agreement with WithersRavenel, LLC (WR) to develop an engineering report for the replacement of the Etowah wastewater treatment plant. The report is complete and presents six options for the Board’s consideration. Each option includes a detailed scope, capital cost, and the present value of annual operating costs. WR provided a presentation during the meeting. Staff followed WR, with a presentation on feedback from staff and the Board’s advisory committee.

After the Board selects an option, staff will negotiate a design agreement with WR for Board approval. Also, staff will continue to investigate sources for the remaining funding needed for construction. Currently, the project has \$13.2 M allocated from grants.

Etowah Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Replacement and Alternatives Analysis

Carolyn Hawkins, P.E., Director of Water/Wastewater Treatment
Lindsay L. Mize, P.E., Senior Project Manager



Agenda

- Background and Project Parameters
- Resulting Alternatives
- Alternatives Cost Comparison
- Next Steps
- Conclusion

Background and Project Parameters

- County purchased Etowah WWTP and sewer system in August 2024
- WWTP has reached the end of its useful life
- Existing flow data and flow projections show the need for expansion



Existing Etowah WWTP

Approved:

Alternatives

Alternative	Description
1	No Action*
2	Full Replacement and Expansion of the WWTP at the Existing Site
3	Full Replacement and Expansion of the WWTP at a New Site
4	Regionalization with Metropolitan Sewage District (MSD) – Option 1
5	Regionalization with MSD– Option 2
6	Regionalization with Hendersonville

*Note: Evaluation, including cost analysis, was not performed for the no action alternative because it does not address the existing challenges at the WWTP



Alternative 2

Full Replacement and Expansion of the WWTP at the Existing Site

Pros:

- Maintain location of existing WWTP
- Minimal disruption to the community
- Land disturbance would be localized
- Lower capital cost and total present worth compared to majority of the other alternatives

Cons:

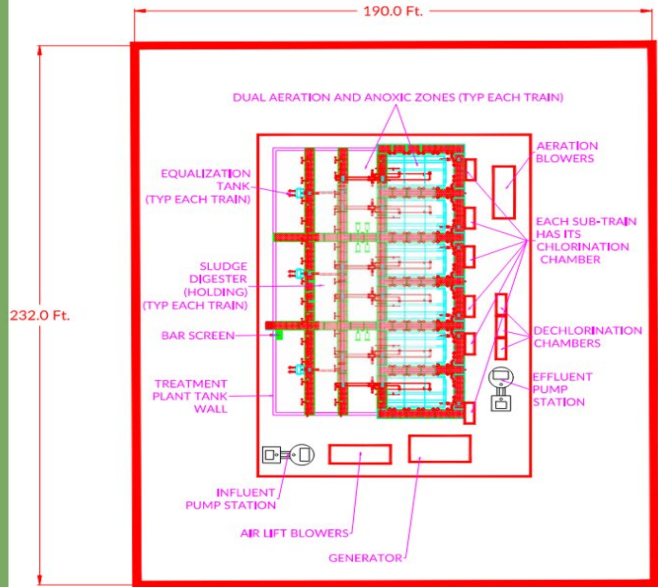
- Higher O&M costs
- Temporary treatment units needed
- County would remain responsible for WWTP treatment and operation

- **Capital Cost: \$25.1M**
- **Annual O&M Cost: \$2.3M**
- **Total Present Worth: \$30.6M**

Approved:

Alternative 3

Full Replacement and Expansion of the WWTP at a New Site



Alternative 3

Full Replacement and Expansion of the WWTP at a New Site

Pros:

- Lowest capital cost and total present worth
- Temporary treatment units not needed

Cons:

- Higher O&M costs
- Additional force mains would be needed
- More disruption to the community
- More land disturbance
- County would remain responsible for WWTP treatment and operation

- **Capital Cost: \$23.4M**
- **Annual O&M Cost: \$2.3M**
- **Total Present Worth: \$28.7M**

Alternative 4

Regionalization with MSD – Option 1



Approved:

Alternative 4

Regionalization with MSD – Option 1

Pros:

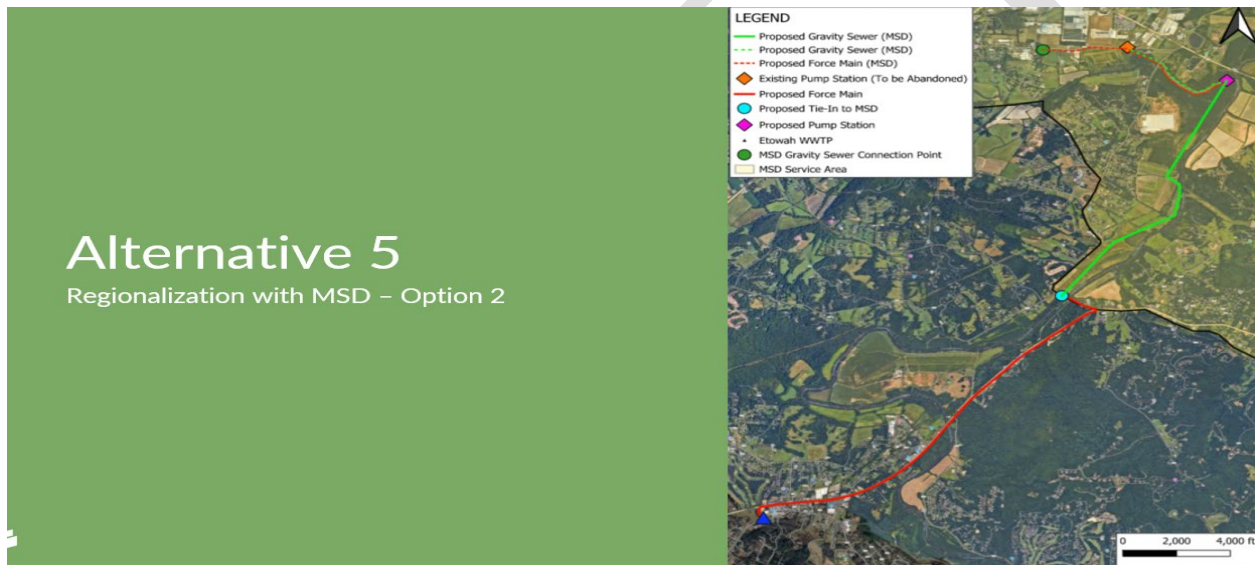
- County would not be responsible for owning and operating WWTP
- Lowest O&M costs

Cons:

- Highest capital cost
- More construction disturbance
- More disruption to the community
- County would pay treatment fees to MSD

- Capital Cost: \$58.1M
- Annual O&M Cost: \$1.1M
- Total Present Worth: \$60.3M

Note: The County will maintain ownership of the collection system with control of any system expansions. The treatment will be moved to MSD with payments for treatment.



Alternative 5

Regionalization with MSD – Option 2

Alternative 5

Regionalization with MSD – Option 2

Pros:

- County would not be responsible for owning and operating WWTP
- Lower O&M costs than WWTP alternatives

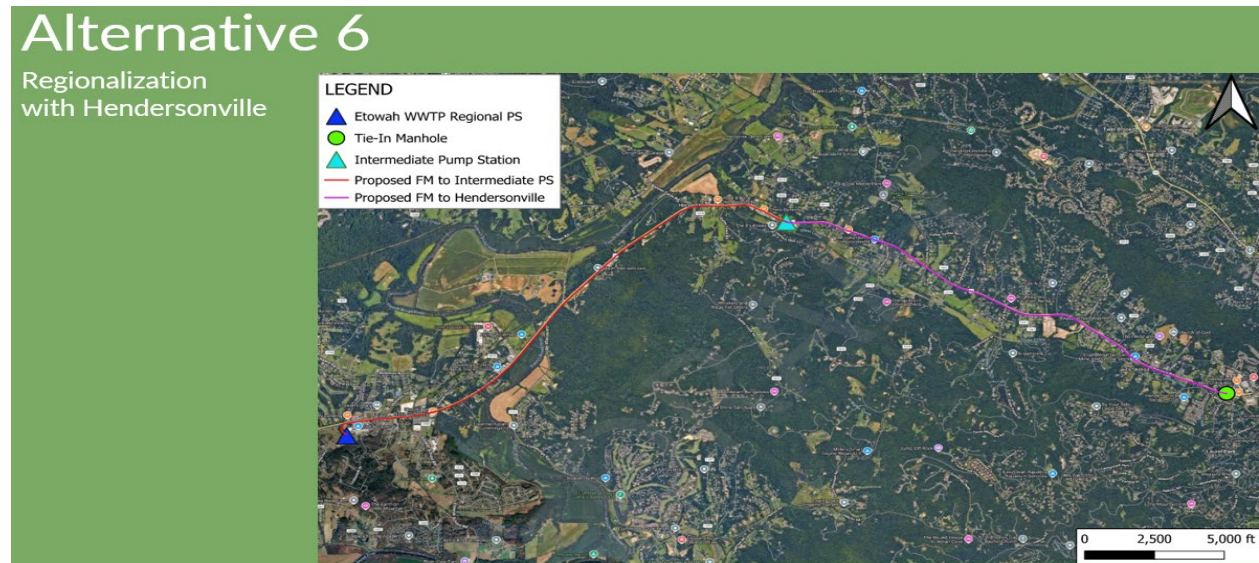
Cons:

- Higher capital cost compared to majority of other alternatives
- Higher O&M costs of the regionalization options
- More construction disturbance and disruption to the community
- County would pay treatment fees to MSD

- Capital Cost: \$32.5M
- Annual O&M Cost: \$1.5M
- Total Present Worth: \$35.8M

Note: The County will maintain ownership of the collection system with control of any system expansions. The treatment will be moved to MSD with payments for treatment.

Approved:



Alternative 6

Regionalization with Hendersonville

Pros:

- County would not be responsible for owning and operating WWTP
- Lower O&M costs than WWTP alternatives

Cons:

- Higher capital cost compared to the WWTP alternatives
- More construction disturbance and disruption to the community
- County would pay treatment fees to Hendersonville

- **Capital Cost: \$30.7M**
- **Annual O&M Cost: \$1.3M**
- **Total Present Worth: \$34.1M**

Note: The County will maintain ownership of the collection system with control of any system expansions. The treatment will be moved to Hendersonville with payments for treatment.

Alternatives Cost Comparison

Alt. No.	Description	Capital Cost	Annual O&M Costs	Present Total Worth
2	Full Replacement and Expansion of the WWTP at the Existing Site	\$25.1M	\$2.3M	\$30.6M
3	Full Replacement and Expansion of the WWTP at a New Site	\$23.4M	\$2.3M	\$28.7M
4	Regionalization MSD - Option 1	\$58.1M	\$1.1M	\$60.3M
5	Regionalization with MSD- Option 2	\$32.5M	\$1.5M	\$35.8M
6	Regionalization with Hendersonville	\$30.7M	\$1.4M	\$34.1M

Approved:

Recommendation and Next Steps

- Engineer Recommended Alternative:
 - Full Replacement at current site
- County to select alternative to move forward
- Request additional funding for the selected alternative
- WithersRavenel will provide a scope of work for design, permitting, and construction services for the selected alternative
- Commence design and permitting

Commissioner Egolf reported that the Etowah Sewer Advisory Committee recently met, with the proposed plant replacement serving as the primary topic of discussion. Representatives from WithersRavenel presented their engineering report, including six replacement options for consideration.

Following the presentation, the committee voted unanimously to recommend Option 6 — replacing the existing plant with a regional pump station that would convey the system's wastewater to the City of Hendersonville wastewater system. Residents of Etowah who attended the meeting appeared to support the committee's recommendation.

Staff Feedback

1. The expansion of the sewer system is from the collection pipes. If the County controls the collection system, it controls growth of the sewer system. Provided the capacity is available at the treatment plant.
2. Regional pump station options:
 - a. 61% to 65% lower maintenance costs as compared to the plant options
 - b. Grants are being sought for capital cost;
 - c. Maintenance costs will impact the calculation of customer rates.
 - d. Increase application competitiveness for State funding
 - i. Move towards regionalization even with County maintaining control of Collections
 - ii. Elimination of one or possibly two discharge permits

Next Steps

1. Negotiate an agreement with WithersRavenel for access, design, permitting, and bid assistance.
2. Continue to efforts to obtain remaining funding for project.
3. For regional pump station options, negotiate connection agreements with MSD, Hendersonville, or both.

Approved:

Board Discussion and Questions

Alt. No.	Description	Capital Cost	Annual O&M Costs	Present Total Worth
2	Full Replacement and Expansion of the WWTP at the Existing Site	\$25.1M	\$2.3M	\$30.6M
3	Full Replacement and Expansion of the WWTP at a New Site	\$23.4M	\$2.3M	\$28.7M
4	Regionalization MSD - Option 1	\$58.1M	\$1.1M	\$60.3M
5	Regionalization with MSD- Option 2	\$32.5M	\$1.5M	\$35.8M
6	Regionalization with Hendersonville	\$30.7M	\$1.4M	\$34.1M

The Board discussed replacement options for the Etowah wastewater treatment plant following the presentation from WithersRavenel. The engineer’s recommendation was Option 2, a full replacement of the existing plant at its current location. Marcus Jones recommended moving forward with design and permitting while pursuing additional funding sources. He noted that the current operations and maintenance budget is approximately \$400,000 and stated that the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality prefers regionalization over standalone wastewater treatment plants when feasible.

Commissioner McCall asked whether the project would be required to be built to accommodate estimated future growth, or whether the county could apply based on projected growth while constructing only enough capacity to meet the current population’s needs, with the option to expand later.

In response, it was explained that funding agencies would likely require the project to include provisions for future expansion capacity.

Commissioner McCall then asked whether staff had an estimate for the cost of Alternative Two if it were designed only to meet current capacity needs. Marcus Jones responded that no such estimate was available at that time. Commissioner McCall requested that this information be provided at a future meeting.

Commissioner Egolf questioned the county’s original purchase of the sewer system. Commissioners Lapsley, Edney, and McCall explained that the county purchased the privately owned system to prevent potential abandonment of service to approximately 450 customers and avoid environmental impacts. Commissioner Lapsley provided background on the system, noting it was privately constructed in 1988 and later acquired by the county for approximately \$400,000. He also clarified that the Mud Creek Sewer Agreement applies only to the Mud Creek service area.

Mr. Jones stated that the plant had exceeded its useful life prior to Hurricane Helene and warned that continued delays increase the risk of major system failure. Commissioner Lapsley expressed

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concern that the Metropolitan Sewerage District of Buncombe County would not support Options 4 or 5 and suggested the county first determine whether the City of Hendersonville would consider regionalization under Option 6. Commissioner Lapsley recommended obtaining written approval and conditions from any regional partner before making a final decision.

The Board directed Staff to provide a copy of the WithersRavenel report to the City of Hendersonville and request a commitment from the City regarding whether it would consider regionalization under Option 6. Additionally, at the request of Commissioner McCall, staff are to prepare an estimate of the cost for Alternative Two if it were designed solely to meet current capacity needs.

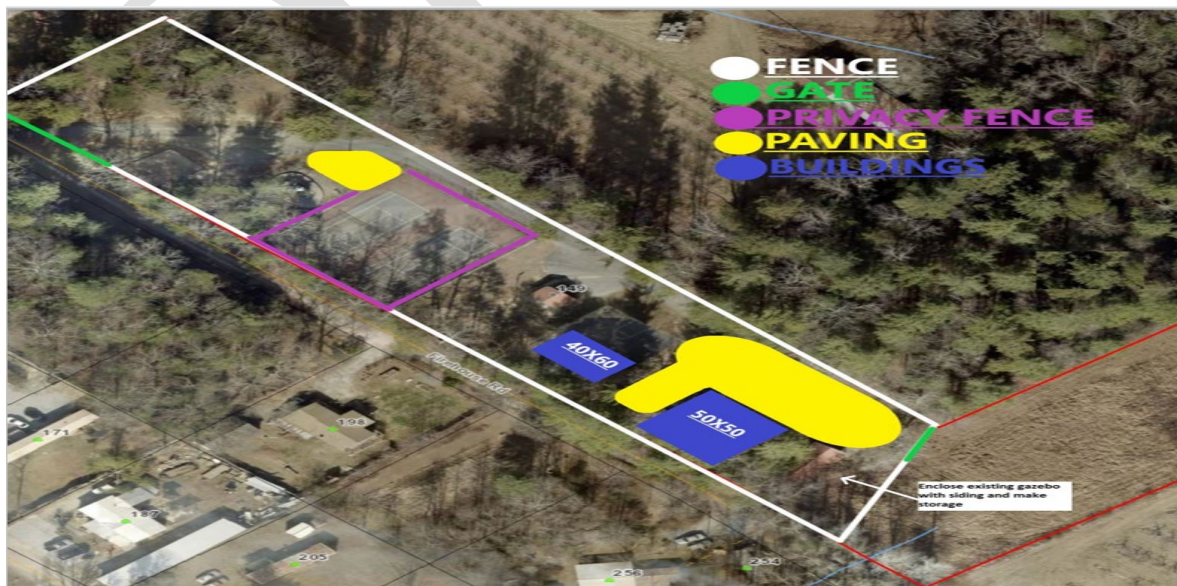
Sheriff's Impound Lot and Vehicle Storage

Chris Todd provided the Board with an update on the Henderson County Sheriff's Department Impound lot.

Mr. Todd reported that the current impound lot location has been affected by the ongoing JCAR project and that they have been working with the Sheriff's Office to identify a future impound lot site. A county-owned property in Edneyville, located behind the Edneyville Fire Department, was identified as a potential option. The approximately 3.5-acre site, historically used as Edneyville Park, has seen declining community use since the construction of the nearby community center and is currently under the Board of Commissioners' control.

Todd also noted an immediate need for temporary vehicle storage for approximately 20 Sheriff's Office vehicles awaiting upfitting and placement into service. The proposal would allow the existing fenced tennis courts at the site to serve as temporary storage with minimal modifications, including installation of a gate and security cameras. Existing gates already restrict general vehicle access to the property.

Todd shared a high-level draft site concept for this location, should it ultimately become an impound facility.



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Commissioner McCall asked whether other locations had been considered. Todd responded that he and Sheriff Griffin had reviewed additional properties, but the Edneyville site was recommended because it is the most cost-effective option and already under Board control. Vice-Chair Edney expressed concerns regarding the remote location and the need for enhanced security compared to a more urban site. Todd replied that fiber optic service is already available in the area, and additional cameras could be installed to improve monitoring.

Sheriff Griffin stated that, beyond vehicle storage, the property could provide future opportunities for law enforcement training. He noted the county lacks dedicated training facilities, including areas for simunitions and firearms-related exercises. The site could potentially support the development of a small but effective training center in the future.

Board members expressed support for moving forward gradually rather than developing the entire site at once.

Commissioner McCall made a motion to temporarily close Edneyville Park and authorize its use as an impound lot and vehicle storage area for the Sheriff's Office, with total costs not to exceed \$100,000. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. EMS Peer Review Committee – 2 vacs.

There were no nominations, and this item was carried to the next meeting.

2. Environmental Advisory Committee – 2 vacs.

There were no nominations, and this item was carried to the next meeting.

3. Henderson County Board of Health – 1 vac.

There were no nominations, and this item was carried to the next meeting.

4. Hendersonville City Zoning Board of Adjustment – 2 vacs.

There were no nominations, and this item was carried to the next meeting.

5. Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Financing Authority – 1 vac.

There were no nominations, and this item was carried to the next meeting.

6. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council – 2 vacs.

There were no nominations, and this item was carried to the next meeting.

7. Nursing/Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee – 13 vacs.

There were no nominations, and this item was carried to the next meeting.

COMMISSIONER UPDATES:

Chairman Lapsley reported that he recently represented Henderson County at Mills River Day, where he announced that the Forge Mountain tower is now operational, providing cell service to the North and South Mills River Valley after nearly nine years of effort. He noted that the lack of

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service was first identified during search efforts in 2017 following the kidnapping and murder of a local resident.

Vice-Chair Edney added that Chairman Lapsley played a leading role in advancing the Forge Mountain tower project and was instrumental in bringing it to completion.

Commissioner McCall reported that the Pathfinder Program was concluding for the current school year and that a banquet for volunteers and participants will be held on May 13, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at the VFW.

Commissioners Franklin and Egolf had no updates.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Mitchell reported that the Board's next meeting would be the annual Budget Workshop, during which staff and the Board would review the proposed FY 2026–2027 budget and identify priorities. He also noted that a formal motion was required to schedule the public hearing for the recommended budget.

Chairman Lapsley informed the Board that he would be out of town on June 1, 2026, and asked fellow Board members to consider rescheduling the meeting to Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. so he could attend.

Commissioner Egolf made a motion to move the regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, June 1, 2026, to Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Motion: Vice-Chair Edney made the motion to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143.318.11(a)(3), & (6). All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

ADJOURN

Denisa A. Lauffer, Clerk to the Board

William G. Lapsley, Chairman

Approved: