State of North Carolina

Minutes

County of Madison

The Madison County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Tuesday, August 26, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Admin Conference Room located at 140 Elizabeth Lane, Marshall, North Carolina.

In attendance were Chairman Matt Wechtel, Vice-Chairman Jeremy Hensley, Commissioner Bill Briggs, Commissioner Alan Wyatt, County Manager Rod Honeycutt, County Attorney Donny Laws, and Clerk Mandy Bradley. Commissioner Michael Garrison joined the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Chairman Wechtel.

Item 1: 2025-2026 School Nurse Memorandum of Agreement

Health Director Tammy Cody discussed the 2025-2026 School Nurse Memorandum of Agreement and answered questions from members of the Board.

Discussion was had by the Board and Ms. Cody regarding the nurse to student ratio ration as included in the memorandum and change from the previous year's ration, with Ms. Cody discussing the vacancy in staffing last year and necessity of amendment of the current document, with counsel being provided by County Attorney Laws regarding the process to amend the current document.

Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Hensley and second by Commissioner Wyatt, the Board voted unanimously to approve with the amendment of change in the student number.

Item 2: Hot Springs Library General Contractor Agreement

County Manager Honeycutt discussed the work to be done at the Hot Springs Library for the interior building renovation and requested that the Board authorize him to enter into the contract ones it goes back through legal review pending completion of additional provisions.

Counsel was provided by County Attorney Laws with discussion being had by County Manager Honeycutt and Library Director Kim Bellofatto.

Commissioner Michael Garrison entered the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

Additional counsel was provided by Attorney Laws regarding provisions and format of the contract.

Upon motion by Chairman Wechtel and second by Vice-Chairman Hensley, the Board voted unanimously to approve the general contractor agreement pending legal review and authorize Rod to enter into it.

Item 3: Discussion Regarding Property Leases for County Owned Property

County Manger Rod Honeycutt discussed updated information regarding property leases for County owned property including the County's fairgrounds facility and the Spring Creek School property.

Information discussed included lease durations, property utilization, funding, and facilities use agreement development.

Discussion was had by the Board and County Manager Honeycutt with counsel being provided by County Attorney Laws.

Item 4: Animal Shelter Operations Discussion

Animal Shelter Director Pia Cash discussed current animal shelter operations and the proposal from non-profit organization, Beyond Animal Sheltering, Inc. (BAS) for future facilities operations. BAS representatives presented information and discussed proposed future animal shelter operations including goals, staffing, partnership, non-profit structuring, funding, and transition timeline and process as well as answered questions from members of the Board.

Discussion was had by the Board, BAS, and Ms. Cash, with input being received from Library Director Kim Bellofatto regarding the Madison County Public Library non-profit model, and counsel being provided by County Attorney Laws. (Attachment 4.1)

Item 5: Opioid Litigation Update

County Attorney Laws provided an update regarding the ongoing opioid litigation and discussed additional information for the Purdue Pharma and Sachler Family Settlement as well as provided counsel regarding actions requested on behalf of the Board to enter into such.

Upon motion by Commissioner Garrison and second by Commissioner Wyatt, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Purdue Pharma Bankruptcy Plan as outlined in the plan.

Upon motion by Commissioner Wyatt and second by Chairman Wechtel, the Board voted unanimously to approve participation in the Sachler agreement.

Discussion was had by the Board.

Item 6: Personnel

Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Hensley and second by Commissioner Garrison, the Board voted unanimously to go into closed session for personnel pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(6) at 6:58 p.m.

Upon motion by Commissioner Garrison and second by Commissioner Wyatt, the Board voted unanimously to come out of closed session at 7:29 p.m.

Item 7: Adjournment

Upon motion by Commissioner Garrison and second by Vice-Chairman Hensley, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:29 p.m.

This the 26th day of August 2025.

MADISON COUNTY

Matt Wechtel, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Mandy Bradley, Clerk

Proposal for a Phased Transition of Animal Shelter Operations

Submitted by Beyond Animal Sheltering, Inc. (BAS)
To Madison County, North Carolina

Introduction

Beyond Animal Sheltering (BAS) respectfully submits this proposal to partner with Madison County in transitioning the management of the Madison County Animal Shelter over a three-year period. Our shared goal is to strengthen shelter operations, enhance services for the community, and lay the groundwork for a future facility that Madison County can be proud of.

This phased approach will allow the County to maintain stability while gradually shifting responsibilities to BAS, supported by donor fundraising and community partnerships.

Year 1: Building the Foundation (FY25/26)

Focus: Operations Manager Position

- The Operations Manager position is currently vacant and budgeted within the County structure. BAS proposes that the County redirect the funds already allocated for this position to BAS through a simple contract.
- BAS will recruit, hire, and manage the Operations Manager, while supplementing the County's budgeted funds with donor dollars to offer a more competitive salary and benefits package.
- This model ensures that the County's costs remain flat, while allowing BAS to attract and retain a high-quality professional.

Proposed Details:

- **Salary Range:** supplement the county's contribution to create a competitive salary that takes into consideration industry standards
- **Benefits (funded by BAS donors):** health insurance, PTO
- **Oversight:** The Shelter Director (Pia) will remain a County employee, continuing to manage shelter operations and County staff, with general oversight of the Operations Manager. BAS will be responsible for the Operations Manager as an employer.

Additional Year 1 Goals

- **Fundraising:** BAS will execute at least two major fundraising events yearly as well as current and future grant funds to support this position.
- **Facility Improvements:** Use restricted funds and community support to add a moveable structure and other enhancements to expand shelter space in the short term.
- **Staffing Support:** Depending on available resources, BAS will also explore hiring or reallocating funding for a **Foster/Volunteer Coordinator.**

Year 2: Expanding the Partnership (FY26/27)

- BAS will continue fundraising to increase capacity and sustain new positions.
- By the end of Year 2, BAS proposes taking on the management of additional County-funded staff positions under a similar structure to the Operations Manager.
- The County would continue to provide annual budget allocations, while BAS assumes employer responsibilities, enhancing positions through supplemental donor funds.
- This step ensures a smooth handoff of day-to-day staffing responsibilities, while maintaining County oversight and accountability during the transition.

Year 3: Full Transition (FY27/28)

- BAS will assume full management of all shelter staff, daily operations, animal care, and fiscal responsibilities.
- The County would contract with BAS for the entire shelter budget, with payments made monthly.
- At this stage, BAS would function as the shelter operator, accountable to both its nonprofit board and the County for outcomes and financial stewardship.

Year 4 and Beyond: Investing in the Future (2028 and onward)

- BAS will lead a **Capital Campaign** to raise funds for a new shelter facility, with County partnership in siting, permitting, and long-term planning.
- Together, we can create a shelter that reflects Madison County's values and provides the space and resources necessary to serve both pets and people well into the future.

Oversight and Collaboration

- With the Shelter Director's support, BAS will provide biannual updates to the County Manager and Commissioners, including staffing updates, financial reports, fundraising progress, and shelter outcome data.
- The Shelter Director will remain a key County leader during the transition, ensuring strong communication and oversight.
- BAS and the County will continue to review the plan annually and adjust as needed to ensure a successful and sustainable transition.

Summary

This phased proposal allows Madison County to:

- Maintain fiscal responsibility with no new costs
- Fill a critical Operations Manager role competitively and sustainably
- Leverage BAS fundraising to enhance salaries, benefits, and facilities
- Transition smoothly toward a nonprofit-operated model
- Begin planning for a new shelter that will serve the County for decades to come

Beyond Animal Sheltering looks forward to working with Madison County to make this vision a reality.