State of North Carolina

Minutes

County of Madison

The Madison County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Tuesday, June 23, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Madison County Courthouse Temporary Facility located at 232 Carolina Lane, Marshall, North Carolina.

In attendance were Chairman Michael Garrison, Vice-Chairman Jeremy Hensley, Commissioner Matt Wechtel, Commissioner Bill Briggs, Commissioner Alan Wyatt, County Manager Rod Honeycutt, and Clerk Mandy Bradley. County Attorney Donny Laws was not in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Garrison.

Item 1: FY 2026-2027 Fee Schedule Presentation

County Manager Rod Honeycutt presented and discussed the FY 2026-2027 Fee Schedule with members of the Board, noting that the information would be presented for consideration of approval at a future meeting of the Board.

Item 2: Public Hearing-FY 2026-2027 Budget Ordinance

a. Presentation-Rod Honeycutt, County Manager

County Manager Honeycutt presented and discussed the proposed FY 2026-2027 Budget Ordinance with members of the Board. Information discussed included budget comparisons, employee compensation, tax rate, Solid Waste fee, capital improvements, and departmental line items.

Upon motion by Commissioner Wechtel and second by Commissioner Wyatt, the Board voted unanimously that we enter into public comment.

County Manager Honeycutt presented a power point and discussed information contained therein.

b. Public Comment

Terry Hopkins spoke regarding public comment and previous action.
Danny Wyatt spoke regarding the budget.

Chairman Garrison called for additional speakers with none being available to be heard by the Board.

Discussion was had regarding questions posed by Mr. Wyatt.

Upon motion by Commissioner Wyatt and second by Commissioner Wechtel, the Board voted unanimously that we close the public comment.

c. Discussion

Discussion regarding the budget and budgetary process was had by County Manager Honeycutt and members of the Board.

d. Consideration of Adoption

Upon motion by Commissioner Briggs and second by Vice-Chairman Hensley, the Board voted unanimously that we accept the budget ordinance for FY26-27 as it has been presented to us.

Madison County, North Carolina

2026-2027 Budget Ordinance

BE ITORDAINED by the Governing Body of the County of Madison, North Carolina:

Section 1: **The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the General Fund for the operation of the county government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 01, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for this County:**

General Government	$	5,464,162.00
Public Safety	$	9,476,708.00
Transportation	$	1,475,412.00
Health and Human Services	$	4,185,676.00
Community Services	$	1,614,927.00
Social Services	$	4,938,878.00
Economic and Physical Development	$	60,000.00
Education	$	4,953,590.00
Culture and Recreation	$	961,902.00
Contingency	$	400,000.00
Debt Services	$	1,452,299.00
	$	34,983,554.00

Section 2: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the General Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 01, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027:

Current Year's Real Property Taxes	$	15,400,000.00
Current Year's Motor Vehicle Taxes	$	1,000,000.00
Prior Year's Real Property Taxes	$	212,000.00
Interest and Late Listing Fees on Taxes	$	140,000.00
Franchise Taxes	$	8,000.00
Local Option Sales Tax	$	8,139,000.00
IntergovernmentalRevenues	$	6,875,046.00
Fees	$	876,675.00
Other Revenues	$	1,432,833.00
Interest on Banking Accounts	$	500,000.00
Fund Balance Appropriation	$	400,000.00
	$	34,983,554.00

Section 3: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Fire District Fund for the operation of fire protection services for the fiscal year beginning July 01, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for this County:

Smokey Mountain Fire Department	$	310,000.00
Ebbs Chapel Fire Department	$	500,000.00
Mars Hill Fire Department	$	1,400,000.00
Country Fire Department	$	50,000.00
Walnut Fire Department	$	225,000.00
Big Pine Fire Department	$	60,000.00
Jupiter Fire Department	$	85,000.00
Leicester Fire Department	$	180,000.00
Spring Creek Fire Department	$	125,000.00
Laurel Fire Department	$	90,000.00

Total Appropriation	$	3,025,000.00

Section 4: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Fire District Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 01, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027:

Smokey Mountain Fire Department	$	310,000.00
Ebbs Chapel Fire Department	$	500,000.00
Mars Hill Fire Department	$	1,400,000.00
Country Fire Department	$	50,000.00
Walnut Fire Department	$	225,000.00
Big Pine Fire Department	$	60,000.00
Jupiter Fire Department	$	85,000.00
Leicester fire Department	$	180,000.00
Spring Creek Fire Department	$	125,000.00
Laurel Fire Department	$	90,000.00
Total Estimated Revenues	$	3,025,000.00

Section 5: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Vehicle Tax Fund for the three towns located in Madison County for the fiscal year beginning July 01, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, in accordance with thechart of accounts heretofore established for this County:

Town of Hot Springs	$	50,000.00
Town of Marshall	$	35,000.00
Town of Mars Hill	$	55,000.00
Total Appropriation	$	140,000.00

Section 6: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Vehicle Tax Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 01, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027:

Town of Hot Springs	$	50,000.00
Town of Marshall	$	35,000.00
Town of Mars Hill	$	55,000.00
Total Estimated Revenues	$	140,000.00

Section 7: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Occupancy Tax Fund for the development of tourism in Madison County during the fiscal year beginning July 01, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for this County:

Tourism and Development	$	702,000.00
Total Appropriation	$	702,000.00

Section 8: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Occupancy Tax Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 01, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027:

Occupancy Tax	$	722,990.00
Fund Interest	$	10.00
Total Estimated Revenues	$	723,000.00

Section 9: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the E-911 Fund for the operation of the Emergency 911 System for the fiscal year beginning July 01, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027 in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for this County:

911 Emergency Telephone System	$	191,858.00
Total Appropriation	$	191,858.00

Section 10: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the E-911 Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 01, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027:

911 Telephone Surcharges	$	91,422.00
Fund Balance	$	100,436.00
Total Estimated Revenues		191,858.00

Section 11: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Landfill Fund for the operation of the County Landfill for the fiscal year beginning July 01, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027 in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for this County:

Landfill	$	2,685,777.00
Recycling	$	332,058.00
Scrap Tire Disposal	$	26,500.00
White Goods Management	$	6,300.00
Total Appropriation	$	3,050,635.00

Section 12: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Landfill Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 01, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027:

Disposal Fees	$	2,711,735.00
Other Operating Income	$	338,900.00
Total Estimated Revenues	$	3,050,635.00

Section 13: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Soil and Water Conservation Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 01, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027 in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for this County:

General Fund	$	152,700.00
Total Appropriation	$	152,700.00

Section 14: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Soil and Water Conservation Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 01, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027:

Other Operating Income	$	152,700.00
Total Estimated Revenues	$	152,700.00

Section 15: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the DSS Custodial Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 01, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027 in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for this County:

General Fund	$	200,000.00
Total Appropriation	$	200,000.00

Section 16: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the DSS Custodial Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 01, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027:

Other Operating Income	$	200,000.00
Total Estimated Revenues	$	200,000.00

Section 17: The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Inmate Trust Fund for the fiscal year begiining July 01, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027 in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore establed for this County:

Inmate Funds	$	150,000.00
Total Appropriation	$	150,000.00

Section 18: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Inmate Trust Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 01, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027:

Inmate Deposits	$	150,000.00
Total Estimated Revenues	$	150,000.00

Section 19: The Helene Disaster Response and Recovery Project, the Public Safety Communication Upgrade Project, the Cyber Security Project, the Value Added Kitchen Project, the Water and Wastewater Project, and the Opioid Settlement Fund are hereby authorized. Appropriations made for the specifics projects and grants in these funds are hereby appropriated until the project is completed. Any grant or capital project budget previously adopted, the balance of any anticipated, but not received, revenues and any unexpended appropriations remaining on June 30th, 2027, shall be reauthorized in the 2027-2028 Fiscal Year budget.

Section 20: There is hereby levied a tax rate of thirty-six ($.36) cents per one hundred dollars ($100.00) valuation of property tax listed as of January 01, 2026, for the purpose of raising revenue included in "2026 Ad Valorem Taxes" in General Fund in Section 2 of this ordinance.
This rate is based on an estimated total valuation of property for the purpose of taxation of $4,516,721,319 at an estimated collection rate of 95.0% and on an estimated total valuation of vehicles of $279,166,600 at an estimated collection rate of 99.50%.

Section 21: For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027 the compensation for the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners is $7,702 per year and a monthly travel allowance of $685. The compensation of

all other members of the Board of Commissioners is $5,269 per year and a monthly travel allowance of $400.

Section 22: The County Manager shall serve as Budget Officer and is hereby authorized to transfer appropriations as contained herein under the following conditions:

A. The County Manager shall be authorized to transfer amounts between line item expenditures within a department without limitation and without report being required. These changes should not result in increases in recurring obligations such as salaries.

B. The County Manager shall be authorized to effect inter-department transfers, in the same fund, not to exceed 10% of the appropriated monies for the department whose allocation is reduced, notation of all such transfers shall be made to the Board during their next regular session.

C. Interfund transfers established in the budget may be accomplished without Board approval.

Section 23: The County Manager is hereby restricted from transferring appropriations as contained herein under the following conditions:

A. The utilization of any contingency appropriation shall be accomplished only with Board approval.

B. No salary increases may be made without Board approval, except when granted in accordance with an official pay plan adopted by the Board of Commissioners.

C. The interfund transfer of monies shall be accomplished by Board authorization only.

D. No travel advances may be made without written permission of the County Manager.

Section 24: This ordinance shall be the basis of the financial plan of Madison County during the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year. The County Manager shall administer the budget and shall insure that the operating officials are provided guidance and sufficient details to implement their appropriate portion of the budget. The accounting section shall establish records which are in consonance with the budget and this ordinance and the appropriate statutes of the State of North Carolina.

Adopted this the 23rd day of June, 2026.

Michael Garrison, Chairman
Madison County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Mandy Bradley, Clerk to the Board

SEAL

Item 5: Adjournment

Upon motion by Commissioner Briggs and second by Commissioner Wechtel, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:39 p.m.

This the 23rd day of June 2026.

MADISON COUNTY

Michael Garrison, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Mandy Bradley, Clerk

Madison County Board of Commissioners Meeting

Public Hearing-FY 2026-2027 Budget Ordinance

Public Comment

June 23, 2026
6:00pm

Madison County Courthouse Temporary Facility

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3 Minute Time Limit

----- Public Comment Sign-In Sheet -----

Name

1. Terry Hopkins
2. Danny Wyatt
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