

Minutes
Catawba County Board of Commissioners
Friday, May 22, 2026, 8:00 a.m.

Budget

Budget Hearings with Departments, Schools and Outside Agencies.

The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met on Friday, May 22, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. in the Board of Commissioners Meeting Room, Catawba County Justice Center, 100 Government Drive, Newton, NC. The purpose of the special meeting was for budget hearings for County departments, schools and outside agencies for Fiscal Year 2026/27.

Present were Chair Randy Isenhower, Vice-Chair Austin Allran, and Commissioners Robert C. Abernethy, Jr., Barbara G. Beatty and Cole Setzer.

Absent: None

A quorum was present.

Also present were County Manager Mary Furtado, Assistant County Manager Paul Murray, Assistant County Manager Adam Lindsay, Budget & Management Director Laura McBryde, and Senior Budget Analyst Ian Bumgarner.

1. Chair Isenhower called the special meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.
2. Budget Hearings:

The following departments presented their proposed budgets for Fiscal Year 2026/27:

- a. Catawba Valley Community College
- b. Catawba County Schools
- c. Hickory City Schools
- d. Catawba Valley Medical Center
- e. Social Services
- f. Public Health
- g. Sheriff
- h. Emergency Services/ Communications Center/ Fire Districts
- i. Utilities & Engineering / Water & Sewer / Solid Waste
- j. Planning & Development
- k. Parks
- l. Facilities
- m. Technology
- n. Elections
- o. Register of Deeds
- p. Lake Norman Marine Commission /Court Services (Repay) / Conflict Resolution Center
- q. Arts Culture Catawba / Salt Block / Historical Association / Hickory Public Libraries
- r. Cooperative Extension
- s. Soil & Water
- t. Finance
- u. Tax
- v. Partners HM
- w. Convention & Visitors Bureau/ Economic Development Corporation / Catawba County Chamber
- x. Library
- y. Newton-Conover City Schools
- z. Human Resources

3. Debrief and Question and Answers with staff. During the debrief with staff, Commissioners requested the following budget items be brought forward for additional discussion and deliberation during the Public Hearing scheduled for Tuesday, May 26th:
 - a. Newton Fire District tax rate
 - b. Salt Block funding
 - c. Arts Culture Catawba funding, and
 - d. 2.5 cent tax rate increase dedicated to school construction.
4. Adjournment. No further action was taken. Upon a motion by Commissioner Barbara G. Beatty which unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.



Randy Isenhower, Chair
Board of Commissioners



Dale R. Stiles, County Clerk