

APPROVED 2/17/26

**MINUTES
ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUSINESS MEETING
January 20, 2026
7:00 p.m.**

The Orange County Board of Commissioners met for a Business Meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Whitted Human Services Center in Hillsborough, NC.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chair Jean Hamilton, Vice-Chair Amy Fowler, and Commissioners Jamezetta Bedford, Marilyn Carter, Sally Greene, Earl McKee, and Phyllis Portie-Ascott

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None.

COUNTY ATTORNEYS PRESENT: John Roberts

COUNTY STAFF PRESENT: Deputy County Manager Caitlin Fenhagen and Clerk to the Board Laura Jensen. (All other staff members will be identified appropriately below)

Chair Hamilton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All commissioners were present.

1. Additions or Changes to the Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

Chair Hamilton read the public charge.

2. Public Comments (Limited to One Hour)

a. Matters not on the Printed Agenda

Carol Conway expressed concerns about oversight for the Department of Social Services. She said that if there is a case that is not about discrimination and is bungled, there is no recourse. She said that disability is mentioned in the strategic plan, but not in the outcomes. She had three recommendations: 1) fund an independent ombudsman, 2) agency-wide training on facts about intellectual and developmental disabilities, and 3) hire more disabled workers in the county system and consider how volunteers with more severe disabilities can contribute to the county with supervision.

Gary Linz expressed concerns about procedures at land records at the Register of Deeds and clerical errors that resulted in his property being transferred to another individual without his knowledge or consent. He said that he has not been given satisfactory answers from the County Manager and that the Sheriff does not appear to be interested in investigating any crimes related to these errors. He said he wants answers to his questions and will continue to speak at commissioners' meetings.

b. Matters on the Printed Agenda

(These matters will be considered when the Board addresses that item on the agenda below.)

3. Announcements, Petitions and Comments by Board Members

Commissioner McKee said that at the retreat the Board heard disturbing news about the possible budget shortfalls and encouraged the community to pay attention.

Commissioner Portie-Ascott said she attended multiple NAACP events in relation to the observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. She said she attended the NCACC General Government Steering Committee, where they focused on the lack of affordable housing in North Carolina. She said the NC Housing Coalition presented housing strategies that work across North Carolina. She said they are fighting to remove eviction filings on a tenant's record even

after outstanding balances have been paid and before the eviction has happened. She said if it is taken off their record, it is easier for them to move somewhere new in the future. She said the second strategy was evaluating local barriers to constructing affordable housing. She said that government regulations can account for, on average, 25% of the cost of a new home. She said Chatham County said they were only 10%. She would like to know what percentage of the cost of a home in Orange County is due to government regulations.

Vice-Chair Fowler congratulated Betty Curry for receiving the 2026 Martin Luther King, Jr. Award from the Chapel Hill/Carrboro NAACP. She highlighted the inclusion of the Holocaust proclamation on the agenda and said it is important to remember history and to not repeat it. She said she attended the county quarterly transportation meeting where they heard updates from municipalities and NCDOT local projects. She said she will attend the Triangle West TPO meeting and later in the week, the GoTriangle Special Tax Board meeting.

Commissioner Bedford said that Commissioner Portie-Ascott gave the keynote address at the Chapel Hill/Carrboro NAACP event and did a wonderful job. She said she enjoyed several events over the weekend including a banquet with retired Judge Fox. She said she attended the DSS Board meeting earlier in the day where they went over the budget and adopted the workplan for the coming year.

Commissioner Greene said she attended the Northern Orange NAACP Martin Luther King, Jr. event. She said there will be a panel presentation on January 26 at the Chapel Hill Library about Congressman George White and the politics of the early 20th century. She said the panelists include Tim Tyson, former Congressman GK Butterfield, Hillary Harris Klein of the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, and Commissioner Greene.

Commissioner Carter thanked all the employees who retired in 2025 and for all those who continue to serve. She said she attended the Chapel Hill/Carrboro NAACP event. She said she attended the NCACC General Government Steering Committee, and they stated that water and sewer capacity is critical to housing. She said in the North Carolina Select Committee on Property Taxation, they discussed various property tax exemptions. She said she'd reflected on the challenges of 2025 and that she was committed to working with fellow commissioners and staff to find solutions and new approaches to solving problems.

Chair Hamilton said the county is facing challenges and encouraged the community to pay attention as they go through the budget season. She expressed admiration for Commissioner Portie-Ascott's address at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration. She said she attended the quarterly Advisory Council on Aging, where they had a presentation on Medicare and the Senior Health Information Insurance Program (SHIIP), which is one of the best programs the state has for seniors to get unbiased information about Medicare. She said there is a program to help catch Medicare fraud and abuse by talking to beneficiaries and helping them understand what to look for. She hopes that the Department on Aging Director will consider ways to help people fight Medicare fraud and abuse. She said there's a NC Partnership to Address Adult Abuse with a website people can visit: NC3pa.org.

4. Proclamations/ Resolutions/ Special Presentations

a. International Holocaust Remembrance Day Proclamation

The Board approved a proclamation acknowledging January 27, 2026 as International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

BACKGROUND: The United Nations has declared January 27th as International Holocaust Remembrance Day, a solemn occasion to honor the memory of six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust, and millions of other innocent victims who perished for failing to conform to Nazi ideology.

Chair Hamilton introduced the following proclamation and the Board read it in turn:

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**Proclamation
International Holocaust Remembrance Day
January 27, 2026**

Commemorating the Past, Confronting Hate, and Committing to a Just Future

WHEREAS, the United Nations has declared January 27th as International Holocaust Remembrance Day, a solemn occasion to honor the memory of six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust, and millions of other innocent victims who perished for failing to conform to Nazi ideology; and

WHEREAS, we also honor the strength and resilience of the millions who survived Nazi persecution, enduring unimaginable trauma and loss – including many who have recorded their personal testimony in books, videos, and personal diaries; and

WHEREAS, we pay tribute to the courageous individuals, groups, and countries – both Jewish and non-Jewish – who resisted, physically and spiritually, to stand against injustice and protect those targeted for extermination; and

WHEREAS, we remember that the Holocaust did not start with gas chambers – it began with the erosion of rights and legal protections coupled with state-sponsored propaganda, bigotry, and dehumanization targeting Jews and others, and which escalated to mass murder and genocide; and

WHEREAS, we unequivocally denounce all forms of discrimination, violence, murder, and genocide against any people, and reaffirm our condemnation of antisemitism, racism, and any form of bigotry directed at culturally, politically, socially, or ethnically distinctive communities; and

WHEREAS, we value a community where diverse cultural and religious traditions are honored and woven into the rich fabric of community life; and

WHEREAS, in conjunction with the nationwide Light Up in Yellow Campaign. (<https://www.lightupamericayellow.com/>), the State of North Carolina will light up the State Capitol in yellow on January 27, 2026 in honor of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, and Orange County can join in recognition and remembrance by lighting up select County buildings;

NOW, THEREFORE, let us unite in remembrance and resolve – committing ourselves to the creation of a world that is safe, inclusive, and welcoming to all. Let the lessons of the Holocaust guide us as we foster empathy and justice, speak out against hate in every form, and uphold the dignity and human rights of every human being.

On this International Holocaust Remembrance Day, we pledge our shared responsibility to build communities built upon respect and mutual understanding so that “Never Again” is not a promise, but a lived reality for generations to come.

This the 20th Day of January, 2026.

Jean Hamilton, Chair
Orange County Board of Commissioners

A motion was made by Commissioner McKee, seconded by Vice-Chair Fowler, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the proclamation.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Sharon Halpern thanked the Board for the Holocaust Remembrance proclamation during the observance of Auschwitz-Birkenau's liberation anniversary. Sharon shared she keeps a photograph in her office that symbolizes indifference, reminding her of the world's inaction during the Holocaust. She travels to visit Holocaust-related sites worldwide and sees the proclamation not as a personal honor, but as a collective promise to the 6 million Jews and others persecuted. She emphasized the ongoing fight against antisemitism and hatred, urging education and moral clarity to protect the vulnerable and inspire actions preventing future atrocities.

Chair Hamilton thanked Sharon Halpern and Bonnie Hauser for bringing the proclamation to the Board's attention.

Commissioner McKee said it is important to realize that if we don't remember what happened we might repeat it.

b. Presentation of Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for FYE 6/30/2025 and Approval of Audit Services Contract Amendment

The Board:

- 1) Received a presentation on the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025; and
- 2) Approved an Audit Services Contract Amendment for Fiscal Year 2025.

BACKGROUND: The ACFR reports on all financial activity of the County for the fiscal year July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. Mauldin and Jenkins, LLC, a firm of Certified Public Accountants, audited the County's financial statements. The financial statements and audit are required by Chapter 159-34 of the North Carolina General Statutes. The financial report for the Orange County Sportsplex, as required under the management contract, is included in the County's ACFR.

The County received an unmodified (clean) audit opinion on the financial statements received from the audit. The financial audit results indicate compliance with County financial policies. The Chief Financial Officer and representatives of Mauldin and Jenkins, LLC, will cover highlights of the report and answer any questions. The County's Unassigned fund balance remained in compliance with the 16% County policy at 16.9% of General Fund expenditures.

Under North Carolina General Statute 143-129(e)(2), certain professional services including audit, legal and consulting are not subject to the same competitive bidding requirements as goods and construction contracts. Mauldin and Jenkins incurred \$15,000 in additional expenses due to the requirements of the Uniform Guidance and State Single Audit Implementation Act and major program selection for FY 2025. Below are the programs required for the Single Audit:

1. Medicaid
2. Child Support Enforcement
3. Housing Section 8

4. Opioid Settlement
5. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
6. Public School Capital Outlay
7. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

The number of major programs subject to audit varies each year based primarily on (1) the composition of the County's federal awards and (2) the composition of the County's state awards. Staff will review further with the auditors the estimated programs to be audited to meet audit thresholds and standards.

For the current audit year, these requirements resulted in a higher number of major programs than anticipated when the original \$135,000 contract amount was established, leading to the additional cost. This increase was not the result of missed requirements or a change in audit standards adopted after contract approval. The auditors expect the number of required major programs – and associated costs – to decline in future years due to the expiration of COVID-related funding and the planned increase in federal and state threshold levels to \$1,000,000.

The attached Audit Services Contract Amendment increases the FY 2025 cost from \$135,000 to \$150,000. The FY 2026 and 2027 audit budgets are expected to be \$140,000 and \$145,000 respectively. Staff will present the required annual Local Government Commission audit contracts for those years at a future Board Business meeting.

Gary Donaldson, Chief Financial Officer, introduced the item and Tim Lyons and Chad Jackson from auditor Mauldin and Jenkins.

Tim Lyons made the following presentation:

Slide #1



Presentation of Audit Results
June 30, 2025

Slide #2



Orange County, North Carolina

Agenda

- Engagement Team
- Overview of:
 - Audit Opinion
 - Financial Trends
 - Compliance Report
- Required Communications
- Accounting Recommendations and Related Matters
- Answer Questions

Auditor's Discussion & Analysis (AD&A)
June 30, 2025

Going Further.

Slide #3



Orange County, North Carolina



CONSISTENTLY RANKED AS A TOP ACCOUNTING FIRM IN THE U.S.

100+ year
HISTORY
OF QUALITY SERVICE

Serve 700+
GOVERNMENT CLIENTS

GOVERNMENTAL PARTNERS 18



140+ TEAM MEMBERS DEDICATED TO SERVING THE GOVERNMENTAL INDUSTRY



VISION
To be a trusted advisor, earning trust and building respect through our consistent commitment to sustainable excellence, leadership, and integrity.



300+ SINGLE AUDITS PERFORMED LAST YEAR COVERING OVER \$5.3 BILLION OF FEDERAL GRANTS



156,000+ HOURS ANNUALLY PROVIDED TO GOVERNMENTAL CLIENTS

175+

CURRENT CLIENTS AWARDED THE GFOA CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE

6 STATES | 14 OFFICES



Engagement Team Leaders

- Tim Lyons, Engagement Partner | Brian Nicholson, Quality Review Partner | Chad Jackson, Manager

Auditor's Discussion & Analysis (AD&A)
June 30, 2025

Going Further.

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Orange County, North Carolina

Audit Opinion

- **Our Responsibility Under Auditing Standards Generally Accepted in the United States of America (GAAS)**
 - We considered the internal control structure for the purpose of expressing our opinion on **Orange County, North Carolina's (the "County")** basic financial statements, not for the purpose of providing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal controls.
 - Our audit was performed in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*.
 - Our objective is to provide reasonable—not absolute—assurance that the basic financial statements are free of material misstatement.
 - The basic financial statements are the responsibility of the County's management.
 - We did not audit the financial statements of the Orange County ABC Board. The financial statements of the ABC Board were audited by other auditors whose report was furnished to us, along with certain other required communications. Our opinion on the County's financial statements is based solely on the report of the other auditors who performed the audit of the ABC Board. The financial statements of the ABC Board were not audited in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.
- **Report on Basic Financial Statements**
 - Unmodified ("clean") opinion on basic financial statements.
 - Presented fairly in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
 - Our responsibility does not extend beyond financial information contained in our report.

Auditor's Discussion & Analysis (AD&A)
June 30, 2025

Going Further.

Slide #5



Orange County, North Carolina

Compliance Reports

- **Government Auditing Standards ("Yellow Book") Report**
 - The financial report package contains a report on our tests of the County's internal controls and compliance with laws, regulations, etc. The report is not intended to provide an opinion on internal controls nor is it intended to provide a legal determination on the County's compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
 - This report and the procedures performed are required by *Government Auditing Standards*.
- **Compliance Reports**
 - We were required to perform Single Audit procedures on seven (7) major programs (4 Federal and 3 State of North Carolina programs).
 - We issued a report on the County's federal programs in accordance with the Uniform Guidance. That report contained an unmodified opinion on compliance.
 - We issued a report on the County's state programs in accordance with the State of North Carolina Single Audit Implementation Act. That report contained an unmodified opinion on compliance.

Auditor's Discussion & Analysis (AD&A)
June 30, 2025

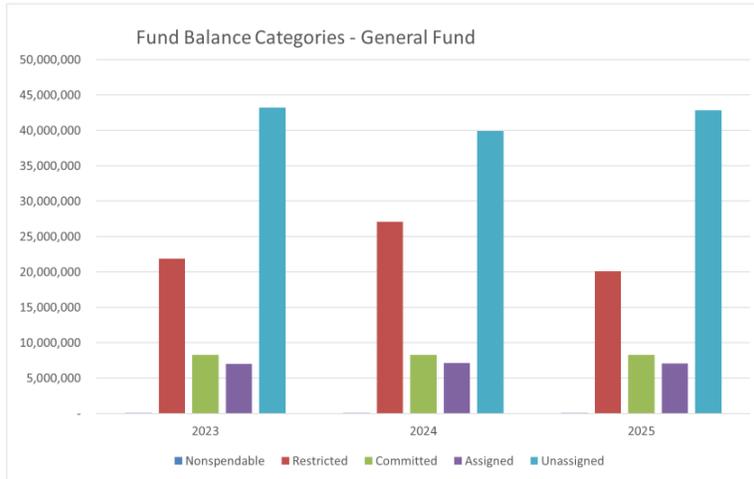
Going Further.

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Orange County, North Carolina

Financial Trends – Composition of Fund Balance



Trends from 2024 to 2025

2024 Fund Balance: \$77.72M

2025 Fund Balance: \$78.36M

Changes in unassigned fund balance:

2024: \$39.78M

2025: \$42.85M

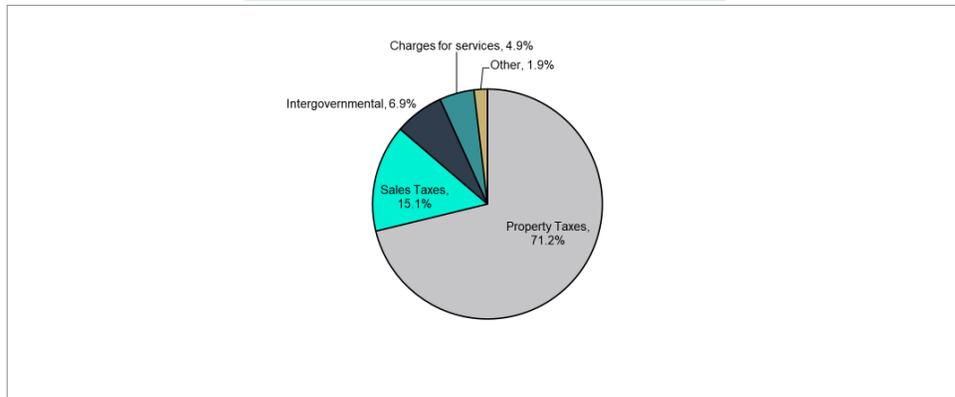
Unassigned fund balance as of June 30, 2025, is 16.9% of General Fund expenditures which is compliant with 16% County policy disclosed in Note 1 to the F/S.

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Orange County, North Carolina

Financial Trends – General Fund Revenue



	2025 - Actual	2025 - Budget	Diff
Property Taxes	206,488,649	203,205,934	3,282,715
Sales Taxes	43,717,384	44,139,012	(421,628)
Intergovernmental	20,140,939	21,892,072	(1,751,133)
Charges for services	14,173,742	13,816,624	357,118
Other	5,455,049	13,306,457	(7,851,408)
	289,975,763	296,360,099	(6,384,336)

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Orange County, North Carolina

Financial Trends – General Fund Expenditures

	2025 - Actual	2025 - Budget	Diff	% age
Community services	\$ 15,845,035	\$ 16,822,295	\$ 977,260	6%
General government	13,152,231	13,923,838	771,607	5%
Public safety	40,129,493	41,217,286	1,087,793	14%
Human Services	47,987,431	52,835,889	4,848,458	17%
Education	113,122,510	113,159,588	37,078	39%
Support services	20,031,716	29,136,667	9,104,951	7%
Debt service (*)	36,868,612	35,636,656	(1,231,956)	13%
	\$ 287,137,028	\$ 302,732,219	\$ 15,595,191	100%

* Debt service expenditures includes approximately \$19.1 million of principal and interest payments on school-related debt for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. When the balance of those payments is added to non-debt service, total expenditures for education total approximately \$132.2 million or 46% of total General Fund + Debt Service Fund expenditures.

Auditor's Discussion & Analysis (AD&A)
June 30, 2025

Going Further.

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Orange County, North Carolina

Financial Trends – Proprietary Funds

Solid Waste Enterprise Fund			
	2025	2024	Change
Operating revenues	\$ 10,847,396	\$ 11,093,956	\$ (246,560)
Operating expenses	13,754,493	11,903,792	1,850,701
Operating income	(2,907,097)	(809,836)	(2,097,261)
Unrestricted net position	6,128,359	8,857,525	(2,729,166)
Operating cash flow	392,924	1,264,554	(871,630)
Overall cash flow	(3,017,611)	467,457	(3,485,068)
SportsPlex Enterprise Fund			
	2025	2024	Change
Operating revenues	\$ 5,956,282	\$ 5,497,730	\$ 458,552
Operating expenses	5,534,000	5,889,969	(355,969)
Operating income	422,282	(392,239)	814,521
Unrestricted net position	1,251,011	318,997	932,014
Operating cash flow	1,174,813	257,861	916,952
Interfund transfers	799,669	746,694	52,975
Overall cash flow	2,842,604	(381,919)	3,224,523

Auditor's Discussion & Analysis (AD&A)
June 30, 2025

Going Further.

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Orange County, North Carolina

Required Communications

- **Significant Accounting Policies**

- Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies.
- The significant accounting policies used by the County are described in Note 1 to the basic financial statements.
- During the current year, the County was required to implement the provisions of GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences* and GASB Statement No. 102, *Certain Risk Disclosures*.
- The policies used by the County are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.
- In considering the qualitative aspects of its policies, the County is not involved in any controversial or emerging issues for which guidance is not available.

- **Management Judgment/Accounting Estimates**

- Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events.
- The County uses various estimates as part of its financial reporting process - including actuarial assumptions.

Auditor's Discussion & Analysis (AD&A)
June 30, 2025

Going Further.

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Orange County, North Carolina

Required Communications (Continued)

- **Relationship with Management**

- We received full cooperation from the County's management and staff.
- There were no disagreements with management on accounting issues or financial reporting matters.

- **Management Representation**

- We requested, and received, written representations from management relating to the accuracy of information included in the financial statements and the completeness and accuracy of various information requested by us.

- **Consultation with Other Accountants**

- To the best of our knowledge, management has not consulted with, or obtained opinions from, other independent accountants during the year, nor did we face any issues requiring outside consultation.

- **Significant Issues Discussed with Management**

- There were no significant issues discussed with management related to business conditions, plans, or strategies that may have affected the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements.

Auditor's Discussion & Analysis (AD&A)
June 30, 2025

Going Further.

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Orange County, North Carolina

Required Communications (Continued)

- **Audit Adjustments**

- Several adjustments were required during the conduct of the audit; these adjustments have been provided to management and they have provided us with representations that the adjustments have been posted to the County's general ledger.
- We did not have any passed audit adjustments.

- **Financial Statement Disclosures**

- The footnote disclosures to the financial statements are also an integral part of the financial statements and the process used by management to accumulate the information included in the disclosures was the same process used in accumulating the statements. The overall neutrality, consistency, and clarity of the disclosures was considered as part of our audit.

- **Information in Documents Containing Audited Financial Statements**

- Our responsibility for other information in documents containing the County's basic financial statements and our report thereon does not extend beyond the information identified in our report. If you intend to publish or otherwise reproduce the financial statements and make reference to our firm, we must be provided with printers' proof for our review and approval before printing. You must also provide us with a copy of the final reproduced material for our approval before it is distributed.

- **Auditor Independence**

- In accordance with AICPA professional standards, M&J is independent with regard to the County, its component unit, and its respective financial reporting processes.

Auditor's Discussion & Analysis (AD&A)
June 30, 2025

Going Further.

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Orange County, North Carolina

Audit Findings

- **2025-001 Accounting for Lease Activity**

- Issue: We noted that the County did not record the current year lease activity required under GASB 87. A new material lessor lease executed during the fiscal year was not recorded in the County's financial statements, as well as the current year additions for lessee leases were not recorded. As a result, both lessee and lessor lease activity for the fiscal year was incomplete in the accounting records and thus audit adjustments of approximately \$7.3 million were required to properly report the County's leasing activity in accordance with GAAP.

- **2025-002 Reporting of Accounts Payable and Related Balances**

- Issue: During our search for unrecorded liabilities, we identified multiple vendor invoices relating to goods and services received prior to year-end that were not accrued to the appropriate fiscal year. These invoices were instead recognized in the subsequent fiscal year when processed, resulting in a misstatement of accounts payable and expenditures. As a result, audit adjustments totaling approximately \$700,000 were required to properly report the County's liability for accounts payable and the related expenditures / expenses for fiscal year 2025.

- **2025-003 Prior Period Adjustment**

- Issue: We noted that the County recorded sales and use tax refund receipts after year-end as revenue, despite the related receivable and revenue having already been recognized in prior fiscal years. This resulted in duplicate recognition of revenue and thus audit adjustments were required to properly reduce outstanding receivable balances and to restate beginning fund balance of the County's General Fund to address the errors in revenue recognition that occurred in previous years.

Auditor's Discussion & Analysis (AD&A)
June 30, 2025

Going Further.

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Orange County, North Carolina

Management Letter Comments (Recommendations)

- **Accounting for Special Revenue Funds**

- During our review of the County's financial statements, we noted the DSS Payee Fund did not have any revenue or expenditure activity (outside of a journal entry writing off liabilities) for the fiscal year under audit. Based on our review of the general ledger activity, it appears the County is still accounting for this fund as if it was still a custodial fund of the County where all amounts are received as cash and offset with a corresponding liability. With the change in accounting standard that was brought about by GASB Statement No. 84, *Fiduciary Activities*, this fund was reclassified to a special revenue fund in previous years and should be reflecting the inflows it receives during the fiscal year as revenues and conversely, the outflows as expenditures. Due to the fact that the activity for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, was not material, an audit adjustment to reclassify the activity was not required. However, we recommend County staff implement additional internal controls or additional annual closeout procedures to ensure the amounts are properly recorded in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

- **Lack of Annual Budget Adoption – Special Revenue Fund**

- During our audit, we noted that the County did not adopt an annual budget for one of its Special Revenue Funds for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. North Carolina General Statutes and the County's budgetary policies require that all funds subject to budgetary control have a formally adopted annual budget. Without an adopted budget, expenditures and revenues in the Special Revenue Fund were not subject to formal budgetary control, increasing the risk of unauthorized spending and noncompliance with state law and County policies. We recommend that management ensure all Special Revenue Funds are reviewed annually during the budget process and that an adopted budget ordinance is approved for each fund, regardless of the activity level.

Auditor's Discussion & Analysis (AD&A)
June 30, 2025

Going Further.

Vice-Chair Fowler asked about concerns of the failure to adopt a DSS budget and insufficient internal controls, and absence of formal budgetary oversight. She asked for more detail on how the DSS Payee Fund should be managed.

Tim Lyons said that these types of funds used to be called agency funds, and that's how every county government in North Carolina accounted for DSS payee funds. He said GASB 84 changed the definition of what are now known as custodial funds and the payee funds does not meet the definition of a custodial fund. He said now the DSS Payee Fund is considered a Special Revenue Fund, and it reports an income statement. He said the difference is how it's set up in the general ledger system with cash flowing in and going to a liability account, then the cash gets paid out of the account. He said that activity must be reclassified to an income statement. He said the accounting system is doing one thing and then manual adjustments must be made. He said it would be better to have it accounted for in the accounting system rather than relying on manual processes.

Vice-Chair Fowler asked if DSS has fixed the issue.

Tim Lyons said no, not to his knowledge.

Chair Hamilton asked what the definition is of a custodial fund vs. a special revenue fund.

Tim Lyons said there are a couple of accounting standards within the GASB literature that defines what a special revenue fund is. He said special revenue funds at a minimum must have a revenue stream that is restricted for a purpose. He said there are a lot of things that go into what can and cannot be a custodial fund. He said there are several significant elements that GASB lays out about control and who the beneficiary of the fund is and if it is outside of the government. He said they question if the activity of the fund is being derived from the government's sole source revenues. He said there are a lot of criteria of what can and cannot be a custodial fund. He said when GASB 84 came out, the LGC said DSS Payee Funds do not meet the definition of a custodial fund. He thought this changed in 2021. He said that it needs

to be accounted for in the accounting system from the beginning rather than making it a manual adjustment process.

Vice-Chair Fowler clarified that nothing nefarious happened, the accounting method just needs to be fixed.

Gary Donaldson said staff was in the phase of implementing the fix and it will be corrected by the end of the fiscal year.

Commissioner Portie-Ascott asked if the invoice that wasn't accrued in the correct fiscal year was due to staff turnover or a need for training. She asked how that will be prevented in the future.

Gary Donaldson explained the fiscal year-end financial procedures with departments.

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Orange County, North Carolina

New Accounting Pronouncements

- **New GASB Pronouncements for Future Years**

- **Statement No. 103, *Financial Reporting Model Improvements*** was issued in 2024 and is effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2025, which means the County's fiscal year ended June 30, 2026. This new standard will change a few things in the County's ACFR (Management's Discussion and Analysis; presentation of budgetary comparison schedules; and the statement of revenues, expenses and changes in net position for the County's enterprise funds).
- **Statement No. 104, *Disclosure of Certain Capital Assets***, clarifies information that is required to be disclosed in the capital asset footnote and roll-forward. With the introduction of a new class of assets in recent years (right-to-use assets), the GASB has clarified how those items need to be presented in the County's footnotes. In addition, this new Standard will require the County to separately disclose the historical cost and accumulated depreciation (as of the financial statement date) for any capital assets that are held for sale. The requirements of this Standard are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2025, which means the County's fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

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Orange County, North Carolina

Govt. Clients – Free Quarterly Continuing Education

• Since March of 2009 – For Over 12 Years !!

- Mauldin & Jenkins provides free quarterly continuing education for all of our governmental clients. Topics are tailored to be of interest to governmental entities. In an effort to accommodate our entire governmental client base, we offer the sessions several times per quarter at a variety of client provided locations resulting in greater networking and knowledge sharing among our governmental clients. We normally see approximately 180 people per quarter. Examples of subjects addressed in the past few quarters include:

- Accounting for Debt Issuances
- Achieving Excellence in Financial Reporting
- Best Budgeting Practices, Policies and Processes
- Budget Preparation
- ACFR Preparation (two (2) day hands-on course)
- Capital Asset Accounting Processes and Controls
- Collateralization of Deposits and Investments
- Component Units
- Cybersecurity Risk Management
- Evaluating Financial and Non-Financial Health of a Govt.
- Financial Report Card – Where Does Your Govt. Stand?
- Financial Reporting Model Improvements
- GASB Nos. 74 & 75, OPEB Standards
- GASB No. 77, Tax Abatement Disclosures
- GASB No. 84, Fiduciary Activities
- GASB Projects & Updates (ongoing & several sessions)
- Human Capital Management
- Grant Accounting Processes and Controls
- Internal Controls Over Accounts Payable, Payroll and Cash Disbursements
- Internal Controls Over Receivables & the Revenue Cycle
- IRS Issues, Primarily Payroll Matters
- Legal Considerations for Debt Issuances & Disclosures
- Policies and Procedures Manuals
- Segregation of Duties
- Single Audits for Auditees
- Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST)
- Accounting, Reporting & Compliance
- Uniform Grant Reporting Requirements and the New Single Audit

Auditor's Discussion & Analysis (AD&A)
June 30, 2025

Going Further.

Slide #17

Questions & Comments



ORANGE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA



Thank You for the Opportunity to Serve

Commissioner Carter said she would like to receive information on future classes offered by Mauldin and Jenkins. She thanked the Finance staff for their work in delivering a clean audit.

Commissioner Bedford asked if opioid funds are special revenue funds.

Tim Lyons said that was correct.

Chair Hamilton asked what the interfund transfers were for the Sportsplex.

Tim Lyons described how interfund transfers work between the Sportsplex and other county funds.

Chair Hamilton said it's activity between the general fund and the Sportsplex.

Tim Lyons said there was more information on transfers in footnote #7 in the ACFR.

Chair Hamilton thanked the presenter. She said minimizing errors that become material gives the Board confidence that they are being good stewards of the public's dollars.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bedford, seconded by Commissioner Carter, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Audit Services Contract Amendment for the Fiscal Year 2025 audit services.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

5. Public Hearings

None.

6. Regular Agenda

a. Community Climate Action Grant (CCAG) – FY 2025-26 Project Selection

The Board:

- 1) Received the grant project funding recommendations from the Commission for the Environment (CFE) and the overall scores and comments from the CFE and Human Relations Commission (HRC) for the FY 2025-26 Orange County Community Climate Action Grant Program; and
- 2) Approved funding for the recommended Community Climate Action Grant projects for FY 2025-26.

BACKGROUND: As part of the FY 2019-20 budget, the Orange County Board of Commissioners (BOCC) established the Orange County Community Climate Action Fund to accelerate climate mitigation efforts. The Fund supports the Board's commitment to ambitious targets, including a transition to 100% renewable energy by 2050. The Climate Action Plan further builds on this commitment by defining additional targets and identifying the actions and strategies needed to achieve them.

For the FY 2025-26 funding cycle, \$267,750 was allocated to general applicants to support climate action projects designed to benefit Orange County residents both socially and financially. The Board did not approve any climate funding for schools this year. In alignment with BOCC direction, the selection process for awarding funds was conducted through the Community Climate Action Grant program.

Sixteen (16) applications were received this year from applicants representing nonprofits, small businesses and public organizations whose total requests add up to \$619,095. Grant applications were completed over the summer and reviewed by both the Commission for the Environment (CFE) and the Human Relations Commission (HRC) in fall 2025.

The following is a rank-order summary table of the combined project scoring and recommendations for funding. More details on each project are available in Attachment 1.

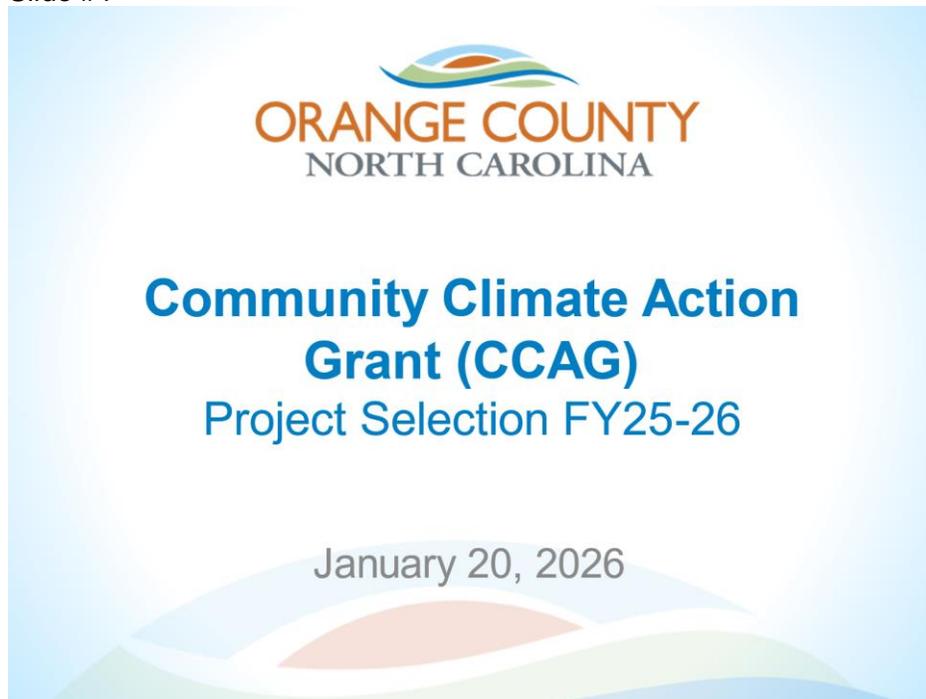
Rank	Applicant Name	Project Name	Project Summary	Amount Requested	Recommended Funding	Total Score (out of 26)
1	Table Ministries, Inc.	Twin Creeks Farm Expansion	A partnership between Wildflower Lane Farm and Table to use unused land at an undeveloped Orange County Park (Twin Creeks) to increase locally sourced, nutritious food to feed children served by Table.	\$50,000	\$30,000	21.57
2	Urban Sustainability Solutions, Inc.	High-School Students Installing Riparian Buffers	Installation of sustainable stormwater management measures in historically underserved communities utilizing public HS teachers and students in a certified green infrastructure training program to implement these measures, especially in areas affected by tropical storm Chantal.	\$52,000	\$38,000	21.35
3	Habitat for Humanity of Orange County, NC	Weatherization & Disaster Resilient Housing	Weatherization repairs for 11 homes	\$150,000	\$0	20.56
4	Town of Carrboro	Carrboro Energy Efficiency Program	This initiative reduces energy burdens in Carrboro by providing residents with education, home energy audits, energy-saving kits, and guided access to rebates and electrification upgrades through trained community leaders, resulting in lower bills for over 230 households.	\$29,145	\$29,145	20.31
5	Trees for the Triangle	Tree Planting and Education	The project will plant 200 trees, distribute 2,000 seedlings, and offer workshops on climate-resilient tree care to expand the native tree canopy in low-equity, climate-vulnerable neighborhoods through a Pay-What-You-Can planting program.	\$50,000	\$30,000	20.10
6	Red Hawk Farm, LLC	Renewable Energy Infrastructure for the Future of Farms	52-acre organic farm supplying high-quality produce year-round using soil-based greenhouse production and technical growing strategies seeks funds to transition from	\$30,000	\$30,000	19.74

Rank	Applicant Name	Project Name	Project Summary	Amount Requested	Recommended Funding	Total Score (out of 26)
			fossil-fuel dependence to renewable energy systems by replacing single phase with 3-phase power to enable solar installation.			
7	Upstream Works — on behalf of Carolina Community Compost	Carolina Community Compost	Supplies, services, outreach materials and labor to expand a compost program into 7 new neighborhoods and 1 church	\$30,478	\$21,300	19.70
8	Weaver Community Housing Association	Energy Efficient Windows Installation	Replacement of windows in 7 residential units with energy efficient models	\$61,352	\$61,305	18.64
9	Hillsborough Community Garden	Solar powered community garden irrigation	Solar-powered well on nearby church property to provide sustainable, cost-effective irrigation that remains functional during drought or emergencies	\$18,000	\$0	18.27
10	Solar Equity Inc.	St. Joseph's CME Church Solar Project	Installation of a 23.4kW solar array on the roof of St. Joseph's CME Church, located in Chapel Hill's Northside Neighborhood	\$28,000	\$28,000	17.83
11	Pee Wee Homes	Native focused landscaping for 10 dignified and affordable tiny homes	Native, climate-resilient landscaping for 10 affordable tiny homes of formerly homeless residents	\$4,000	\$0	17.68
12	Town of Chapel Hill	Extension of E-Bike Lending Library Program	Extension of a previously successful E-bike program for an additional 8-12 months to offer E-bike experiences to more residents and staff.	\$25,920	\$0	16.58
13	Town of Carrboro	E-Bike Voucher and Education Program	Pilot program to provide 20 income-eligible residents with vouchers for free e-bikes, reducing transportation insecurity and emissions.	\$33,400	\$0	16.09
14	The Arts Center	Cellular Blinds for The Arts Center	Installation of highly efficient interior cellular shades on windows to boost the energy performance of the building	\$21,800	\$0	15.73

Rank	Applicant Name	Project Name	Project Summary	Amount Requested	Recommended Funding	Total Score (out of 26)
15	Carolina Advocates for Climate, Health, and Equity	Climate-informed Prenatal Care	Introductory climate health education sessions for health professionals to reduce climate-related pregnancy risks, with a focus on extreme heat.	\$10,000	\$0	15.29
16	Bluestem Community NC	Rooftop Solar Installation for Bluestem Community NC	Installation of a 9.628 kW solar array with battery backup on a new barn extension to move toward net-zero energy use	\$25,000	\$0	14.67
Total				\$619,095	\$267,750	

Amy Eckberg, Sustainability Manager, made the following presentation:

Slide #1



Slide #2

CCAG Background

Community Climate Action Grant:

- Established in **FY 2019–20** to support community led climate action
- In its **sixth year**, with increasing impact, demand, and community engagement
- Complements and advances Orange County's **Climate Action Plan** by funding projects that reduce emissions, build resilience, and deliver community co-benefits
- Board-approved scoring and eligibility guidelines
- Projects prioritized for **social justice and racial equity benefits**

Slide #3

CCAG Eligibility Guidelines

- Non-profits, public entities, and small businesses
- All funds spent in Orange County
- Must have legal standing to receive funds
- Ongoing projects eligible if expanding or accelerating
- Replacement and repair projects are eligible if not likely to be funded within 5 years

Slide #4

CCAG Scoring Criteria

- 26-point scale
 - **Social Justice and Racial Equity (6pts)**
 - **GHG emissions reduced (4 pts)**
 - **Efficient use of Funds (4 pts)**
 - **Capacity of Applicant (3 pts)**
 - **Local Economic Development (3 pts)**
 - **Amount and Duration of Engagement (3 pts)**
 - **Time to complete (3 pts)**

**All applications are reviewed and scored by the Commission for the Environment and the Human Relations Commission*

Slide #5

New This Year

- **Community Outreach**
 - Signage
 - Promoted at Ag Summit
 - Targeted email list
 - Various media
- **New Grant Portal Launched**
 - 16 applications!
- **Diverse and Innovative Projects**
 - solar, nature-based, energy efficiency, micro-mobility
- \$619,095 in grant funding requested (\$267,750 available)



Slide #6

Advisory Board Recommendations:

- 8 projects recommended for full/partial funding
- Partial funding was applied when projects:
 - Were designed to be scalable
 - Could leverage other funding sources
 - Applicants indicated they could successfully proceed with partial funding

Slide #7

Rank	Applicant Name	Project Name	Amount Requested	Recommended Funding	Total Score (out of 26)
1	Table Ministries, Inc.	Twin Creeks Farm Expansion	\$50,000	\$30,000	21.57
2	Urban Sustainability Solutions, Inc.	High-School Students Installing Riparian Buffers	\$52,000	\$38,000	21.35
3	Habitat for Humanity of Orange County, NC	Weatherization & Disaster Resilient Housing	\$150,000	\$0	20.56
4	Town of Carrboro	Carrboro Energy Efficiency Program	\$29,145	\$29,145	20.31
5	Trees for the Triangle	Tree Planting and Education	\$50,000	\$30,000	20.10
6	Red Hawk Farm, LLC	Renewable Energy Infrastructure for the Future of Farms	\$30,000	\$30,000	19.74
7	Upstream Works — on behalf of Carolina Community Compost	Carolina Community Compost	\$30,478	\$21,300	19.70
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15	Carolina Advocates for Climate, Health, and Equity	Climate-informed Prenatal Care	\$10,000	\$0	15.29
16	Bluestem Community NC	Rooftop Solar Installation for Bluestem Community NC	\$25,000	\$0	14.67
Total			Total Amount Requested \$619,095	Total Amount Recommended \$267,750	

Slide #8

2025 Project Highlights

Drakeford Library

Rooftop solar & educational signage
Expanding renewable energy while creating learning opportunities



Urban Sustainability Solutions

Green infrastructure & workforce development
Partnering with schools to manage stormwater and build career pathways



Trees for the Triangle

Tree planting in schools
Increasing tree canopy and engaging students



Binkley Baptist Church

Rooftop solar
Advancing clean energy through on-site renewable generation



Commissioner Bedford asked how projects are going at the schools. She said Orange County Schools are doing solar panels for powering electric school buses. She said Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools completed Northside Elementary and were working leverage. She asked what direct-pay is. She asked if that was the tax program and if it had been cut.

Amy Eckberg said direct-pay is the tax program where you can get back 30% on a clean energy project. She said they are trying to see if they can leverage those funds to do another solar installation at Morris Grove Elementary. She said the one at Northside Elementary is up and running.

Commissioner Bedford asked if they are student demonstration installations or if they can power a wing.

Amy Eckberg said they are mainly going to power the charging stations.

Commissioner Bedford said she would like to take a tour of the school.

Commissioner Carter commended the applicants for their ideas. She highlighted the idea of Urban Sustainability Solutions and students getting experience in riparian buffer management.

Vice-Chair Fowler said she was happy to see the ongoing interest and the diversity of the projects.

Commissioner Greene said Amy Eckberg signaled how hard it was to make decisions with the projects. She said it's not a bad thing to have twice as much interest in terms of dollar amount. She appreciated how staff prioritized different projects in different ways. She said Amy Eckberg went through the process in a thoughtful way.

Chair Hamilton said she appreciated the projects. She said there may be a desire to give funding to new applicants, but that she would prefer that the county use the scoring rubric, even if it means certain projects get funding for multiple years.

Amy Eckberg said she would take that feedback to the Commission on the Environment.

Commissioner Bedford suggested that staff introduce Urban Sustainability Solutions to Pee Wee Homes staff and Master Gardeners because they might be able to do some of the Pee Wee Homes work.

Amy Eckberg agreed.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Fowler, seconded by Commissioner McKee, to approve funding for the recommended Community Climate Action Grant projects for FY 2025-26.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

b. Condominium Agreement with the Town of Carrboro for the Operation of the Drakeford Library Complex

The Board reviewed the Condominium Agreement, Deeds, Plat, and Survey for the Drakeford Library Complex and authorized the County Manager to sign the documents upon final approval of the County Attorney.

BACKGROUND: At its Business meeting on January 21, 2025, the Board of County Commissioners approved a temporary Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) between Orange County and the Town of Carrboro to operate the Drakeford Library Complex until a condominium agreement could be finalized. The Condominium Agreement, Deeds, Survey, and Plat have been finalized by staff for approval by the Orange County Board of Commissioners and the Carrboro Town Council.

At its Business meeting on July 8, 2025, the Board reviewed the condominium documents and asked for several changes to those documents. The County and Carrboro have worked through those requested changes, and the final copy is provided as Attachment 2. The changes between the July 8th version and the current final version (Attachment 2) are detailed in the red-lined version of the agreement provided in Attachment 1.

The following outlines the major changes between the original version presented to the Board on July 8, 2025 and the current final version the Board is being asked to approve tonight:

- WITNESSETH – The new version explicitly recognizes the MOU and outlines the purpose of the MOU, including further defining and delineating the roles and responsibilities of the parties operating the Condominium.
- Article I – Section 11 – Allows for disputes not resolved by the association to go through a mediation process.
- Article II – Section 3 – Establishes that if either party charges for parking, the parties shall establish rules and regulations which must be approved by the Executive Board, and any rules and regulations shall be documented in the MOU. It also specifies that at no time will there be a charge for parking for spaces designated for Library patrons.
- Article VI – Section 4 – Outlines the provision of custodial and security services and that further details will be provided in the MOU.
- Article VIII – Section 8 – Details that the Drakeford will be available as an election site, as detailed in the MOU.

- Bylaws – Article II – Sections 1, 2 – The Executive Board will be made up of four (4) members, up from two (2). The 4 members would be the Town Manager and County Manager, and a designee appointed by each manager.
- Bylaws – Article II – Section 2 – Outlines the appointment of an interim member to the Executive Board given the death, resignation, or removal of a Town or County Manager.
- Bylaws - Article IV – Section 2, Subsection I – Establishment of the Drakeford Facility Operations Committee to be detailed in the MOU.
- Bylaws - Article IV – Section 2, Subsection j – Establishes the use of dispute resolution.

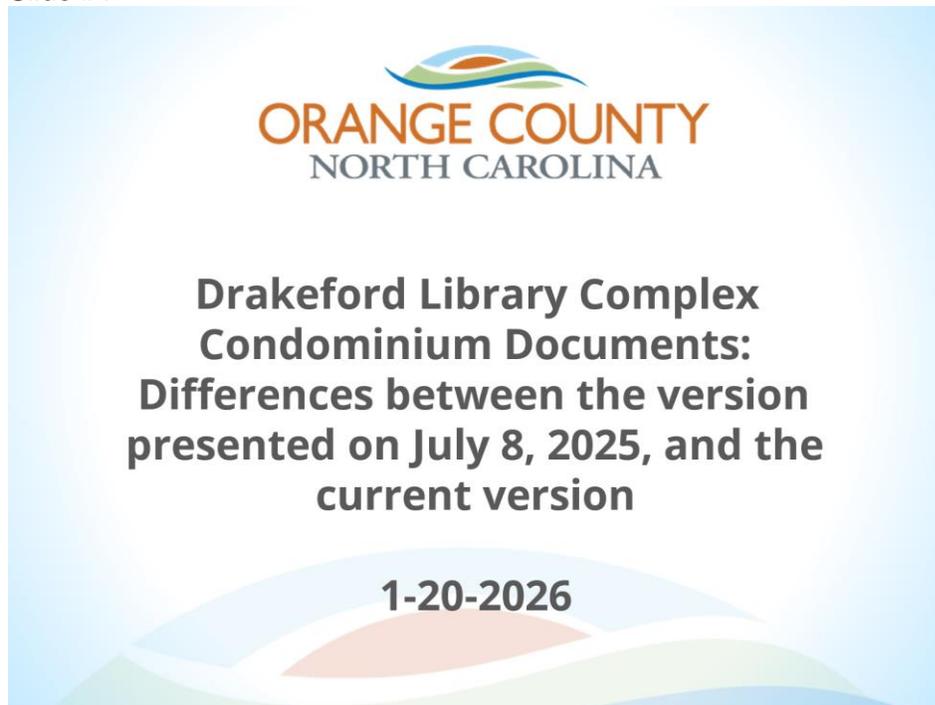
The Carrboro Town Council approved the prior Condominium agreement and related materials at its meeting on June 17, 2025. If the Board of Commissioners approves the condominium agreement as currently drafted, the Carrboro Town Council will consider re-approval in February.

Memorandum of Understanding

As described in the Condominium Documents, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Orange County and the Town of Carrboro will provide additional details about the operation of the Drakeford Library Complex. A version of the MOU was provided to the Board of Commissioners at the July 8, 2025 Business meeting. However, based on the changes in the Condominium Agreement, the MOU is currently being reviewed by Town and County staff and will be presented at a later date to both governing boards for final approval.

Alan Dorman, Asset Management Services Director, made the following presentation:

Slide #1



Slide #2

TIMELINE FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE CONDOMINIUM DOCUMENTS

- July 8th - Condominium documents and MOU were presented to the Board for comment
- Fall 2025 – The Town of Carrboro and Orange County worked to update the documents based on comments by the Orange County Board
- January 20th, 2026 – Orange County Board to review and approve the Condominium Documents
- Feb 2026 – Carrboro Board will approve condominium documents
- Spring 2026 – Town and County staff will update and present to the County Board and Town Council the updated Memorandum of Understanding



Slide #3

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CONDOMINIUM AGREEMENT AND MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

- The condominium agreement establishes the legal basis for the joint ownership of the property. Once approved by both jurisdictions, it will be recorded as part of the official record. There will be little need to change this document going forward.
- The Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) establishes the principles for the joint operation of the facility outside of those stipulated in the condominium agreement. Both jurisdictions approve the MOU, which may be amended as needed and re-approved by both jurisdictions.



Slide #4

UPDATES TO THE CONDOMINIUM DOCUMENTS

- Explicitly recognized the MOU and outlines the purpose of the MOU, including further defining and delineating the roles and responsibilities of the parties operating the Condominium.
- Allows for disputes not resolved by the association to go through a mediation process
- Establishes that if either party charges for parking, the parties shall establish rules and regulations, which must be approved by the Executive Board, and any rules and regulations shall be documented in the MOU. It also specified that at no time will there be a charge for parking for designated Library patrons.



Slide #5

UPDATES TO THE CONDOMINIUM DOCUMENTS

- Details the provision of custodial and security services and outlines that further details for their operation will be provided in the MOU
- Details that the condominium will be available as an election
- The Executive Board will be made up of 4 members, up from 2. The 4 members should be the Town Manager and County Manager, and a designee appointed by each manager.



Slide #6

UPDATES TO THE CONDOMINIUM DOCUMENTS

- Outlines the appointment of an interim member to the Executive Board given the death, resignation, or removal of a Town or County Manager
- Establishment of the Drakeford Facility Operations Committee to be detailed in the MOU.



Commissioner Carter asked if the condominium document includes a reference to the executive board and if it is articulated further in the MOU.

Alan Dorman said yes to both questions.

Commissioner Carter asked if there's an articulated mediation process in the condominium agreement and the MOU if there is a tie between the executive board members.

Alan Dorman said it is in the condominium document and will be included in the MOU.

Commissioner Carter asked if he could describe the process to the Board.

Alan Dorman said he would send that to the Board.

Chair Hamilton said page 60 of the agenda discusses dispute resolution. She read a portion of the agreement and said that seems to address the issue.

Alan Dorman said yes.

Commissioner Portie-Ascott asked if the site will be used for parking during elections and will parking be free.

Alan Dorman said right now anyone can park for free and a change would have to be approved by the executive board.

Commissioner McKee asked how parking is enforced for library use only.

Alan Dorman said right now parking is not an issue and there has been plenty of space.

Commissioner McKee said that parking availability may become an issue and should be addressed. He referred to parking issues at the Hillsborough parking deck.

Alan Dorman said if it does become an issue, they will need to come up with a way to protect library parking, but they haven't had any resident complaints.

John Roberts said this agreement is substantially different than the Hillsborough parking deck, which was between the county and a private individual.

Commissioner McKee said he has concerns about future parking space needs. He asked how it could be determined that people were in the deck for library use.

Alan Dorman said that would be complicated to do so, because there are several departments operating in the building from two jurisdictions. He said as of now, there haven't been any issues with parking.

Vice-Chair Fowler said there was one instance where there was not enough parking that she experienced, but there was availability in three other local lots.

Commissioner Greene said she uses the deck frequently. She said it is a great benefit for the community that the spaces aren't marked.

Chair Hamilton asked about the "meetings for members." She asked if the members are the county and the Town of Carrboro.

Alan Dorman said yes.

Chair Hamilton asked what a meeting of members would be.

Alan Dorman said that would be the executive board, which would be the town manager, county manager, and each of their designees.

Chair Hamilton said it is not clear. She said the association is made up of members, which is the town and the county. She said the members then have an executive board, which is the town manager, county manager, and designees. She said they aren't one in the same. She said it's important that the executive board is not the members.

John Roberts said that can be made clearer.

Commissioner Bedford said it could happen in the future that there are additional members. She said there could be a third member that is not on executive board. She said a meeting of the members could be separate from the executive board. She suggested that be noted in the definitions.

Chair Hamilton said it's important to make the distinction between the executive board and the members.

John Roberts said that can be clarified in the agreement.

The Board indicated that they would approve the agreement with a clarification of members and the executive board.

Commissioner Bedford thanked Alan Dorman for his work on the condominium agreement.

A motion was made by Chair Hamilton, seconded by Vice-Chair Fowler, to approve and authorize the County Manager to sign the Condominium Agreement, Deeds, Plat, and Survey for the Drakeford Library Complex with the clarification of Article 1, Meeting of Members, Section 1 about who the members are that need to meet annually, and upon final approval by the County Attorney

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

7. Reports

None.

8. Consent Agenda

- Removal of Any Items from Consent Agenda
- Approval of Remaining Consent Agenda
- Discussion and Approval of the Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Fowler, seconded by Commissioner McKee, to approve the consent agenda.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

a. Minutes for November 14, 2025, November 18, 2025, November 21, 2025, December 1, 2025, and December 9, 2025 Meetings

The Board approved the draft minutes for the November 14, 2025, November 18, 2025, November 21, 2025, December 1, 2025, and December 9, 2025 meetings.

b. Motor Vehicle Property Tax Releases/Refunds

The Board adopted a resolution to release motor vehicle property tax values for four (4) taxpayers with a total of four (4) bills that will result in a reduction of revenue.

c. Property Tax Releases/Refunds

The Board adopted a resolution to release property tax values for fourteen (14) taxpayers with a total of sixteen (16) bills that will result in a reduction of revenue.

d. Late Applications for Property Tax Exemption/Exclusion

The Board approved sixteen (16) untimely applications for exemption/exclusion from ad valorem taxation for sixteen (16) bills for the 2025 tax year.

e. Advertisement of Tax Liens on Real Property

The Board received a report on the amount of unpaid taxes for the current year that are liens on real property as required by North Carolina General Statute 105-369, and approved on or about March 25, 2026, as the date set by the Board for the tax lien advertisement.

f. Extension of 2026 Tax Listing Period

The Board approved a resolution extending the 2026 Tax Listing Period until February 13, 2026.

g. Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget Amendment #6

The Board approved budget, grant, and capital project ordinance amendments for Fiscal Year 2025-26.

h. Ordinance Execution for Unified Development Ordinance Text Amendments – Impervious Surfaces, Watershed Protection Overlay Districts, and Stream Buffers

The Board adopted an ordinance approving text amendments to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), as required by North Carolina General Statute (NCGS) 160D-601(c), based on the Board's public hearing and approval at the November 18, 2025 Business meeting.

i. Revised Opioid Settlement Fund Spending Authorization Resolution and Approval of Budget Amendment #6-A

The Board approved a resolution for the final opioid settlement fund spending authorization for FY 2026, and approving Budget Amendment #6-A.

j. Purchase of Equipment for Solid Waste Management

The Board approved and authorized the Orange County Solid Waste Management Department to purchase two (2) pieces of equipment.

k. Rejection of Bids and Authorization to Re-advertise – Electric Vehicle Charging Station (EVCS) Installation Project at the Orange Transportation Services Facility

The Board:

- 1) Rejected all bids received for the Electric Vehicle Charging Station (EVCS) Installation Project at the Orange Transportation Services Facility; and
- 2) Authorized staff to revise the project scope and re-advertise for bids, or pursue an alternative procurement method, as appropriate.

l. Contract Award for Electric Vehicle Charging Station Installation at Justice Facility & Hillsborough Commons Facilities

The Board:

- 1) Approved the County entering into a service contract with Brady Trane Service, Inc. for the purchase of services to install Electric Vehicle Charging Stations at the Justice Facility and Hillsborough Commons Facilities; and
- 2) Authorized the County Manager to execute the Agreement, subject to final review by the County Attorney, and any subsequent amendments for contingent and unforeseen requirements up to the approved budget amount on behalf of the Board.

m. Approval of a Professional Services Agreement with ICF for the Electric Vehicle (EV) Fleet Transition and Charging Infrastructure Study

The Board reviewed a cost proposal submitted by ICF Incorporated, LLC (ICF) for services related to the completion of the Electric Vehicle (EV) Fleet Transition and Charging Infrastructure Study, and approved and authorized the Manager to sign the Agreement after final review by the County Attorney.

9. County Manager's Report

Caitlin Fenhagen said that the emergency operations center team was meeting the following day and that they were actively monitoring the winter weather.

10. County Attorney's Report

John Roberts said he would share information with the Board related to Gary Linz's comments at the beginning of the meeting. He said he listened to the legislative committee hearing on property taxes. He said a couple of the things that jumped out to him were discussions about limiting annual property tax increases to 2-3% and evaluating how counties conduct revaluations.

11. Appointments

a. Durham Technical Community College Board of Trustees – Appointment Discussion

The Board discussed an appointment to the Durham Technical Community College Board of Trustees.

BACKGROUND: Durham Technical Community College is governed by a Board of Trustees. Four (4) members of the Board are appointed by the governor, four (4) are appointed by the Durham County Board of Commissioners, four (4) are appointed by the Durham Public Schools Board of Education, and two (2) are appointed by the Orange County Board of Commissioners. Trustees serve four-year terms and set local policy for the College.

The following individual is recommended for Board consideration:

NAME	POSITION DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF APPOINTMENT TERM	EXPIRATION DATE
Emilee Collins	BOCC Appointee	Partial Term	06/30/2028

If the position listed above is filled, no vacancies remain.

Tara May introduced the item.

A motion was made by Commissioner McKee, seconded by Commissioner Bedford, to appoint Emilee Collins.

Vice-Chair Fowler said there were many qualified and competent applicants, but it sounded like the board was looking for a specific skillset and someone has demonstrated competency and engagement. She said she was supportive of Emilee Collins.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Chair Hamilton noted the quality of the applicants and hoped that they would apply for other advisory board vacancies.

12. Information Items

- December 9, 2025 BOCC Meeting Follow-up Actions List
- Tax Collector's Report – Numerical Analysis
- Tax Collector's Report – Measure of Enforced Collections
- Tax Collector's Report – In-Rem Foreclosure Progress Report
- Tax Assessor's Report – Releases/Refunds under \$100
- Memorandum – Pending Amendments to the Unified Development Ordinance
- Memorandum – Update on Orange County School Food Share Pilot Project
- Memorandum – Recognition of County Employee Retirements from October 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025
- Appeals and Neighborhood Reviews Update Reports

13. Closed Session

None.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Fowler, seconded by Commissioner Bedford, to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Jean Hamilton, Chair

Recorded by Laura Jensen, Clerk to the Board

Submitted for approval by Laura Jensen, Clerk to the Board