HARNETT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Special Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2026

The Harnett County Board of Commissioners met on Wednesday, June 24, 2026 at 9:00 am, in the Commissioners Meeting Room, Harnett County Resource Center and Library, 455 McKinney Parkway, Lillington, North Carolina. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and consider adoption of the Harnett County Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-2027 Budget.

Members present: Duncan E. Jaggers, Chairman
Matthew B. Nicol, Vice Chairman
Barbara McKoy, Commissioner
William Morris, Commissioner
W. Brooks Matthews, Commissioner

Staff present: Brent Trout, County Manager
Dwight Snow, County Attorney
Kimberly Honeycutt, Finance Officer
Melissa Capps, Clerk

Chairman Jaggers called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Commissioner Matthews led the Pledge of Allegiance and provided the invocation.

Lisa McFadden, Assistant County Manager, presented the following information regarding FY 2026-2027 Recommended Budget **(Attachment 1)**:

- Senate Bill 889: Reappraisal Moratorium
  - Requires continued use of 2022 Schedule of Value
  - Affects nine counties, including Harnett County
  - Signed by the Governor last Friday
  - Delays implementation of the 2026 Schedule of Values until 2027
  - Limits ability to reflect true market growth
- SB 474: Harnett Exemption
  - Would exempt Harnett County from the SB 889 moratorium
  - Senate did not concur yesterday
  - Unclear if it will pass before June 30, 2026
  - State Representatives are still hopeful it will pass
- 2022 Schedule of Values
  - Based on estimated values
  - More accurate values will not be available until after July 1
  - Approximately $350,000 in additional cost
  - One penny generates approximately $1,575,528

- Fire Districts – Requested Tax Rate Increases

District	FY 2026 Rate	FY 2027 Req Rate	FY 26 Rate Produces	FY 27 Rate Produces	Increase
Anderson Creek	0.11	0.15	$2,202,090	$2,830,073	$627,983
Benhaven	0.12	0.13	$1,915,578	$2,041,573	$125,996
Duke	0.105	0.12	$544,841	$606,989	$62,148
Dunn	0.11	0.115	$2,490,343	$2,582,576	$92,233
West Area	0.13	0.15	$97,744	$109,827	$12,083

- Priorities Reflected in Recommended Budget
  - Updated Recommended Budget
    - $6,000,000 Harnett County Schools expansion requests
    - $6,000,000 additional allocation for future schools
    - $100,000 non-profit funding
    - $500,000 transfer for Weapons Detection Systems
    - 13 new General Fund positions
    - 6 new Harnett Regional Water positions
    - Targeted reductions in community college services, public safety technology, environmental protection services, and capital equipment
    - Reduction in Fund Balance use
- 2022 Schedule of Values - Tax Rate 75¢
  - Total Budget: $219,787,410
  - Total Fund Balance Appropriated: $3,833,319
  - Key Elements:
    - Recommended Tax Rate: 75¢
    - Restores prior year's use of fund balance
    - Increases and sustains school funding for two future high schools, teacher supplements, and school staff/administrator stipends
    - Funds Board's priorities and county operational needs
    - 75¢ is necessary to sustain funding commitments under 2022 values
- Board Discussion & Budget Approval
  - Budget is prepared based on 2022 values
  - Do we keep 75¢ as the approved tax rate?
  - Are there any expense items you would like cut from the budget?
  - Budget and tax rate must be approved by June 30, 2026
- Decision Options
  - Approve the budget today with the recommended 75¢ tax rate?
  - Schedule a June 29 or June 30 special meeting to allow additional time for potential SB 474 action before adopting the budget?

The Board discussed the possible timeline for SB 474. Chairman Jaggers asked if we pass under the old values, and we go to the levy rate we need to go with on old values, and 474 passes, would that 75¢ stand. Christopher Appel, Senior Staff Attorney stated, typically once the budget ordinance is adopted, the tax levy rate cannot be changed by law. However, 159-15 does say if after July 1, that if we receive

revenues that are substantially more or less than the amount anticipated, the Board can before January 1st amend the budget ordinance to increase the tax levy rate or decrease the tax levy rate.

Additional discussion included waiting until Tuesday, June 30th so that maybe a decision will be made by the legislature and costs associated with reverting back to the 2022 appraisal.

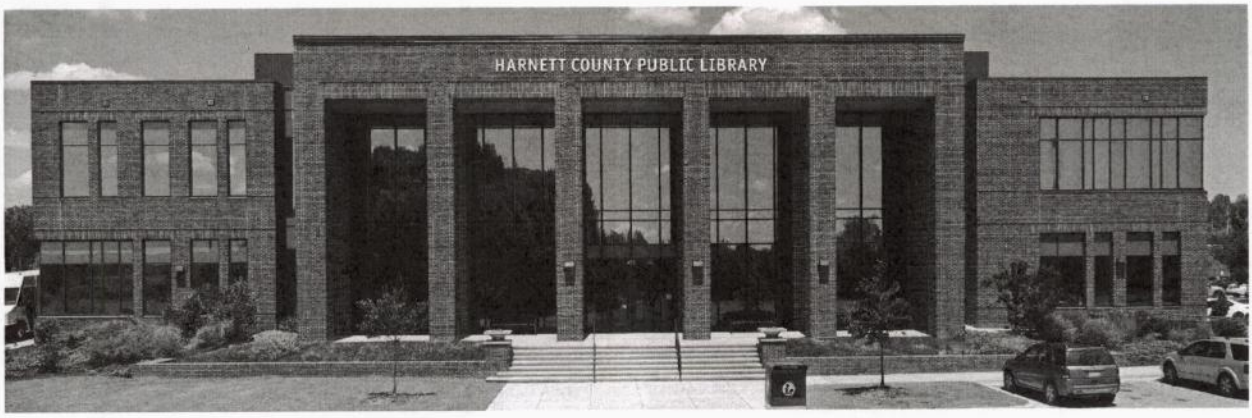
Consensus of the Board was to hold a Special Meeting on Tuesday, June 30th at 8:00 am.

Vice Chairman Nicol stated with the Medicaid expansion coming down, I would like to request the Board consider adding a family and children Medicaid worker. Chairman Jaggers requested staff bring that change to the Special Meeting on Tuesday June 30th.

Vice Chairman Nicol made a motion to adjourn at 9:24 am. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Matthews and carried unanimously

Duncan E. Jaggers, Chairman

Melissa Capps, Clerk



FY 2026-2027 RECOMMENDED BUDGET

Budget Work Session

June 24, 2026

Senate Bill 889: Reappraisal Moratorium

Senate Bill 889

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SB 474: Harnett Exemption

Senate Bill 474

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Schedule of Values Overview

2022 Schedule of Values

- Based on estimated values
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Priorities Reflected in Recommended Budget

Updated Recommended Budget

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Board Discussion & Budget Approval

Budget is prepared based on 2022 values

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Decision Options

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