

**TOWN OF DALLAS**  
**MINUTES FOR BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING**  
**MARCH 26, 2018**  
**5:15 PM**

The following elected officials were present: Mayor Coleman, Alderwoman Thomas, Alderman Huggins, Alderman Withers, Alderman Cearley, and Alderwoman Morrow.

The following staff members were present: Maria Stroupe, Town Manager; Da'Sha Leach, Town Clerk; Tom Hunn, Town Attorney; Allen Scott, Police Chief; Doug Huffman, Electric Director; Tiffany Faro, Development Services Director; Bill Trudnak, Public Works Director; Jonathan Newton, Finance Director; Steve Lambert, Fire Chief, and Steven Aloisa, Recreation Director.

Mayor Coleman called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm. He opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**New Business:**

**Item 3A** was to discussion regarding a request submitted to use the Franklin Gym by management for the Dallas High School Apartments. The request is to use the gym on April 21<sup>st</sup> at 6pm for a concert by the Cockman Family. This event will be free to the Dallas residents and the Dallas High School Apartment Residents. This request does include that the Town of Dallas would clean up after the event. Staff would like to request the group to place maps for their equipment to protect the floors as well as only allowing the chairs to run along the walls in front of the railing, not the gym floor so there will not be any damage. The Town of Dallas does not have a policy on the use of the gym outside of the Town events. Board members discussed the request and received feedback from the staff. This item will go to the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting for an official vote on the Consent Agenda. (Exhibit A)

**Item 3B** was a discussion regarding the School Bond Referendum from Gaston County Commissioners. This resolution sent by the Commissioners would be to support of \$250,000,000 in school bonds. There was communication with Ms. Catherine Roberts, Dallas School Board Representative regarding this resolution for the school bond referendum. The Board discusses some concerns regarding the overall impact of the bonds regarding tax increase as well as how the Dallas schools will be positively impacted by the school bonds. Staff noted that other municipalities have questioned some similar concerns regarding this school bond referendum. This referendum will go to a public vote on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018. This item will be in the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting for an official vote. (Exhibit B)

**Item 3C** was a discussion of the draft budget for the Town's Fiscal Year 2018-19. Town Manager Stroupe went over the highlights on the proposed budget with some increases in the General Fund and the Storm water Fund. The Electric Fund and the Water/Sewer Fund does not propose any increases. In this proposal, there were some recommendations to begin addressing the wage compression, performance increases, years for service increases, adding Firemen Staff, Town equipment, community development projects, etc. The Board addressed their concerns and conveyed changes they would like to see in the next budget proposal. (Exhibit C)

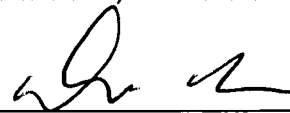
**Manager's Report:**

- Centralina Council of Government - There will be a 1 day event on April 12<sup>th</sup> regarding transportation and community development. Staff members are attending and the Board Members are welcome to attend if interested.
- NCDOT Road widening project- There will be public meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup> that is open to the public. A session with the Board members is requested on that day.
- NC Dept. of Commerce – They would like to meet with the Board and the Dallas department officials regarding the vision for Dallas.

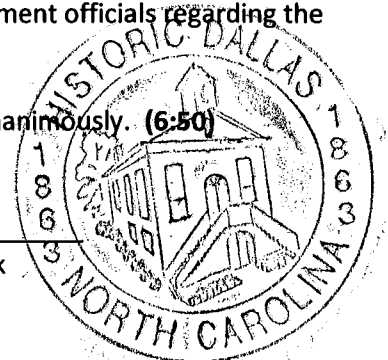
Alderman Cearley made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Alderwoman Morrow, and carried unanimously. (6:50)



Rick Coleman, Mayor



Da'Sha Leach, Town Clerk



Information Concerning Dallas High School Apartment Request for  
Use of Franklin Gym

- Concert by the Cockman Family to be held on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 pm.
- The band will be positioned on the Gym floor. They would like to bring in a stage, if allowed.
- Would need Gym open by 4:00 pm for band set up.
- Will need verification of electric availability for band.
- They would like to bring chairs in to be placed on the Gym floor for more seating than just the bleachers, if allowed.
- There will be no charge to concert attendees. No items will be sold. Coordinator wants to ask local grocery stores for donations of refreshments, which would be provided to attendees free of charge.
- Town would be responsible for cleaning of Gym after use.

Gaston County  
Board of Commissioners  
www.gastongov.com



**Chad Brown**  
Chairman  
Riverbend Township

**Tom Keigher**  
Vice-Chairman  
Gastonia Township

**Allen R. Fraley**  
Cherryville Township

**Don Grant**  
Gastonia Township

**Bob Hovis**  
Crowders Mtn. Township

**Tracy L. Philbeck**  
Dallas Township

**Ronnie Worley**  
South Point Township

**Earl Mathers**  
County Manager

**Charles L. Moore**  
County Attorney

**Donna S. Buff**  
Clerk to the Board

**Mission Statement**  
*Gaston County seeks to be among the finest counties in North Carolina. It will provide effective, efficient and affordable services leading to a safe, secure and healthy community, an environment for economic growth, and promote a favorable quality of life.*

## GASTON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

March 9, 2018

The Honorable Rick Coleman, Mayor  
Members of the Dallas Board of Aldermen  
210 N. Holland Street  
Dallas, NC 28034 -1625

Dear Mayor Coleman and Board members:

The Gaston County Board of Commissioners respectfully requests the Dallas Board of Aldermen to consider the adoption of a resolution in support of the \$250,000,000 School Bond Referendum (for new classroom space, improvements and other critical school infrastructure needs) and the Quarter-Cent Sales Tax Referendum (proceeds to be earmarked solely for servicing school bond debt and other educational capital needs). Both Referendums will appear on the Gaston County ballot for the primary election, to be held May 8, 2018. A sample resolution is enclosed for your urgent consideration.

We appreciate your Board's endorsement and quick action on these two important initiatives and kindly ask that a copy of your adopted resolution be delivered to the Chairpersons for the Gaston County School Board and the Gaston County Board of Commissioners as soon as possible.

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, thank you for your leadership and support. Please feel free to contact me or any member of the Board if you have any questions.

Very Sincerely,

Chad Brown, Chairman  
Gaston County Board of Commissioners  
(704) 516-8017

Enclosures: Resolution; Commission Contact Information

cc: Dallas Town Manager  
Gaston County Board of Commissioners (via email)  
Earl Mathers, County Manager (via email)  
Charles Moore, County Attorney (via email)  
Gaston County Board of Education (via email)  
Jeff Booker, School Superintendent (via email)

- WHEREAS,** the Gaston County Board of Education has identified over Six Hundred and Fifty Million (\$650,000,000) of school facility needs that must be addressed in the near future in Gaston County; and,
- WHEREAS,** a School Bond Referendum will appear on the Gaston County Ballot for the primary election to be held May 8, 2018, requesting authority to issue Two Hundred Fifty Million Dollars (\$250,000,000) in new school bonds; and,
- WHEREAS,** in addition to the aforementioned bonds, the citizens of Gaston County have approved and the County has issued educational bonds since 2000 totaling Two Hundred Fifty Three Million Ninety Five Thousand Dollars (\$253,095,000); and,
- WHEREAS,** the debt service for repaying the proposed 2018 school bonds will add an additional ten and one quarter cents (10.25¢) over the next five years to the county's existing ad valorem tax rate, unless an additional one-quarter (1/4 ¢) local sales and use tax is approved; and,
- WHEREAS,** a one-quarter cent (1/4 ¢) local sales and use tax would be earmarked for application solely to repaying the existing, newly approved, and future school bonds and other educational capital needs, and could generate approximately Six Million Dollars (\$6,000,000) in additional revenues above the current property tax receipts per year helping to reduce the tax burden on homeowners while providing for the educational needs of the children of Gaston County and meeting the demands for new classroom space, classroom improvements and other critical school infrastructure needs; and,
- WHEREAS,** a Sales Tax Referendum will appear on the Gaston County Ballot for the primary election to be held on May 8, 2018, requesting authority to add one-quarter cent (1/4 ¢) to the current sales taxes collected within Gaston County, which sales tax will not apply to unprepared food (groceries) and gas; and,
- WHEREAS,** the Gaston County School physical facilities are over-crowded with student population and the present facilities are inadequate to meet the student population needs, now or in the future; and,
- WHEREAS,** the Gaston County School facilities are not only over-crowded, but are also in critical need of maintenance and repair, which creates difficult conditions for the student population using those facilities; and,
- WHEREAS,** the [Town/City] Council has a compelling and continuing concern for the impact of the condition of school physical facilities and the educational progress of the children of [Town/City], specifically, and the children of Gaston County generally; and,
- WHEREAS,** the [Town/City] Council understands that education is crucial to the prospects for economic development in [Town/City]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the [Town/City] Council, by adoption of this Resolution, elects to favorably support and endorse the passage of the upcoming Sales Tax and School Bond referendums and urges the citizens of the [Town/City] of [Town/City] to vote the favorable passage of same; and,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the [Town/City] Council that:

1. the [Town/City] Council for [Town/City] hereby supports the Sales Tax and School Bond Referendums set for May 8, 2018, for the building and improvements of schools for the students and citizens of [Town/City] specifically and Gaston County generally. The [Town/City] Council encourages [Town/City] citizens to vote in favor of the Sales Tax and School Bonds referendums.

2. that a copy of this Resolution be delivered to the Chairpersons for the Gaston County School Board and the Gaston County Board of Commissioners.

DRAFT

**GASTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
(EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 12, 2017)**

<b>Chad Brown, Chairman</b> PO Box 1578 Gastonia, NC 28053-1578	Riverbend Twp	704-516-8017 (C) E-Mail: <a href="mailto:chad.brown@gastongov.com">chad.brown@gastongov.com</a>
<b>Tom Keigher, Vice-Chairman</b> 925 Ramsgate Drive Gastonia, NC 28056	Gastonia Twp.	704-718-8747 (C) 704-864-2797 (H) E-Mail: <a href="mailto:tomkcom@aol.com">tomkcom@aol.com</a>
<b>Allen R. Fraley</b> PO Box 399 Cherryville, NC 28021	Cherryville Twp.	704-813-4830 (C) E-Mail: <a href="mailto:allen.fraley@gastongov.com">allen.fraley@gastongov.com</a>
<b>Don Grant</b> 1321 W Franklin Blvd. Gastonia, NC 28052	Gastonia Twp.	704-865-3878 (O) 704-865-3704 (H) 704-867-6803 (F) E-Mail: <a href="mailto:don.grant@gastongov.com">don.grant@gastongov.com</a>
<b>Bob Hovis</b> 1102 Crowders Mountain Road Bessemer City, NC 28016	Crowders Mtn. Twp.	704-616-3766 (C) E-Mail: <a href="mailto:bob.hovis@gastongov.com">bob.hovis@gastongov.com</a>
<b>Tracy L. Philbeck</b> PO Box 1578 Gastonia, NC 28053-1578	Dallas Twp.	704-617-3087 (C) E-Mail: <a href="mailto:tracy.philbeck@gastongov.com">tracy.philbeck@gastongov.com</a>
<b>Ronnie Worley</b> 3013 Greenmont Circle Belmont, NC 28012	South Point Twp.	704-913-5476 (C) E-Mail: <a href="mailto:ronnie.worley@gastongov.com">ronnie.worley@gastongov.com</a>
<hr/>		
<b>Earl Mathers, County Manager</b> PO Box 1578 Gastonia, NC 28053-1578	S T A F F	704-866-3101 (O) 704-866-3147 (F) E-Mail: <a href="mailto:earl.mathers@gastongov.com">earl.mathers@gastongov.com</a>
<b>Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the Board</b> PO Box 1578 Gastonia, NC 28053-1578	S T A F F	704-866-3196 (O) 704-866-3407 (F) E-Mail: <a href="mailto:donna.buff@gastongov.com">donna.buff@gastongov.com</a>
<b>Charles L. Moore, County Attorney</b> PO Box 1578 Gastonia, NC 28053-1578	S T A F F	704-866-3194 (O) 704-866-3972 (F) E-Mail: <a href="mailto:charles.moore@gastongov.com">charles.moore@gastongov.com</a>

Good morning,

I have copied your questions and answered in red. I've also attached some documents for your review as well.

1) There are 6 six schools listed as being in the Dallas Township area. North Gaston High School, W.C. Friday Middle School, Costner Elementary School, and Carr Elementary School are in the immediate Dallas area and serve children living in Dallas. Can you tell us what are the other 2 schools considered to be in the Dallas Township?

Highland School of Technology and Brookside Elementary

2) How does this year's enrollment at each school compare with the enrollment that each of those schools was designed to accommodate?

I've reached out to central office to get the most up to date figures for you.

3) What is the projected enrollment in each of the Dallas Township schools over the next 5, 10, 20 years respectively?

Waiting on numbers from central office.

4) The Media Center at Carr Elementary School appears to be extremely inadequate. Are there any plans to address this problem?

Would you mind elaborating on this? I ask because they have been updating the media center for 2 years. They have new tables, chairs, carpets and shelving. New lighting and ceilings were installed late last year.

5) The Kindergarten classrooms at Carr Elementary School are also extremely inadequate. Are there any plans to address this problem?

If you wouldn't mind elaborating on this issue as well. There are 6 kindergarten classrooms at Carr. Each has it's own bathroom and each has a SMART board.

6) Carr Elementary School is in an obviously terrible location for a school of its size. Are there any plans for a new elementary school in an alternate location to help the overcrowding situation at Carr?

There are currently no plans to replace Carr. You will see in the attachments, that if the bond is passed, a new elementary will be built in the southeast area of Gastonia due to growth.

7) Can you tell us how much money is earmarked for each of the Dallas Township schools and what that would cover at each location?

Please see the attachment for the Dallas Township that shows each school and the area of repair that will be touched. These are the most critical repairs needed. Currently Gaston County Schools has \$650 million in capital repairs needed. This bond money can help us get started.

8) Currently, there are development plans for approximately 100 additional apartments and houses within the town limits of Dallas, and there are other possible developments on the horizon. Was this considered in the planning for the Dallas Township schools?

In my opinion, until city, townships and the county have frank conversations before allowing large amounts of housing go in at one time, this will be a constant problem all over the county.

Catherine Roberts  
Gaston County Board of Education  
Dallas Township  
704-604-6654  
"We are Gaston County Schools"

*Schools in the*

# Dallas Township

# \$74.5 million

# Repairs and Renovations

The funds would be used for the most critical repairs/renovations in the following areas:

	Life Safety Cameras, Intercoms, Security, and Fire Alarms	Electrical	Lighting	HVAC Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning	Water Lines	Sewer Lines	Gas Lines	Plumbing	Roof Replacement	Structural Repairs	Athletic Facilities	Doors	Windows	Parking Lot	Driveway	Environmental	Elevator	Restrooms (ADA Compliance)
Brookside Elementary	✓		✓					✓	✓			✓						
Carr Elementary	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓			✓				✓		
Costner Elementary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓				✓		
Highland School of Technology	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
North Gaston High	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓						
W.C. Friday Middle	✓		✓					✓	✓	✓		✓				✓		

SCHOOL BONDS 2018

GASTON COUNTY SCHOOLS



Draft FY 2018-19 Budget Highlights

GENERAL FUND

- A Staggered Across-the-Board Increase to Begin Addressing Compression and Incentives for Certifications/Skill Achievements
- Addition of 3 Full-Time Firefighters, Accompanied by a 3¢ Property Tax Increase (Fire Tax)
- Administration – Repairs to Town Hall Steps and Damage at Civic Building
- Community Development – CLG Grant, Forestry Grant, Compensation for Planning Board
- Courthouse – Interior Painting, Exterior Stucco Repair
- Police – Body Cameras, Truck
- Fire – SAFER Grant for 3 Full-Time Firefighters, \$1.00 per Call Increase for Volunteers
- Street – Paving
- Recreation – Drainage at Gym Park, Bleachers at Ballfield, Scoreboard at Gym
- Solid Waste – Expand Recycling, Leaf Machine and Truck Box

WATER/SEWER FUND

- Water Asset Management Plan (Grant Funded), Meter Reader Truck, Truck for Supervisor, Replace Lines (Salem Ave., Holly Ave., Holland Ridge, Robinson Clemmer)
- WTP – Gate System Upgrade, SCADA System Upgrade, Refurbish Day Tanks
- WWTP – Building Over Sampler, Drive Unit, Clean Out Drying Beds

ELECTRIC FUND

- SCADA Computer at Substation, Shed for Tree Truck, Drainage & Parking Repairs, 75 LED Street Lights, Coal Ash

STORMWATER FUND

- 25¢ per Unit Increase
- Repairs (N. Holland St. and McSwain Dr.)