

March 5, 2026
County of Greene, Virginia

THE GREENE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MET ON THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026, BEGINNING AT 4:30 P.M. IN PERSON IN THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING MEETING ROOM FOR A SPECIAL MEETING AND BUDGET WORKSESSION

Present were: Steve Catalano, Chair
Tim Goolsby, Vice Chair
Davis Lamb, Member
Matthew Hartung, Member
Marie Durrer, Interim Member

Staff present: Cathy Schafrik, County Administrator
Terry Beigie, Deputy Clerk/Grant Writer
Melissa Meador, Director of Emergency Services
Jim Frydl, Director of Planning and Zoning
Daniel Chipman, Director of Finance
Thomas Hutka, Director of Water and Sewer
James Howard, Director of Social Services
Cooper Lane, Senior Financial Analyst

RE: CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

RE: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE; MOMENT OF SILENCE

The Chair opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

RE: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Mr. Frydl presented the Capital Improvement Plan to the Board, along with some identified items from the Planning Commission regarding the capital budget for Fiscal Year 2027. The Capital Improvement Plan is just a plan that lists the needs and is used as a planning tool. Mr. Frydl said that while the list of needs is long, not all of them are urgent or would ever be funded with taxpayer dollars. The items are listed so that developers may choose to donate (or proffer) them to the County and to showcase the Board's desire for funding for grant applications. Expansion of water and sewer in Ruckersville and Stanardsville are listed in case a developer wants to expand our system for us and shoulder the cost. Mr. Frydl said no decisions needed to be made tonight and not until the Fiscal Year 2027 budget is adopted.

Mr. Hartung clarified that if an item is not listed on the plan that it will make it difficult to seek grant funding. Mr. Frydl yes for the master list that is correct. When it comes to the Capital

Budget, the Board can choose anything from the master list it wishes to fund. The Planning Commission offered the Board a list of items it felt would be beneficial to fund this year.

RE: JAUNT BUDGET PRESENTATION

Mr. Mike Murphy, CEO of Jaunt, discussed the priorities for Jaunt, beginning by noting that Jaunt is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Jaunt serves the City of Charlottesville and six surrounding counties. Greene County has Monday-Friday service and people have requested to have Saturday back, which is something Jaunt is looking into, Mr. Murphy said. Ridership is up in Greene County, with rides within Greene County but also into Charlottesville area for employment and medical services. Jaunt is looking into the creation of a micro transit concept. Jaunt requires at least a one-day advance registration for rides where Greene County Transit offered same-day rides when it could. Jaunt has received a grant from Virginia to purchase new software that would enable same-day registrations. Additionally, Jaunt received a second grant to pilot the idea of micro transit service that would include an app for reservations. Jaunt will begin this in April. Jaunt is not requesting additional funding in this fiscal year because while capital expenses are rising, operational expenses have decreased. Mr. Murphy requested that Board members speak to legislators regarding support of public transportation funding.

RE: WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT BUDGET PRESENTATION

Mr. Hutka told the Board the department is on track with the financial analysis created regarding the reservoir projects and operational funding. He said the department is financially healthy. The department operates out of enterprise funds, which means no funds from the General Fund but rather costs of water rates and the purchases of connections sustain the department. He requested a 3% increase in the water and sewer rates for the next year to make up for inflation costs. The department is also requesting an additional person as a senior accountant, paid for through the enterprise fund as well.

Mr. Hartung asked about the requested position. Mr. Hutka said it ensures two people at the counter when accepting cash payments.

Mr. Catalano asked for a list of vehicles, including procurement date, milage, new cost, and any machinery as well for the department. Mr. Hutka said he would bring that to the Board.

RE: SOCIAL SERVICES BUDGET PRESENTATION

Mr. Howard was present to discuss his budget with the Board. He said there are three points of growth, two within the Foster Care line item and the Adoption Subsidy line item, which he said are good expenditures because it means the County is helping children. The third area of growth is within personnel. He requested two positions. He said the Federal Government has placed additional accountability on the States regarding Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program reporting and Medicaid. There are likely some changes coming for the department that will require an additional person to manage. He said there has been an increase in Child Protective Services and Adult Protective Services cases. He outlined other state changes that could impact the case loads for employees.

Mr. Lamb asked how many children there are in foster care in Greene County. Mr. Howard said in Fiscal Year 2025, the high was at 46.

Mr. Catalano asked Mr. Howard to categorize which of the new positions were most important. Mr. Howard said it would probably be the benefits worker, but they are both needed.

Mr. Howard explained the Community Policy Management Team in Greene County and Community Services Act and some changes that are anticipated in funding from the state.

RE: EMS BUDGET PRESENTATION

Ms. Meador told the Board that she has requested two new positions that will allow all four of the shifts to be fully staffed with seven individuals each. It allows for three fully staffed ambulances all day, every day, and a lieutenant to follow on the Quick Response Vehicle. The rising call volume as a need to increase staffing. From 2024 to 2025, call volume increased by 10.75%. Ms. Meador discussed the times the County had to go to No Units Available while others were responding to calls. He said the additional staff will immediately benefit residents due to expected lower number of times that there are no units available to answer calls.

Mr. Ali Akbar, EMS Captain, discussed mutual aid requests for and by Greene County. Outside agencies requested Greene County 27 times which was a decrease from 2024. He said Greene was able to assist in 22 of the calls. Since Greene County created its own EMS Department in 2020, the call volume has increased by 27.5%, though the County only saw an increase in population during that time of 9%. The Ruckersville area accounted for the most number of calls, he said.

Ms. Meador asked the Board if EMS Auxiliary would continue as the cost for the insurance is more than \$8,000, but there has been little interest in signing up. Ms. Meador outlined the benefits of approving the staffing increase for the providers as well as residents. She discussed Capital Improvement requests from EMS and how it's utilized for grant requests as well.

Mr. Catalano noted that the department has received model agency recognition. Ms. Meador said that the state still refers to Greene County EMS has a model agency.

RE: GENERAL BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mr. Catalano told the Board that Ms. Schafrik provided the Board with a synopsis of where it is after the first Budget Workshop. He said the Board offered consensus during the first workshop that it wanted to keep the budget as flat as possible with the new mandates, raise and a few key personnel, but limited capital improvement. He asked what the Board's pleasure was about the potential new positions. Mr. Catalano said adding the two this year would be a continuation of what started three years ago with adding two a year until they received six new positions. Mr. Goolsby agreed, feeling it could lower the amount of overtime for the department. Mr. Catalano said the Clerk of Court position is fully paid by the state should also be considered. Mr. Howard's positions come with some state reimbursement, and he could support at least one of those. He said he did not want to add other staff at this time. He suggested the Board go line by line to see if there were other areas in the budget that could be cut. Mr. Hartung asked about the stormwater

management position that was covered by fees. Mr. Catalano said he'd rather see how the County does without that position but if it is needed in the future, it could be added.

Mr. Lamb asked how the Board feels about the new Sheriff deputy position requested. Mr. Catalano said if the County could finance the construction of the Sheriff's Office he'd consider that.

Mr. Catalano asked the Board about the proposed 4% raise for staff. Ms. Durrer said she'd love to give that to staff but doesn't think it's a good idea this fiscal year. Mr. Hartung said if inflation is at 2.8% and the County gives a 3% raise, the County falls behind and it becomes attractive to leave for higher salaries. Mr. Goolsby said the budget is year to year and the next year there could be additional funding for a higher raise than this year. Mr. Catalano said 3% is consistent to what has been given to staff for the last two years.

Mr. Lamb asked if the Board was going to discuss the tax rate. Mr. Catalano said not this evening since they're working to find money at this time. He proposed removal of all the new vehicles that were proposed. He said he doesn't think it's a long-term solution, but rather for this year.

Dr. Andrea Whitmarsh, Superintendent of Schools, said the division is dire need of a special education bus in fiscal year 2027. Mr. Catalano said he'd make note of that.

The Board discussed the Sheriff's Office budget line items in depth. Mr. Catalano asked Ms. Schafrik specific questions regarding the building maintenance budget.

Ms. Schafrik asked the Board about a letter against the state proposal that would require localities to allow collective bargaining. The Board was against it and the Chair agreed to sign the letter. The meeting concludes with a focus on the importance of maintaining financial stability and meeting the needs of the community through strategic budget decisions. Mr. Catalano emphasized the need to strongly communicate their opposition to the state's interference in day-to-day operations.

RE: ADJOURN

Upon motion by Tim Goolsby, second by Matthew Hartung and unanimous roll call vote, the Board meeting was adjourned.

Recorded vote:	Steve Catalano	-	Yes
	Marie Durrer	-	Yes
	Tim Goolsby	-	Yes
	Matthew Hartung	-	Yes
	Davis Lamb	-	Yes

Motion carried.

Steve Catalano, Chair
Greene County Board of Supervisors

Cathy Schafrik, Clerk
Greene County Board of Supervisors