

The Watauga County Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Thursday, February 26, 2026, and Friday, February 27, 2026, in order to conduct a retreat to review goals and objectives for the County. The meetings were held in the Watauga County Recreation Center located in Boone, North Carolina.

PRESENT: Braxton Eggers, Chairman

Todd Castle, Vice-Chairman

Emily Greene, Commissioner

Tim Hodges, Commissioner

Ronnie Marsh, Commissioner

Deron Geouque, County Manager

Misty Watson, Finance

Lunch was provided at 12:00 P.M. Chairman Eggers called the meeting to order on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 12:30 P.M., welcoming those in attendance.

Opening Remarks

Mr. Deron Geouque

The following topics were discussed:

MR. Wright Tilley spoke on Tourism Development Authority

Ms. Wendy Patoprsty and Mr. David Ray gave an update on the Middlefork Greenway

FY 2026 Review and Discussion of 2026 Budget

Ms. Misty Watson

- Revenues

- Expenditures

- Debt Service Report

- Budget Calendar

- Special appropriations

Mr. Drew Eggers gave an update on IT website

Mr. Ryan Vincent, Mr. Tyler Rash and Mr. Joshua Kleene gave update on reappraisal

Mr. Tyler Rash gave an update on tax software conversion

Mr. Jason Walker gave an update on planning and inspection matters

Ms. Jennifer Greene gave an Appalachian District Health update

Mr. Nathan Nipper gave an update on UNC Health Appalachian

Mr. Will Holt gave an update on emergency service matters

Mr. Deron Geouque - Review of Current Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

- A. Current CIP Status Report

- B. 911/Medic/Emergency Services Facility

- C. Emergency Communications

- D. Library

- E. School Facilities

- 1. Parkway School Expansion

- 2. New Hardin Park School

- F. National Guard Armory Disposition

- G. Old Cove Creek School Park

A recess was declared at 7:30 P.M. The meeting reconvened on Friday February 27, 2026, at 9:00 A.M.

Mr. Joe Furman and Mr. David Jackson gave an update on the EDC Chamber Foundation

Dr. Mark Poarch gave an update on Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute

Watauga County School Board Funding – Dr. Leslie Alexander, Mr. Gary Childers, Ms. Alison Idol, Dr. Chris Blanton, Mr. Joe Nash

Miscellaneous and Commissioner Matters

Commissioner Matters

Wrap up, goals and objectives, Board directives

Budget work sessions set for May 7, 12-8 P.M. and May 8, 9-1 P.M.

The County Manager concluded the retreat by reviewing the issues addressed and seeking direction from the Board for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

The meeting adjourned at 1:36 P.M.

Braxton Eggers, Chairman

ATTEST:

Deron Geouque, County Manager