



Town of Stantonburg

Special Called Board Meeting Minutes

August 20, 2026

Attendance

Present: Mayor Coley Rhodes; Mayor Pro Tem Powell Dew; Councilpersons Carla Davis, Skip Covert, Jackie Grice, and Eartha Butler; Town Manager Brian Hawley; Town Clerk Christie Cobb; Attorney Gabe DuSablon; and members of the public.

Call to Order and Opening

The Special Called Meeting of the Town of Stantonburg Board of Commissioners was called to order by Mayor Coley Rhodes. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by an invocation offered by Mayor Coley Rhodes.

Approval of Agenda and Prior Minutes

Councilperson Eartha Butler made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilperson Skip Covert seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilperson Skip Covert made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2026, regular meeting. Councilperson Carla Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Tri-Town Agreement and Substation Project

Mayor Coley Rhodes provided background information regarding the Tri-Town Agreement between the Towns of Stantonburg, Lucama, and Black Creek. She explained that the agreement formalizes a longstanding arrangement dating back to the 1980s for the jointly owned electric transmission and substation system. The agreement was developed with input from Tri-Town committee members and reviewed by Attorney Gabe DuSablon. Board

members were encouraged to review the agreement before the regular September meeting.

Mayor Coley Rhodes and Town Manager Brian Hawley presented the proposed Tri-Town substation improvement project. The project is intended to provide necessary upgrades and redundancy to protect the shared electric infrastructure serving the three towns. Town Manager Hawley explained that the proposed equipment improvements would help protect the transmission station and reduce the risk of major failures or system feedback during outages.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell Dew stated that the Tri-Town system has served the towns for approximately 30 years and that the proposed investment is needed to stabilize and protect the system for the future. He noted that RGrid, based in Wake Forest, is serving as the engineering representative and has assisted the towns in developing a comprehensive plan. The total project cost was discussed as approximately \$1.5 million, with Stantonburg's portion estimated at approximately \$500,000.

The Board discussed possible funding options, including use of fund balance or financing subject to Local Government Commission approval. Town Manager Hawley stated that staff would research interest rates, available funds, and financing options before bringing a recommendation back to the Board. The Board also discussed rising costs, equipment lead times, and the benefit of approving the project in order to lock in pricing for major electrical components where possible.

Commissioner Eartha Butler moved to approve the Town's participation in the proposed Tri-Town substation improvement project, subject to final project documentation, confirmation of the Town's financial obligation, and any required financing approvals. Commissioner Skip Covert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Camera Locations and Public Safety Monitoring

Town Manager Hawley reviewed the status of the Town's camera project and noted that seven cameras were purchased. He stated that additional technical work is needed before installation can occur, including confirmation from Greenlight regarding fiber availability and identification of appropriate poles and equipment. The Board discussed proposed camera locations, camera capabilities, placement angles, and areas of concern throughout Town.

Discussion included the need to avoid concentrating cameras in one area, the importance of covering main entry points and vulnerable areas, and the need to coordinate with the Sheriff's Office and technical vendors regarding camera range and line of sight. Town Manager Hawley advised that Major Barbrey could be invited back to answer technical questions and that staff would provide additional information regarding pole options, fiber availability, and camera angles.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell Dew moved to approve the installation of cameras at six general locations, subject to confirmation of fiber/internet availability, pole availability, final technical review, and appropriate placement. The locations identified were Stantonsburg Elementary School, Stantonsburg Park, Truist Bank, the Adrian's Pool Hall area, the Events Center area, and the intersection of East Commercial Street and North Saratoga Street. One camera would remain available for a future location. Commissioner Skip Covert seconded the motion. The motion passed 3–2. Commissioners Davis and Grice voted against the motion.

RGrid Power Task Release Form

The Board reviewed RGrid Power Task Release 001. Town Manager Hawley explained that the task release would authorize management to proceed with work in an amount up to \$10,000, if needed. He stated that he would still bring work items back to the Board before proceeding.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell moved to approve Our Grid Power Task Release 001, authorizing expenditures not to exceed \$10,000 for the work described in the task release. Commissioner Jackie Grice seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CDBG Ribbon Cutting and Welcome Home Ceremony

Town Manager Hawley provided an update on the CDBG home project and proposed welcome home ceremony. He stated that the home is substantially ready; however, final paperwork and program requirements must be completed before the family can take ownership. The ceremony is tentatively anticipated in mid-September at the home, with a final date to be confirmed. The proposed event may include a tent and light refreshments, similar to the Town's historical marker dedication event.

Town Manager Training Course

Town Manager Hawley requested Board approval to attend the UNC School of Government Municipal and County Administration course. He explained that he had been selected for the program and awarded a scholarship covering \$2,000 of the \$4,500 tuition, leaving a

remaining cost of \$2,500. Town Manager Hawley stated that training funds are available but that he requested Board approval before proceeding.

Councilperson Skip Covert made a motion to approve Town Manager Brian Hawley's participation in the UNC School of Government Municipal and County Administration course and authorize payment of the Town's remaining tuition cost of \$2,500.

Councilperson Jackie Grice seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

Councilperson Jackie Grice made a motion to enter closed session for personnel matters pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(6). Councilperson Carla Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Following the closed session, Councilperson Jackie Grice made a motion to return to open session. Councilperson Eartha Butler seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

With no further business before the Board, Councilperson Skip Covert made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilperson Jackie Grice seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Mayor Rhodes adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Approved by:

Coley Rhodes, Mayor

Christie Cobb, Town Clerk