

City of High Shoals
Regular City Council Meeting
April 14, 2026

- Call to Order
- Invocation
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes

Citizens' comments/concerns: The City of High Shoals City Council offers citizens the opportunity for public expression pursuant to NCGS 160A-81.1. Comments are limited to 3–5 minutes per speaker.

Good of the Order: Time set aside for members to offer comments or observations about the organization and its work without formal motion.

Departmental Reports:

- Police Report-Gaston County
- Financial-Dennis Cash
 - CHECKING 1: \$
 - CHECKING 2: \$
 - SAVINGS: \$
 - CAP MGMT: \$
 - TOTAL: \$
- Cemetery-Denese Cook
- Water/Sewer-Bo Rhyne
- Streets/Maintenance/Sanitation-Kathy Rhyne
 - Parks/Recreation-Bobby Vassey
 - Yard of the Month:– Haley McCord
 - 204 Dayton Rd.
- Vehicles- Tim Eidson
- Administration/Mayor Report-PJ Rathbone

Council Comments / Announcements

New Business:

- Water/Sewer Rates Adjustment
 - Resolution to adopt adjustment rates effective on next billing cycle
- Audit Contract-Eddie Carrick
- City of High Shoals Fair Housing Resolution
- Surplus equipment
 - Trash Cans
 - Large Trash Truck
- Budget Meetings: Dates/Times

Motion to Adjourn:

Fund Or Attrib	Type	Acct Num	Acct Name	Budget	YTD	Variance	Prcnt
Fund Or Attrib: 10 GENERAL FUND							
Type: Revenues							
10 GENERAL FU	Revenues	10-3010-00	Taxes Ad Valorem CY	\$210,305.00	\$223,976.79	\$13,671.79	106.50%
10 GENERAL FU	Revenues	10-3020-00	Taxes - Ad Valorem - Prior	\$16,028.00	\$137.11	(\$15,890.89)	0.86%
10 GENERAL FU	Revenues	10-3025-00	Taxes - Tag Fee	\$23,100.00	\$15,124.07	(\$7,975.93)	65.47%
10 GENERAL FU	Revenues	10-3250-00	App Fees (was priv license)	\$500.00	\$1,425.08	\$925.08	285.02%
10 GENERAL FU	Revenues	10-3290-00	Interest On Checking	\$1,600.00	\$452.69	(\$1,147.31)	28.29%
10 GENERAL FU	Revenues	10-3291-00	Interest on Savings	\$800.00	\$80.11	(\$719.89)	10.01%
10 GENERAL FU	Revenues	10-3292-00	Interest on Capital Management	\$3,800.00	\$6,234.58	\$2,434.58	164.07%
10 GENERAL FU	Revenues	10-3293-00	Interest on Powell Bill Account	\$0.00	\$11,315.13	\$11,315.13	0.00%
10 GENERAL FU	Revenues	10-3293-50	INTEREST ON POWELL BILL ACCT CORRECTED	\$10.00	\$18.89	\$8.89	188.90%
10 GENERAL FU	Revenues	10-3294-00	CAP MGMT_DEBT SETOFF	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$60.00	0.00%
10 GENERAL FU	Revenues	10-3341-00	Copies/Faxes/Notary Income	\$100.00	\$70.50	(\$29.50)	70.50%
10 GENERAL FU	Revenues	10-3342-00	City Hall Rental	\$1,000.00	\$750.00	(\$250.00)	75.00%
10 GENERAL FU	Revenues	10-3343-00	Returned Check Fee	\$100.00	\$0.00	(\$100.00)	0.00%
10 GENERAL FU	Revenues	10-3344-00	Sign Rental	\$50.00	\$0.00	(\$50.00)	0.00%
10 GENERAL FU	Revenues	10-3346-00	VENDOR PAYMENTS FOR CELEBRATION	\$200.00	\$0.00	(\$200.00)	0.00%
10 GENERAL FU	Revenues	10-3350-00	Alcohol/Beverage	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	(\$3,000.00)	0.00%
10 GENERAL FU	Revenues	10-3370-00	Franchise Tax	\$25,000.00	\$19,182.08	(\$5,817.92)	76.73%
10 GENERAL FU	Revenues	10-3430-00	Powell Bill	\$23,000.00	\$11,315.15	(\$11,684.85)	49.20%
10 GENERAL FU	Revenues	10-3440-00	FEMA_HELENE PAYMENTS	\$0.00	\$2,875.70	\$2,875.70	0.00%
10 GENERAL FU	Revenues	10-3450-00	Local Option Sales Tax (NC Sales & Use Tax Distrib.	\$80,000.00	\$71,410.24	(\$8,589.76)	89.26%
10 GENERAL FU	Revenues	10-3455-00	Gaston County Sales Tax	\$35,000.00	\$12,730.61	(\$22,269.39)	36.37%
10 GENERAL FU	Revenues	10-3560-00	Park Rental Income	\$2,000.00	\$2,895.00	\$895.00	144.75%
10 GENERAL FU	Revenues	10-3565-00	Park Concession Income	\$150.00	\$0.00	(\$150.00)	0.00%
10 GENERAL FU	Revenues	10-3670-00	Sales Tax Refund	\$5,000.00	\$19,318.88	\$14,318.88	386.38%
10 GENERAL FU	Revenues	10-3680-00	Gas Tax Refund	\$1,200.00	\$1,256.35	\$56.35	104.70%
10 GENERAL FU	Revenues	10-3710-00	Cemetery Plots Income	\$4,000.00	\$435.00	(\$3,565.00)	10.88%
10 GENERAL FU	Revenues	10-3720-00	Code Violation Fee (Was Zoning Vio Fee)	\$6,000.00	\$1,650.00	(\$4,350.00)	27.50%
10 GENERAL FU	Revenues	10-3730-00	Solid Waste Disposal Tax	\$500.00	\$391.29	(\$108.71)	78.26%
10 GENERAL FU	Revenues	10-3740-00	Sanitation User Fee	\$75,000.00	\$63,578.98	(\$11,421.02)	84.77%
10 GENERAL FU	Revenues	10-3745-00	Dump Truck Rental (was recycling income)	\$500.00	\$266.43	(\$233.57)	53.29%
10 GENERAL FU	Revenues	10-3810-00	Sale Of Surplus Property	\$8,000.00	\$3,744.50	(\$4,255.50)	46.81%
10 GENERAL FU	Revenues	10-3990-00	Fund Balance Appropriation	\$130,000.00	\$0.00	(\$130,000.00)	0.00%
				\$655,943.00	\$470,695.16	(\$185,247.84)	72%
Type: Expenses							
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-4200-80	Salaries	\$97,560.00	\$71,218.57	\$26,341.43	73.00%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-4200-80	Mayor And Council	\$28,400.00	\$28,350.00	\$50.00	99.82%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-4200-80	Professional Services	\$8,000.00	\$4,500.00	\$3,500.00	56.25%

Fund Or Attrib	Type	Acct Num	Acct Name	Budget	YTD	Variance	Prcnt
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-4200-80	Social Security	\$8,000.00	\$6,173.27	\$1,826.73	77.17%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-4200-80	Health Ins.	\$36,000.00	\$30,542.27	\$5,457.73	84.84%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-4200-80	Medicare	\$1,850.00	\$1,443.73	\$406.27	78.04%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-4200-80	Unemployment Ins	\$1,000.00	\$144.91	\$855.09	14.49%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-4200-81	Telephone & Postage	\$7,000.00	\$4,837.76	\$2,162.24	69.11%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-4200-81	Public Notices-Printing	\$800.00	\$103.90	\$696.10	12.99%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-4200-81	Utilities	\$5,600.00	\$3,566.33	\$2,033.67	63.68%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-4200-81	Travel Expenses	\$13,525.00	\$12,036.12	\$1,488.88	88.99%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-4200-81	Education/Schools	\$5,975.00	\$3,975.00	\$2,000.00	66.53%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-4200-81	Maintenance Equipment	\$1,500.00	\$666.14	\$833.86	44.41%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-4200-83	Departmental Supplies	\$4,000.00	\$3,673.70	\$326.30	91.84%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-4200-83	Loan Payment	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	100.00%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-4200-84	Contracted Services	\$15,000.00	\$14,544.24	\$455.76	96.96%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-4200-85	Dues & Subscriptions	\$5,200.00	\$3,748.52	\$1,451.48	72.09%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-4200-85	Insurance & Bonding	\$30,000.00	\$27,939.31	\$2,060.69	93.13%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-4200-85	Miscellaneous	\$1,000.00	\$880.15	\$119.85	88.02%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-4200-86	IT ANNUAL SUPPORT	\$12,500.00	\$10,942.66	\$1,557.34	87.54%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-4200-86	MS LICENSING	\$1,170.00	\$249.71	\$920.29	21.34%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-4200-86	NETWORK	\$3,571.00	\$3,570.96	\$0.04	100.00%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-4200-86	OFFICE EQUIPMENT	\$8,329.00	\$5,930.41	\$2,398.59	71.20%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-4200-86	HEY GOV/TOWN WEB/SOFTWARE	\$9,500.00	\$7,860.02	\$1,639.98	82.74%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-4200-87	CODE ENFORCEMENT-MINIMUM HOUSING	\$27,000.00	\$1,562.88	\$25,437.12	5.79%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-4200-87	Capital Outlay Building	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	0.00%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-4200-89	Contingency	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	0.00%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-4300-84	Elections	\$1,200.00	\$810.96	\$389.04	67.58%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-5600-80	Salaries	\$37,900.00	\$36,374.35	\$1,525.65	95.97%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-5600-80	Social Security	\$2,532.00	\$2,463.20	\$68.80	97.28%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-5600-80	Medicare	\$772.00	\$576.11	\$195.89	74.63%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-5600-81	Utilities	\$17,180.00	\$12,561.90	\$4,618.10	73.12%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-5600-81	Maintenance Equipment	\$1,120.00	\$1,114.79	\$5.21	99.53%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-5600-81	Maintenance Truck	\$1,900.00	\$1,558.23	\$341.77	82.01%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-5600-83	FUEL/GAS	\$4,319.00	\$3,486.45	\$832.55	80.72%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-5600-83	Departmental Supplies	\$10,250.00	\$8,776.78	\$1,473.22	85.63%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-5600-84	Contracted Services	\$5,525.95	\$1,679.23	\$3,846.72	30.39%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-5600-84	GASTON CO LANDFILL (YARD WASTE)	\$4,000.00	\$915.45	\$3,084.55	22.89%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-5600-85	Dues & Fees	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	0.00%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-5600-87	Capital Outlay	\$974.05	\$974.05	\$0.00	100.00%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-5600-87	Capital Lease	\$10,050.00	\$400.00	\$9,650.00	3.98%

Fund Or Attrib	Type	Acct Num	Acct Name	Budget	YTD	Variance	Prcnt
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-5600-89	Contingency	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	0.00%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-5700-87	Capital Outlay- Equipment	\$16,000.00	\$18,553.57	(\$2,553.57)	115.96%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-5700-87	LEASE PAYMENTS-WELLS FARGO (POWELL)	\$2,000.00	\$2,244.58	(\$244.58)	112.23%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-5700-87	LEASE PAYMENTS-JD FINANCIAL (POWELL)	\$0.00	\$1,948.10	(\$1,948.10)	0.00%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-5700-87	Powell Bill- Repairs Streets	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	0.00%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-5800-80	Sanitation Salaries	\$18,303.00	\$18,955.39	(\$652.39)	103.56%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-5800-80	Social Security	\$1,435.00	\$1,175.24	\$259.76	81.90%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-5800-80	Medicare	\$335.00	\$274.85	\$60.15	82.04%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-5800-81	Maintenance Truck including tires	\$12,697.00	\$12,345.08	\$351.92	97.23%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-5800-83	FUEL/GAS	\$3,400.00	\$2,213.38	\$1,186.62	65.10%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-5800-83	Departmental Supplies	\$300.00	\$234.54	\$65.46	78.18%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-5800-84	GC Landfill (Dumping charges)	\$8,641.25	\$8,931.76	(\$290.51)	103.36%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-5800-85	Fees	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$30.00	0.00%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-5800-85	Miscellaneous	\$29,858.75	\$29,858.75	\$0.00	100.00%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-6200-80	Salaries	\$23,219.29	\$18,089.21	\$5,130.08	77.91%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-6200-80	FICA	\$1,550.00	\$1,121.52	\$428.48	72.36%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-6200-80	Medicare	\$363.00	\$262.31	\$100.69	72.26%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-6200-81	Utilities	\$6,320.00	\$4,908.19	\$1,411.81	77.66%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-6200-83	Departmental Supplies	\$6,280.71	\$5,499.55	\$781.16	87.56%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-6200-84	Contracted Services	\$9,000.00	\$2,952.44	\$6,047.56	32.80%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-6200-85	Sponsored Events	\$5,000.00	\$703.66	\$4,296.34	14.07%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-6200-86	MILL PROPERTY	\$10,000.00	\$3,331.00	\$6,669.00	33.31%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-6200-87	Prepaid Park Maintenance	\$3,000.00	\$2,793.00	\$207.00	93.10%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-6400-80	Salaries	\$21,000.00	\$10,973.34	\$10,026.66	52.25%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-6400-80	Social Security	\$1,302.00	\$747.14	\$554.86	57.38%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-6400-80	Medicare	\$1,805.00	\$1,251.83	\$553.17	69.35%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-6400-81	Maintenance	\$500.00	\$57.67	\$442.33	11.53%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-6400-84	Contracted Services	\$6,500.00	\$5,844.15	\$655.85	89.91%
10 GENERAL FU	Expenses	10-6400-89	Contingency	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$800.00	0.00%
Fund Or Attrib: 30 WATER & SEWER				\$655,943.00	\$485,422.31	\$170,520.69	74%
Type: Revenues				\$1,311,886.00	\$956,117.47	\$355,768.53	73%
30 WATER & SE	Revenues	30-3710-00	Water Charges	\$140,000.00	\$92,613.31	(\$47,386.69)	66.15%
30 WATER & SE	Revenues	30-3715-00	Water Taps	\$6,400.00	\$0.00	(\$6,400.00)	0.00%
30 WATER & SE	Revenues	30-3720-00	Sewer Charges	\$140,000.00	\$80,850.31	(\$59,149.69)	57.75%
30 WATER & SE	Revenues	30-3725-00	Sewer Taps	\$3,200.00	\$0.00	(\$3,200.00)	0.00%
30 WATER & SE	Revenues	30-3740-00	Returned Check Fees	\$60.00	\$30.00	(\$30.00)	50.00%

Fund Or Attrib	Type	Acct Num	Acct Name	Budget	YTD	Variance	Prcnt
30 WATER & SE Revenues		30-3746-00	PURCHASE OF WATER FROM SMALL BUSINESS (TO FILL TA	\$150.00	\$0.00	(\$150.00)	0.00%
30 WATER & SE Revenues		30-3750-00	Reconnect & Late Fees	\$6,000.00	\$4,903.11	(\$1,096.89)	81.72%
30 WATER & SE Revenues		30-3990-00	Fund Bal Appro.	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	(\$25,000.00)	0.00%
Type: Expenses				\$320,810.00	\$178,396.73	(\$142,413.27)	56%
30 WATER & SE Expenses		30-8100-80	Salaries	\$44,900.00	\$30,072.90	\$14,827.10	66.98%
30 WATER & SE Expenses		30-8100-80	Professional Services	\$500.00	\$12.00	\$488.00	2.40%
30 WATER & SE Expenses		30-8100-80	Social Security	\$2,784.00	\$1,864.47	\$919.53	66.97%
30 WATER & SE Expenses		30-8100-80	Medicare	\$652.00	\$436.09	\$215.91	66.88%
30 WATER & SE Expenses		30-8100-81	Telephone & Postage	\$2,400.00	\$2,272.81	\$127.19	94.70%
30 WATER & SE Expenses		30-8100-81	Printing	\$1.00	(\$1.00)	\$2.00	-100.00%
30 WATER & SE Expenses		30-8100-81	Travel	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	0.00%
30 WATER & SE Expenses		30-8100-81	Maintenance Equipment	\$1,000.00	\$29.98	\$970.02	3.00%
30 WATER & SE Expenses		30-8100-81	Maintenance Truck	\$500.00	\$372.60	\$127.40	74.52%
30 WATER & SE Expenses		30-8100-83	FUEL/GAS	\$2,099.00	\$2,083.25	\$15.75	99.25%
30 WATER & SE Expenses		30-8100-83	Chemicals & Supplies	\$3,800.00	\$3,494.99	\$305.01	91.97%
30 WATER & SE Expenses		30-8100-84	Contracted Services	\$19,000.00	\$11,149.62	\$7,850.38	58.68%
30 WATER & SE Expenses		30-8100-85	Water Purchase	\$45,000.00	\$36,019.37	\$8,980.63	80.04%
30 WATER & SE Expenses		30-8100-85	Dues & Fees	\$1,800.00	\$1,784.00	\$16.00	99.11%
30 WATER & SE Expenses		30-8100-85	Miscellaneous	\$14,900.00	\$10,995.65	\$3,904.35	73.80%
30 WATER & SE Expenses		30-8100-86	SOUTHERN SOFTWARE	\$5,000.00	\$4,831.00	\$169.00	96.62%
30 WATER & SE Expenses		30-8100-89	Contingency	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	0.00%
30 WATER & SE Expenses		30-8200-80	Salaries	\$22,000.00	\$19,344.33	\$2,655.67	87.93%
30 WATER & SE Expenses		30-8200-80	Social Security	\$1,360.00	\$1,199.37	\$160.63	88.19%
30 WATER & SE Expenses		30-8200-80	Medicare	\$300.00	\$280.64	\$19.36	93.55%
30 WATER & SE Expenses		30-8200-81	Telephone & Postage	\$600.00	\$170.97	\$429.03	28.50%
30 WATER & SE Expenses		30-8200-81	Utilities	\$5,500.00	\$3,467.90	\$2,032.10	63.05%
30 WATER & SE Expenses		30-8200-81	Education/ Schools	\$2,000.00	\$1,945.29	\$54.71	97.26%
30 WATER & SE Expenses		30-8200-81	Maintenance Truck	\$500.00	\$79.13	\$420.87	15.83%
30 WATER & SE Expenses		30-8200-82	SOUTHERN SOFTWARE	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	0.00%
30 WATER & SE Expenses		30-8200-83	FUEL/GAS	\$2,000.00	\$1,894.04	\$105.96	94.70%
30 WATER & SE Expenses		30-8200-83	Chemicals & Supplies	\$23,800.00	\$23,213.67	\$586.33	97.54%
30 WATER & SE Expenses		30-8200-84	Contracted Services	\$31,200.00	\$23,249.84	\$7,950.16	74.52%
30 WATER & SE Expenses		30-8200-85	SEWER PURCHASE	\$46,000.00	\$39,469.30	\$6,530.70	85.80%
30 WATER & SE Expenses		30-8200-85	Dues & Fees	\$590.00	\$0.00	\$590.00	0.00%
30 WATER & SE Expenses		30-8200-87	Sewer Lines	\$307.00	\$306.39	\$0.61	99.80%
30 WATER & SE Expenses		30-8200-87	Capital Outlay	\$10,093.00	\$9,581.25	\$511.75	94.93%
30 WATER & SE Expenses		30-8200-89	Contingency	\$8,724.00	\$0.00	\$8,724.00	0.00%

Fund Or Attrib	Type	Acct Num	Acct Name	Budget	YTD	Variance	Prcnt
				\$320,810.00	\$229,619.85	\$91,190.15	72%
				\$641,620.00	\$408,016.58	\$233,603.42	64%

Meeting Date: TUESDAY, April 14, 2026

Agenda Item: Water & Sewer Rate Adjustment

Prepared By: Brandi Strange

Subject

Consideration of a resolution to adjust water and sewer rates to ensure financial sustainability of the enterprise fund.

Summary

Staff recommends a targeted adjustment to water and sewer rates based on current financial performance, increasing operational costs, and infrastructure needs.

Recommended Action

Approve the proposed rate adjustment resolution effective with the next billing cycle.

City of High Shoals

Memorandum

To: Mayor & City Council

From: City Staff

Date: April 14, 2026

Subject: Water & Sewer Rate Adjustment

Background

The Water and Sewer Fund is designed to operate as a self-supporting enterprise fund, with user fees covering the cost of operations, maintenance, and infrastructure.

A review of current financials indicates that revenues are not sufficient to support expenditures, resulting in a projected operating deficit.

Current Financial Condition

- Water and sewer revenues are trending significantly below budget expectations
- Expenditures are on pace or exceeding budget
- The fund is projected to end the fiscal year with a substantial deficit

This condition was also noted during the most recent annual audit

Key Drivers

The current imbalance is primarily due to:

- **Rates not aligned with actual cost of service**

- **Increased operational and maintenance costs**
 - **Recent infrastructure failures (approximately \$8,000 in pump repairs)**
 - **Increased wholesale treatment costs from Gastonia**
 - **Collection challenges impacting realized revenue**
-

Proposed Rate Adjustments

Water Rates (Residential)

- **Base Rate: \$22.00**
 - **0–3,000 gallons: \$6.00 / 1,000 gallons**
 - **3,001+ gallons: \$7.25 / 1,000 gallons**
-

Sewer Rates (Residential)

- **Base Rate: \$23.00**
 - **0–4,000 gallons: \$7.50 / 1,000 gallons**
 - **4,001–5,000 gallons: \$9.25 / 1,000 gallons**
 - **5,001–6,000 gallons: \$12.25 / 1,000 gallons**
 - **6,001–10,000 gallons: \$15.25 / 1,000 gallons**
 - **10,001+ gallons: \$18.25 / 1,000 gallons**
-

Water & Sewer Rate Adjustment Packet

Proposed Rate Structure

Residential & Small Business Water

Base: \$22.00

0–3,000 gallons: \$6.00 per 1,000

3,001+ gallons: \$7.25 per 1,000

Residential & Small Business Sewer

Base: \$23.00

0–4,000: \$7.50

4,001–5,000: \$9.25

5,001–6,000: \$12.25
6,001–10,000: \$15.25
10,001+: \$18.25

Apartment Water

Base: \$1,250
High usage: \$12.50–\$13.50 per 1,000 gallons

Apartment Sewer

Base: \$550
Usage: \$22.00–\$24.00 per 1,000 gallons

Apartment Laundry

Base: \$40
0–3,000 included
3,001–10,000: \$7.50–\$8.00
10,001+: \$16.50–\$18.00

Utility Policy

Bills issued ~25th
Due date: 10th
Cutoff: ~20th
Bills serve as notice.

Assistance Program

Eligibility: \$400+
Pay \$100 or 10% (whichever is greater)
Auto-draft required
6 months compliance
Failure = cutoff and removal of

Impact

The proposed adjustments are expected to:

- Increase overall revenue by approximately **25–30%**
 - Stabilize the Water and Sewer Fund
 - Reduce reliance on fund balance or external support
 - Ensure continued reliable service delivery
-

Conclusion

Without adjustment, the Water and Sewer Fund will continue to operate at a deficit, placing long-term strain on the City's financial position.

This recommendation represents a proactive approach to maintaining financial stability and service reliability.

Recommendation

Approve the proposed rate adjustments effective with the next billing cycle.

- The water and sewer fund is intended to be self-supporting
- Current revenues are not keeping pace with expenses
- This issue was identified during the last audit
- Costs have increased, including:
 - Wholesale treatment from Gastonia
 - Recent \$8,000 pump repairs
- These are necessary and unavoidable costs
- The current rate structure does not reflect the true cost of providing service
- If no action is taken, the deficit will continue to grow
- The proposed adjustment:
 - Balances base and usage charges
 - Maintains fairness across customers
 - Stabilizes the system financially
- This is a proactive step to avoid larger increases in the future
- Staff recommends implementation with the next billing cycle

Residential Monthly Bill Comparison

Usage	Current Water	Proposed Water	Current Sewer	Proposed Sewer	Total Current	Total Proposed
2,000 gal	\$26.55	\$34.00	~\$29.23	~\$38.00	~\$55.78	~\$72.00
4,000 gal	\$37.88	\$47.25	~\$42.21	~\$53.00	~\$80.09	~\$100.25
6,000 gal	\$50.24	\$61.75	~\$63.85	~\$78.00	~\$114.09	~\$139.75

What This Adjustment Achieves

- Stabilizes the Water & Sewer Fund
 - Aligns rates with actual cost of service
 - Addresses increased wholesale and infrastructure costs
 - Reduces long-term financial risk
-

Key Message

“This adjustment ensures the system can support itself and continue providing reliable service without impacting the General Fund.”

“This gets us back on track, but with rising costs — particularly from Gastonia and ongoing infrastructure needs — we’ll need to continue evaluating rates annually to make sure the system stays sustainable.”

City of High Shoals

Water & Sewer Rate Review and Adjustment Packet

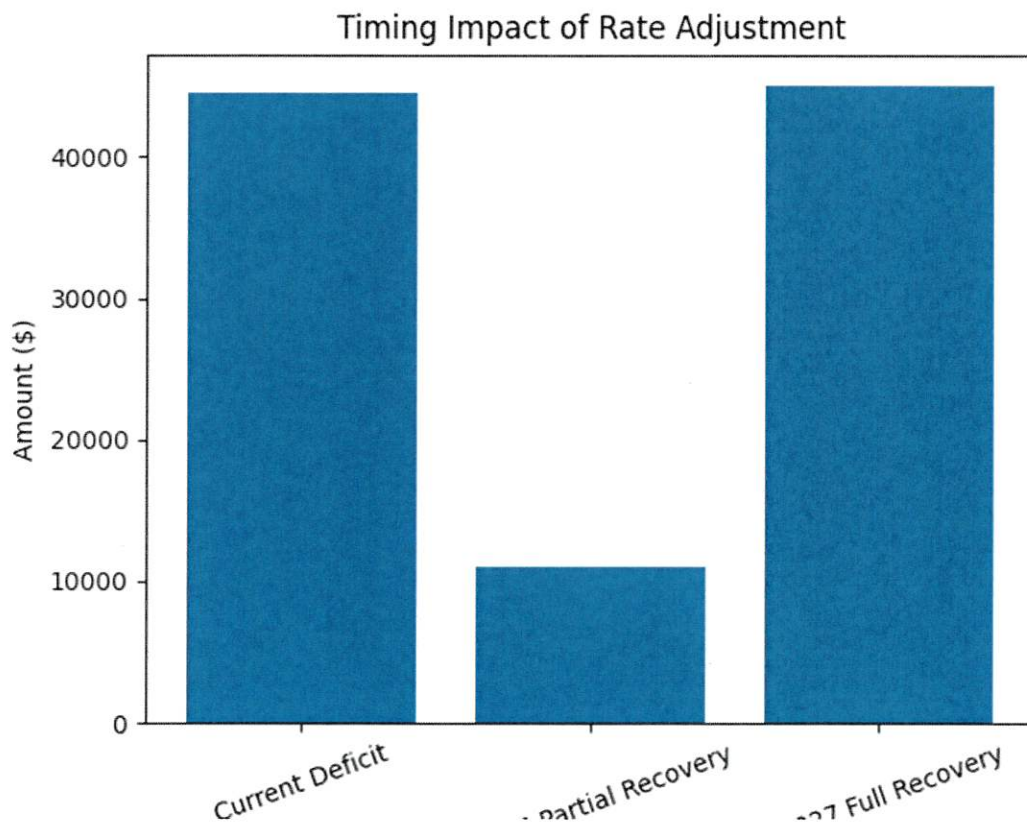
Meeting Date: April 14, 2026

“This adjustment will not fully eliminate the deficit in the current fiscal year due to timing, but it significantly reduces the impact and positions the system to be balanced in the next fiscal year.”

“Without action, the full deficit continues. With this adjustment, we reduce this year’s impact and fully correct the issue going forward.”

- **Timing Impact of Rate Adjustment**

- This visual demonstrates the difference between partial-year impact and full-year recovery.



-
- FY2026: Partial recovery (~\$10K-\$12K)
FY2027: Full recovery (~\$40K-\$50K)

This adjustment stabilizes the system immediately and fully corrects the deficit in the next fiscal year.

Financial Impact

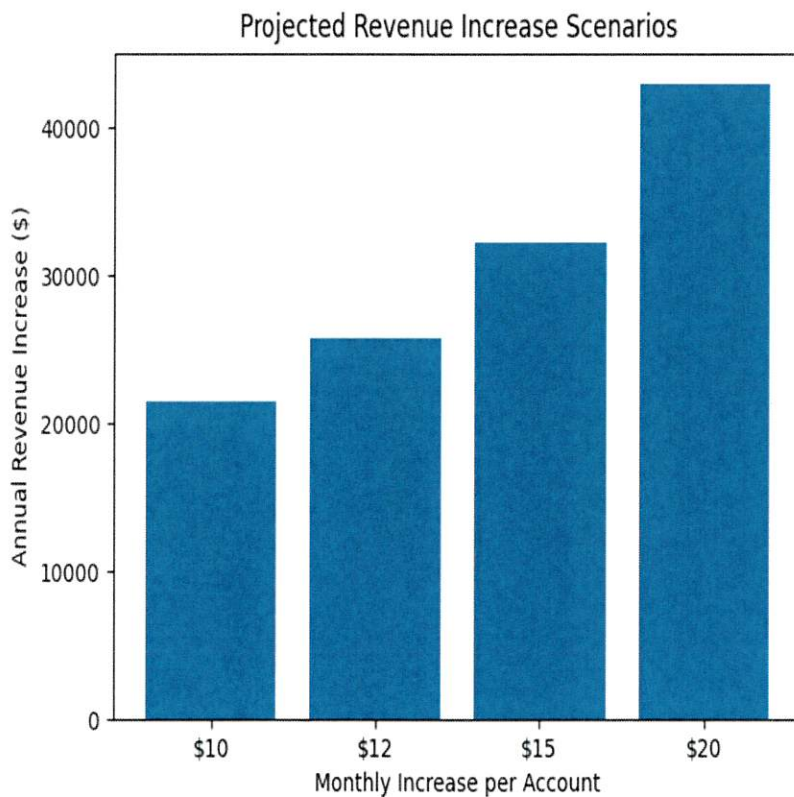
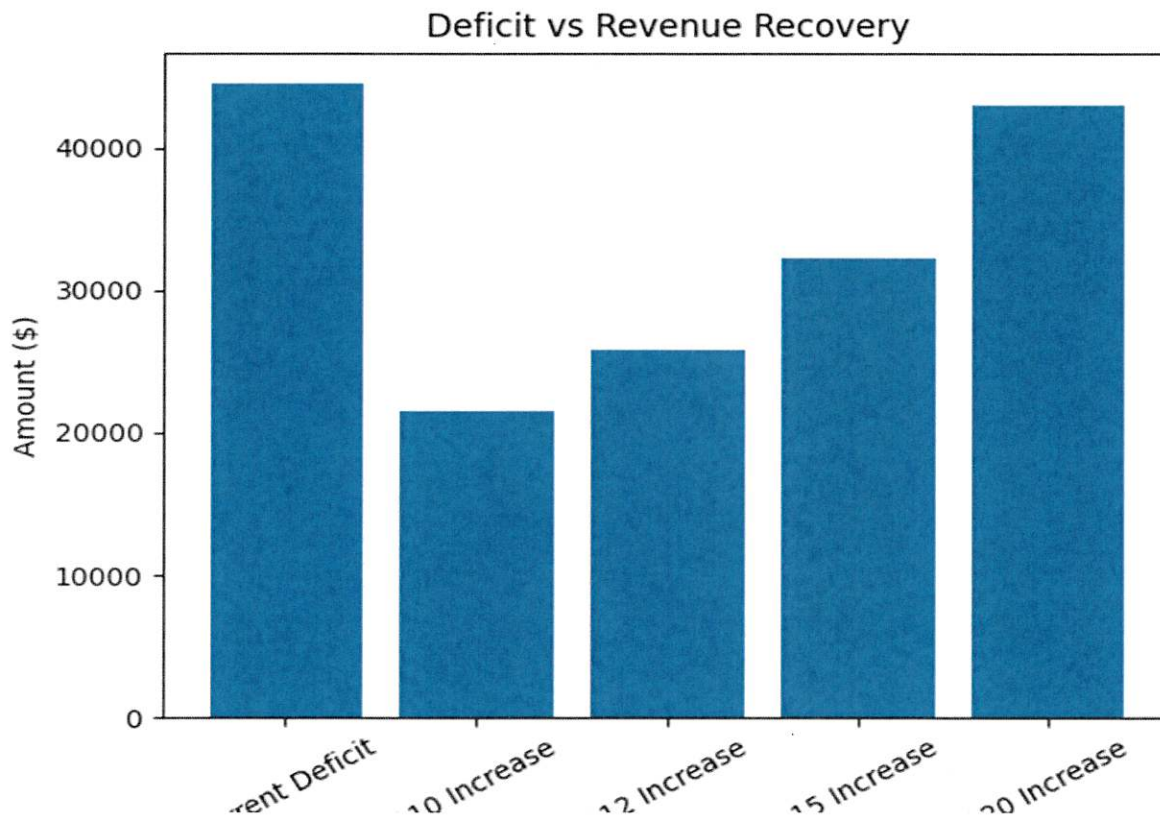
To offset the FY2025 deficit of approximately \$44,500:

- \$248 per account annually
- \$20.65 per account per month

(Based on 179 sewer accounts)

Projected Revenue Increase

Deficit vs Revenue Recovery



Key Takeaway

A \$20/month increase per account nearly eliminates the current operating deficit

CITY OF HIGH SHOALS
RESOLUTION TO AMEND WATER AND SEWER RATES

WHEREAS, the City operates a water and sewer system intended to function as a self-supporting enterprise fund; and

WHEREAS, current rates are insufficient to cover the cost of operations, maintenance, and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, increased operational costs, wholesale treatment charges, and recent infrastructure failures have created additional financial pressure;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

Section 1. Water Rates

- Base Rate: \$22.00
 - 0–3,000 gallons: \$6.00 per 1,000 gallons
 - 3,001+ gallons: \$7.25 per 1,000 gallons
-

Section 2. Sewer Rates

- Base Rate: \$23.00
 - 0–4,000 gallons: \$7.50 per 1,000 gallons
 - 4,001–5,000 gallons: \$9.25 per 1,000 gallons
 - 5,001–6,000 gallons: \$12.25 per 1,000 gallons
 - 6,001–10,000 gallons: \$15.25 per 1,000 gallons
 - 10,001+ gallons: \$18.25 per 1,000 gallons
-

Section 3. Effective Date

This resolution shall become effective with the next billing cycle following adoption.

Adopted this ___ day of _____, 2026.

Mayor

City Clerk

EDDIE CARRICK, CPA, PC

Certified Public Accountant

April 3, 2026

Dear Municipal Client,

Enclosed are three important documents pertaining to your June 30, 2026, audit – the audit engagement letter, the non-attest services engagement letter, and audit contract. The Local Government Commission (LGC) is requiring me to submit both the audit engagement letter and the audit contract simultaneously for their review and approval.

The following are instructions to ensure acceptance by the LGC.

1. Engagement Letter – Eddie Carrick CPA, PC

- Please read and sign by appropriate official- i.e., Mayor or Finance Officer **plus** Board member.

2. Audit Contract

- Mayor or Chairperson must type or print name and title, e-mail address, sign and date contract in the **“Governmental Unit”** section on page 8. **Also**, enter the **“Date Primary Government Unit Governing Board Approved Audit Contract.”**
- Finance Officer must type or print name, sign, date and enter e-mail address in the **“Pre-Audit Certificate”** section on page 8.

*** NOTE*** page 5, note 28.

Starting with audit year June 30, 2021, “the auditor shall present the audited financial statements including any compliance reports to the governments unit’s governing body or audit committee in an official meeting in open session as soon as the audited statements are available but not later than 45 days after the submission of the audit report to the Secretary.”

After all of the above instructions are complete, please return **all** documents to me for submission to the LGC.

Please don’t hesitate to call me with any questions you may have.

Thank you,



Eddie Carrick CPA, PC

The	Governing Board TOWN COUNCIL
of	Primary Government Unit CITY OF HIGH SHOALS
and	Discretely Presented Component Unit (DPCU) (if applicable) NA

Primary Government Unit, together with DPCU (if applicable), hereinafter referred to as Governmental Unit(s)

and	Auditor Name EDDIE CARRICK, CPA PC
	Auditor Address 151 YOUNG DR, LEXINGTON NC 27292

Hereinafter referred to as Auditor

for	Fiscal Year Ending 06/30/26	Date Audit Will Be Submitted to LGC 12/31/26
-----	--------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------

Must be within six months of FYE

hereby agree as follows:

1. The Auditor shall audit all statements and disclosures required by "U.S. Auditing Standards – AICPA (Clarified)," referred to as generally accepted auditing standards (GAAS) and additional required legal statements and disclosures of all funds and/or divisions of the Governmental Unit(s). The non-major combining, and individual fund statements and schedules shall be subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and an opinion shall be rendered in relation to (as applicable) the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate DPCUs, each major governmental and enterprise fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information (non-major government and enterprise funds, the internal service fund type, and the fiduciary fund types). Budgetary comparison information shall be prepared in accordance with applicable GASB standards. Budget-to-actual comparisons at the level of the legally adopted budget ordinance shall be presented as required supplementary information and shall not be included in the basic financial statements. Any other budgetary comparison information shall be presented only as supplementary information for funds required to be budgeted under NCGS Chapter 159, Article 3.

2. At a minimum, the Auditor shall conduct the audit and render the report in accordance with GAAS. If the Governmental Unit expended \$100,000 or more in combined Federal and State financial assistance during the reporting period, the Auditor shall perform the audit in accordance with *Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS)*. The Governmental Unit is subject to federal single audit requirements in accordance with Title 2 US Code of Federal Regulations Part 200 *Uniform Administration Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, Subpart F (Uniform Guidance)* and the State Single Audit Implementation Act. Currently the threshold is \$1,000,000 for federal and state single audits, or such other threshold as applicable for the fiscal year under audit. This audit and all associated audit documentation may be subject to review by federal and State agencies in accordance with federal and State laws, including the staff of the Office of State Auditor (OSA) and the Local Government Commission (LGC). If the audit requires a federal single audit in accordance with the Uniform Guidance (§200.501) the Auditor and Governmental Unit(s) should discuss, in advance of the execution of this contract, the responsibility for submission of the audit and the accompanying data collection form (form SF-FAC) to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse as required under the Uniform Guidance (§200.512) to ensure proper submission.

If the audit and Auditor communication are found in this review to be substandard, the results of the review may be forwarded to the North Carolina State Board of CPA Examiners (NC State Board).

3. If an entity is determined to be a component of another government as defined by the group audit standards, the entity's auditor shall make a good faith effort to comply in a timely manner with the requests of the group auditor in accordance with AU-6 §600.41 - §600.42.

4. This contract contemplates an unmodified opinion being rendered. If during the process of conducting the audit, the Auditor determines that it will not be possible to render an unmodified opinion on the financial statements of the unit, the Auditor shall contact the LGC Staff to discuss the circumstances leading to that conclusion as soon as is practical and before the final report is issued. The audit shall include such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as are considered by the Auditor to be necessary in the circumstances. Any limitations or restrictions in scope which would lead to a qualification should be fully explained in an attachment to this contract.

5. If this audit engagement is subject to the standards for audit as defined in *Government Auditing Standards* (2018 revision or subsequent revisions, as applicable) issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, then by accepting this engagement, the Auditor warrants that he or she has met the requirements for a peer review and continuing education as specified in *Government Auditing Standards*. The Auditor agrees to provide a copy of the most recent peer review report to the Governmental Unit(s) and to the Secretary of the LGC prior to the execution of an audit contract. Subsequent submissions of the report are required only upon report expiration or upon the Auditor's receipt of an updated peer review report. If the audit firm receives a peer review rating other than pass, the Auditor shall not contract with the Governmental Unit(s) without first contacting the Secretary of the LGC for a peer review analysis that may result in additional contractual requirements.

If the audit engagement is not subject to *Government Auditing Standards* or if financial statements are not prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and fail to include all disclosures required by GAAP, the Auditor shall provide an explanation as to why in an attachment to this contract or in an amendment.

6. It is agreed that time is of the essence in this contract. All audits are to be performed, and the report of audit submitted to LGC Staff, within six months of fiscal year end. At the time of the execution of this contract, if the parties know that the anticipated submission date of the audit exceeds six months after fiscal year end, a written explanation shall be provided to the Secretary of the LGC on this contract form (see the space provided on Page 7). If it becomes necessary to amend the audit fee or the date that the audit report will be submitted to the LGC, an amended contract along with a written explanation of the change shall be submitted to the Secretary of the LGC for approval.

7. It is agreed that GAAS include a review of the Governmental Unit's (Units') systems of internal control and accounting as they relate to accountability of funds and adherence to budget and law requirements applicable thereto; that the Auditor shall make a written report, which may or may not be a part of the written report of audit, to the Governing Board setting forth the Auditor's findings, together with his or her recommendations for improvement. That written report shall include all matters determined to be "significant deficiencies and material weaknesses" in accordance with AU-C §265 "Communicating Internal Control Related Matters Identified in an Audit" of GAAS. The Auditor shall file a copy of that report with the Secretary of the LGC.

For GAAS or *Government Auditing Standards* audits, if an Auditor issues an AU-C §260 report, "Auditor's Communication With Those Charged With Governance," commonly referred to as a "Governance Letter," LGC staff does not require the report to be submitted unless the Auditor cites significant findings or issues from the audit, as defined in AU-C §260 paragraphs 12 - 14. This would include issues such as difficulties encountered during the audit, significant or unusual transactions, uncorrected misstatements, matters that are difficult or contentious for which the Auditor consulted outside the engagement team and, in the Auditor's judgment, are significant and relevant to those charged with governance, and other findings or issues that the Auditor believes are significant and relevant. If matters identified during the audit were required to be reported as described in AU-C §260 paragraphs 12 - 14 and were communicated in a method other than an AU-C §260 letter, the written documentation must be submitted.

8. All local government and public authority contracts for audit or audit-related work require the approval of the Secretary of the LGC. This includes annual or special audits, agreed upon procedures related to internal controls, bookkeeping or other assistance necessary to prepare the Governmental Unit's records for audit, financial statement preparation, any finance-related investigations, or any other audit-related work in the State of North Carolina. Approval is also required for the Alternative Compliance Examination Engagement for auditing the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds expenditures as allowed by US Treasury. Approval is not required on audit contracts and invoices for system improvements and similar services of a non-auditing nature.

9. Invoices for services rendered under these contracts shall not be paid by the Governmental Unit(s) until the invoice has been approved by the Secretary of the LGC. This also includes any progress billings [G.S. 159-34 and 115C-447]. All invoices for audit work shall be submitted in PDF format to the Secretary of the LGC for approval. The invoice marked 'approved' with approval date shall be returned to the Auditor to present to the Governmental Unit(s) for payment. This paragraph is not applicable to contracts for audits of hospitals.

10. In consideration of the satisfactory performance of the provisions of this contract, the Governmental Unit(s) shall pay to the Auditor, upon approval by the Secretary of the LGC if required, the fee, which includes any costs the Auditor may incur from work paper or peer reviews or any other quality assurance program required by third parties (federal and state grantor and oversight agencies or other organizations) as required under the Federal Single Audit Act and the State Single Audit Act. This does not include fees for any pre-issuance reviews that may be required by the North Carolina Association of Certified Public Accountants (NCACPA) Peer Review Committee or North Carolina State Board of CPA Examiners (see Paragraph 13).

11. If the Governmental Unit(s) has/have outstanding revenue bonds, the Auditor shall submit to LGC Staff, either in the notes to the audited financial statements or as a separate report, a calculation demonstrating compliance with the revenue bond rate covenant. Additionally, the Auditor shall submit to LGC Staff simultaneously with the Governmental Unit's (Units') audited financial statements any other bond compliance statements or additional reports required by the authorizing bond documents, unless otherwise specified in the bond documents.

12. After completing the audit, the Auditor shall submit to the Governing Board a written report of audit. This report shall include, but not be limited to, the following information: (a) Management's Discussion and Analysis, (b) the financial statements and notes of the Governmental Unit(s) and all of its component units prepared in accordance with GAAP, (c) supplementary information requested by the Governmental Unit(s) or required for full disclosure under the law, and (d) the Auditor's opinion on the material presented. The Auditor shall furnish the required number of copies of the report of audit to the Governing Board upon completion.

13. If the audit firm is required by the Secretary of the Local Government Commission to obtain a pre-issuance review or take corrective action as a result of peer review findings or quality control deficiencies, such corrective action shall be consistent with the authority and requirements of the North Carolina State Board of Certified Public Accountant Examiners, the AICPA Peer Review Program, and established Local Government Commission practice, including the use of report addenda or other remedial measures, as appropriate.

14. In accordance with G.S. 159-34, the Finance Officer of the Unit is responsible for filing the audited financial statements with the Secretary of the Local Government Commission.

The Auditor may upload the audit report and related documents through the LGC's electronic submission system; however, submission shall not be deemed complete until the Finance Officer has reviewed and certified the submission.

The Auditor, Finance Officer, other Unit staff member designated by the Finance Officer, or a third party approved by the Unit may enter all Data Input Report information except the information on the "transmittal doc info" tab. The "transmittal doc info" tab must be completed by the Auditor.

The Finance Officer shall review, approve, and certify the accuracy and completeness of the Data Input Report (DIR) in the LGC's LOGOS system prior to LGC review, regardless of whether the DIR is prepared by the Auditor or the Unit.

Finance Officer certification is required for any corrected or revised submissions.

Finance Officer certification of the DIR shall be completed in a timely manner following notification that the DIR is ready for review and within time frames prescribed by the LGC. Failure to complete certification in a timely manner may result in the audit being considered late due to unit action rather than auditor performance

The Auditor shall conduct the audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and shall ensure that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles as of the fiscal year end. Budget-to-actual comparisons at the level of the legally adopted budget ordinance shall be presented in required supplementary information, separate from the basic financial statements, and shall not be included in the audit opinion. The Auditor shall confirm that such information reconciles to the financial statements and is consistent with applicable accounting guidance and any LGC reporting requirements.

The Finance Officer shall certify in a timely manner that all data inputted in LOGOS used for preparation of the financial statements and required supplementary information is complete and accurate.

For audits of units other than hospitals, the audit report should be submitted when (or prior to) submitting the final invoice for services rendered. The report of audit, as filed with the Secretary of the LGC, becomes a matter of public record for inspection, review and copy in the offices of the LGC by any interested parties. Any subsequent revisions to these reports shall be sent to the Secretary of the LGC. These audited financial statements, excluding the Auditors' opinion, may be used in the preparation of official statements for debt offerings by municipal bond rating services to fulfill secondary market disclosure requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission and for other lawful purposes of the Governmental Unit(s) without requiring consent of the Auditor. If the LGC Staff determines that corrections need to be made to the Governmental Unit's (Units') financial statements and/or the compliance section, those corrections shall be provided within three business days of notification unless another deadline is agreed to by LGC Staff.

15. Should circumstances disclosed by the audit call for a more detailed investigation by the Auditor than necessary under ordinary circumstances, the Auditor shall inform the Governing Board in writing of the need for such additional investigation and the additional compensation required therefore. Upon approval by the Secretary of the LGC, this contract may be modified or amended to include the increased time, compensation, or both as may be agreed upon by the Governing Board and the Auditor.

16. If an approved contract needs to be modified or amended for any reason, the change shall be made in writing and preaudited if the change includes a change in audit fee (preaudit requirement does not apply to hospitals). This amended contract shall be completed in full, including a written explanation of the change, signed and dated by all original parties to the contract. It shall then be submitted to the Secretary of the LGC for approval. No change to the audit contract shall be effective unless approved by the Secretary of the LGC.

17. A copy of the engagement letter, issued by the Auditor and signed by both the Auditor and the Governmental Unit(s), shall be attached to this contract, and except for fees, work, and terms not related to audit services, shall be incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein as part of this contract. In case of conflict between the terms of the engagement letter and the terms of this contract, the terms of this contract shall take precedence. Engagement letter terms that conflict with the contract are deemed to be void unless the conflicting terms of this contract are specifically deleted in Paragraph 30 of this contract. Engagement letters containing indemnification clauses shall not be accepted by LGC Staff.

18. Special provisions should be limited. Please list any special provisions in an attachment.

19. A separate contract should not be made for each division to be audited or report to be submitted. If a DPCU is subject to the audit requirements detailed in The Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act and a separate audit report is issued, a separate audit contract is required. If a separate report is not to be issued and the DPCU is included in the primary government audit, the DPCU shall be named along with the primary government on this audit contract. DPCU Board approval date, signatures from the DPCU Board chairman and Finance Officer also shall be included on this contract.

20. The contract shall be executed, preaudited (preaudit requirement does not apply to hospitals) and physically signed by all parties including Governmental Unit(s) and the Auditor, then submitted in PDF format to the Secretary of the LGC.

21. The contract is not valid until it is approved by the Secretary of the LGC. The staff of the LGC shall notify the Governmental Unit and Auditor of contract approval by email. The audit should not be started before the contract is approved.

22. Retention of Client Records: Auditors are subject to the NC State Board of CPA Examiners' Retention of Client Records Rule 21 NCAC 08N .0305 as it relates to the provision of audit and other attest services, as well as non-attest services. Clients and former clients should be familiar with the requirements of this rule prior to requesting the return of records.

23. This contract may be terminated at any time by mutual consent and agreement of the Governmental Unit(s) and the Auditor, provided that (a) the consent to terminate is in writing and signed by both parties, (b) the parties have agreed on the fee amount which shall be paid to the Auditor (if applicable), and (c) no termination shall be effective until approved in writing by the Secretary of the LGC.
24. The Governmental Unit's (Units') failure or forbearance to enforce, or waiver of, any right or an event of breach or default on one occasion or instance shall not constitute the waiver of such right, breach or default on any subsequent occasion or instance.
25. There are no other agreements between the parties hereto and no other agreements relative hereto that shall be enforceable unless entered into in accordance with the procedure set out herein and approved by the Secretary of the LGC.
26. E-Verify. The Auditor shall comply with the requirements of NCGS Chapter 64 Article 2. Further, if the Auditor utilizes any subcontractor(s), Auditor shall require such subcontractor(s) to comply with the requirements of NCGS Chapter 64, Article 2.
27. For all non-attest services, the Auditor shall adhere to the independence rules of the AICPA Professional Code of Conduct and *Government Auditing Standards, 2018 or 2024 Revision* (as applicable). Preparing financial statements in their entirety shall be deemed a "significant threat" requiring the Auditor to apply safeguards sufficient to reduce the threat to an acceptable level. If the Auditor cannot reduce the threats to an acceptable level, the Auditor cannot complete the audit. If the Auditor is able to reduce the threats to an acceptable level, the documentation of this determination, including the safeguards applied, must be included in the audit workpapers.

All non-attest service(s) being performed by the Auditor that are necessary to perform the audit must be identified and included in this contract. The Governmental Unit shall designate an individual with the suitable skills, knowledge, and/or experience (SKE) necessary to oversee the services and accept responsibility for the results of the services performed. If the Auditor is able to identify an individual with the appropriate SKE, the Auditor must document and include in the audit workpapers how the Auditor reached that conclusion. If the Auditor determines that an individual with the appropriate SKE cannot be identified, the Auditor cannot perform both the non-attest service(s) and the audit. See "Fees for Audit Services" page of this contract to disclose the person identified as having the appropriate SKE for the Governmental Unit.

28. **Applicable to audits with fiscal year ends of June 30, 2021 and later.** The Auditor shall present the audited financial statements including any compliance reports to the Government Unit's Governing Board or audit committee in an official meeting in open session as soon as the audited financial statements are available but not later than 45 days after the submission of the audit report to the Secretary of the LGC. The Auditor's presentation to the Governing Board or audit committee shall include:
- a) the description of each finding, including all material weaknesses and significant deficiencies, as found by the Auditor, and any other issues related to the internal controls or fiscal health of the Government Unit as disclosed in the management letter, the Single Audit or Yellow Book reports, or any other communications from the Auditor regarding internal controls as required by current auditing standards;
 - b) the status of the prior year audit findings;
 - c) the values of Financial Performance Indicators based on information presented in the audited financial statements; and
 - d) notification to the Governing Board that the Governing Board shall develop a "Response to the Auditor's Findings, Recommendations, and Fiscal Matters," if required under Rule 20 NCAC 03 .0508.

29. Information based on the audited financial statements shall be submitted to the Secretary of the LGC through the LGC's LOGOS system, including completion of the Data Input Report (DIR). Submission is not complete and shall not be accepted by the LGC until the Finance Officer has reviewed and certified the DIR in accordance with Paragraph 14 of this contract.

30. All of the above paragraphs are understood and shall apply to this contract, except the following numbered paragraphs shall be deleted (See Paragraph 17 for clarification).

31. The process for submitting contracts, audit reports and invoices is subject to change. Auditors and Units should use the submission process and instructions in effect at the time of submission. Refer to the N.C. Department of State Treasurer website at <https://www.nctreasurer.com/state-and-local-government-finance-division/local-government-commission/submitting-your-audit>.

32. All communications regarding audit contract requests for modification or official approvals will be sent to the email addresses provided on the signature pages that follow.

33. **Applicable to audits with fiscal year ends of June 30, 2025, and later.** The Unit authorizes the LGC to grant access to the LGC's LOGOS system, including the Data Input Report (DIR), to employees of the contracted audit firm who are associated with and acting on behalf of the firm for purposes of performing audit and reporting services under this contract. Such access shall be limited to the scope necessary to perform contracted services and shall not relieve the Auditor or the Unit of their respective responsibilities under this contract.

34. Changes or edits to the text of this contract form are not permitted, except for the Secretary's authority to revise or update this contract form pursuant to LGC Rule 20 NCAC 03. 0502.

For contracts with an anticipated audit submission date exceeding six months after fiscal year end, please use this space to explain the reason for the late submission, as required by Paragraph 6 of this contract form:

FEEES FOR AUDIT SERVICES

1. For all non-attest services, the Auditor shall adhere to the independence rules of the AICPA Professional Code of Conduct (as applicable) and *Government Auditing Standards, 2018 Revision*. Refer to Paragraph 27 of this contract for specific requirements. The following information must be provided by the Auditor; contracts presented to the LGC without this information will be not be approved.

Financial statements were prepared by: Auditor Governmental Unit Third Party

If applicable: The individual at the Governmental Unit designated to have the suitable skills, knowledge, and/or experience (SKE) necessary to oversee the non-attest services and accept responsibility for the results of these services:

Name:	Title and Unit / Company:	Email Address:
<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>

OR Not Applicable (Identification of SKE Individual on the LGC-205 Contract is not applicable for GAAS-only audits or audits with FYEs prior to June 30, 2020.)

2. Fees may not be included in this contract for work performed on Annual Financial Information Reports (AFIRs), Form 990s, or other services not associated with audit fees and costs. Such fees may be included in the engagement letter but may not be included in this contract or in any invoices requiring approval of the LGC. See Paragraphs 8 and 13 for details on other allowable and excluded fees.

3. The audit fee information included in the table below for both the Primary Government Fees and the DPCU Fees (if applicable) should be reported as a specific dollar amount of audit fees for the year under this contract. If any language other than an amount is included here, the contract will be returned to the audit firm for correction.

4. Prior to the submission of the completed audited financial report and applicable compliance reports subject to this contract, or to an amendment to this contract (if required) the Auditor may submit interim invoices for approval for services rendered under this contract to the Secretary of the LGC, not to exceed 75% of the billings for the Unit's last annual audit that was submitted to the Secretary of the LGC. All invoices for services rendered in an audit engagement as defined in Rule 20 NCAC .0503 shall be submitted to the Secretary of the LGC for approval before any payment is made. Payment before approval is a violation of law. (This paragraph not applicable to contracts and invoices associated with audits of hospitals).

Primary Government Unit	CITY OF HIGH SHOALS
Audit Fee (financial and compliance if applicable)	\$ 6,000
Fee per Major Program (if not included above)	\$ 2,000
Additional Fees Not Included Above (if applicable):	
Financial Statement Preparation (incl. notes and RSI)	\$
All Other Non-Attest Services	\$
TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED	\$ 10,000






Discretely Presented Component Unit	NA
Audit Fee (financial and compliance if applicable)	\$
Fee per Major Program (if not included above)	\$
Additional Fees Not Included Above (if applicable):	
Financial Statement Preparation (incl. notes and RSI)	\$
All Other Non-Attest Services	\$
TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED	\$

SIGNATURE PAGE

AUDIT FIRM

Audit Firm* EDDIE CARRICK, CPA PC	
Authorized Firm Representative (typed or printed)* EDDIE CARRICK	Signature*
Date*	Email Address* EDDIE@EDDIECARRICKCPA.COM

GOVERNMENTAL UNIT



Governmental Unit* CITY OF HIGH SHOALS	
Date Governing Board Approved Audit Contract* (Enter date in box to right)	
Mayor/Chairperson (typed or printed)* 	Signature* 
Date 	Email Address* 

Chair of Audit Committee (typed or printed, or "NA")	Signature
Date	Email Address

GOVERNMENTAL UNIT – PREAUDIT CERTIFICATE

Required by G.S. 159-28(a1) or G.S. 115C-441(a1). Not applicable to hospital contracts.

This instrument has been preaudited in the manner required by The Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act or by The School Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

Sum Obligated by This Transaction:	\$ 10,000
Primary Governmental Unit Finance Officer* (typed or printed) WILLIAM D. CASH	Signature* 
Date of Preaudit Certificate* 	Email Address* FIREMAN2100@BELLSOUTH.NET

**SIGNATURE PAGE – DPCU
(complete only if applicable)**

DISCRETELY PRESENTED COMPONENT UNIT

DPCU*	
NA	
Date DPCU Governing Board Approved Audit Contract* (Enter date in box to right)	
DPCU Chairperson (typed or printed)*	Signature*
Date*	Email Address*

Chair of Audit Committee (typed or printed, or "NA")	Signature
Date	Email Address

DPCU – PREAUDIT CERTIFICATE

Required by G.S. 159-28(a1) or G.S. 115C-441(a1). Not applicable to hospital contracts.

This instrument has been preaudited in the manner required by The Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act or by The School Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

Sum Obligated by this Transaction:	\$
DPCU Finance Officer (typed or printed)*	Signature*
Date of Preaudit Certificate*	Email Address*

Remember to print this form, and obtain all required signatures prior to submission.

PRINT

EDDIE CARRICK, CPA, PC

Certified Public Accountant

March 27, 2026

To the Honorable Mayor and Town Council
Town of High Shoals
High Shoals, North Carolina

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we are to provide for Town of High Shoals for the year ended June 30, 2026.

Audit Scope and Objectives

We will audit the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information, including the disclosures, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements, of Town of High Shoals as of and for the Year ended June 30, 2026. Accounting standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) provide for certain required supplementary information (RSI), such as management's discussion and analysis (MD&A), to supplement Town of High Shoals's basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to Town of High Shoals's RSI in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). These limited procedures will consist of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We will not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient appropriate evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance. The following RSI is required by GAAP and will be subjected to certain limited procedures, but will not be audited:

- 1) Management's Discussion and Analysis.
- 2) Other Post-Employment Benefits Schedules (if applicable).

We have also been engaged to report on supplementary information other than RSI that accompanies Town of High Shoals's financial statements. We will subject the following supplementary information to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS, and we will provide an opinion on it in relation to the financial statements as a whole [in a separate written report accompanying our auditor's report on the financial statements OR in a report combined with our auditor's report on the financial statements].

- 1) Schedule of expenditures of federal awards (if applicable).
- 2) Individual fund statements and schedules.
- 3) Law Enforcement Officers' Separation Allowance Report (if applicable).

[In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, we will read the following other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.]

- 1) N/A

The objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions about whether your financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with GAAP, and report on the fairness of the supplementary information referred to in the second paragraph when considered in relation to the financial statements as a whole. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance

but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements, including omissions, can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment of a reasonable user made based on the financial statements. The objectives also include reporting on:

- Internal control over financial reporting and compliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and award agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.
- Internal control over compliance related to major programs and an opinion (or disclaimer of opinion) on compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards that could have a direct and material effect on each major program in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance).

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements and Single Audit (if applicable)

We will conduct our audit in accordance with GAAS; the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996; and the provisions of the Uniform Guidance, and will include tests of accounting records, a determination of major program(s) in accordance with Uniform Guidance, and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions. As part of an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We will evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management. We will also evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and determine whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the government or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the government. Because the determination of waste and abuse is subjective, *Government Auditing Standards* do not expect auditors to perform specific procedures to detect waste or abuse in financial audits nor do they expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting waste or abuse.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, combined with the inherent limitations of internal control, and because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements or noncompliance may not be detected by us, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*. In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements or on major programs. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management of any material errors, any fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets that come to our attention. We will also inform the appropriate level of management of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential. We will include such matters in the reports required for a Single Audit. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

We will also conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the government's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, tests of the physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of receivables and certain assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected individuals, funding sources, creditors, and financial institutions. We will also request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement.

We have identified the following significant risk(s) of material misstatement as part of our audit planning:

[According to GAAS, significant risks include management override of controls, and GAAS presumes that revenue recognition is a significant risk. Accordingly, we have considered these as significant risks. Describe significant risk(s) identified, including specific revenue streams identified as significant risks.]

We may, from time to time and depending on the circumstances, use third-party service providers in serving your account. We may share confidential information about you with these service providers but remain committed to maintaining the confidentiality and security of your information. Accordingly, we maintain internal policies, procedures, and safeguards to protect the confidentiality of your personal information. In addition, we will secure confidentiality agreements with all service providers to maintain the confidentiality of your information and we will take reasonable precautions to determine that they have appropriate procedures in place to prevent the unauthorized release of your confidential information to others. In the event that we are unable to secure an appropriate confidentiality agreement, you will be asked to provide your consent prior to the sharing of your confidential information with the third-party service provider. Furthermore, we will remain responsible for the work provided by any such third-party service providers.

Our audit of financial statements does not relieve you of your responsibilities.

Audit Procedures—Internal Control

We will obtain an understanding of the government and its environment, including the system of internal control, sufficient to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and to design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks and obtain evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinions. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentation, or the override of internal control. Tests of controls may be performed to test the effectiveness of certain controls that we consider relevant to preventing and detecting errors and fraud that are material to the financial statements and to preventing and detecting misstatements resulting from illegal acts and other noncompliance matters that have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. Our tests, if performed, will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on internal control and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

As required by the Uniform Guidance, we will perform tests of controls over compliance to evaluate the effectiveness of the design and operation of controls that we consider relevant to preventing or detecting material noncompliance with compliance requirements applicable to each major federal award program. However, our tests will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on those controls and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance.

An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. Accordingly, we will express no such opinion. However, during the audit, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under AICPA professional standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance (if applicable).

Audit Procedures—Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of Town of High Shoals's compliance with provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and agreements, including grant agreements. However, the objective of those procedures will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance, and we will not express such an opinion in our report on compliance issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

The Uniform Guidance requires that we also plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the auditee has complied with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards applicable to major programs. Our procedures will consist of tests of transactions and other applicable procedures described in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* for the types of compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each of Town of High Shoals's major programs. For federal programs that are included in the Compliance Supplement, our compliance and internal control procedures will relate to the compliance requirements that the Compliance Supplement identifies as being subject to audit. The purpose of these procedures will be to express an opinion on Town of High Shoals's compliance with requirements applicable to each of its major programs in our report on compliance issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements and Single Audit (if applicable)

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that you acknowledge and understand your responsibility for (1) designing, implementing, establishing, and maintaining effective internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, including internal controls over federal awards, and for evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met; (2) following laws and regulations; (3) ensuring that there is reasonable assurance that government programs are administered in compliance with compliance requirements; and (4) ensuring that management and financial information is reliable and properly reported. Management is also responsible for implementing systems designed to achieve compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements. You are also responsible for the selection and application of accounting principles; for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and all accompanying information in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; and for compliance with applicable laws and regulations (including federal statutes), rules, and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements (including award agreements). Your responsibilities also include identifying significant contractor relationships in which the contractor has responsibility for program compliance and for the accuracy and completeness of that information.

You are also responsible for making drafts of financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, all financial records, and related information available to us; for the accuracy and completeness of that information (including information from outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers); and for the evaluation of whether there are any conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the government's ability to continue as a going concern for the 12 months after the financial statements date or shortly thereafter (for example, within an additional three months if currently known). You are also responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, such as records, documentation, identification of all related parties and all related-party relationships and transactions, and other matters; (2) access to personnel, accounts, books, records, supporting documentation, and other information as needed to perform an audit under the Uniform Guidance; (3) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit; and (4) unrestricted access to persons within the government from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence. At the conclusion of our audit, we will require certain written representations from you about the financial statements; schedule of expenditures of federal awards; federal award programs; compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements; and related matters.

Your responsibilities include adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and confirming to us in the management representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements of each opinion unit taken as a whole.

You are responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud affecting the government involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the government received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the government complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants. You are also responsible for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements that we report. Additionally, as required by the Uniform Guidance, it is management's responsibility to evaluate and monitor noncompliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards; take prompt action when instances of noncompliance are identified including noncompliance identified in audit findings; promptly follow up and take corrective action on reported audit findings; and prepare a summary schedule of prior audit findings and a separate corrective action plan. The summary schedule of prior audit findings should be available for our review on 12/31/2026.

You are responsible for identifying all federal awards received and understanding and complying with the compliance requirements and for the preparation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards (including notes and noncash assistance received, and COVID-19-related concepts, such as lost revenues, if applicable) in conformity with the Uniform Guidance. You agree to include our report on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in any document that contains, and indicates that we have reported on, the schedule of expenditures of federal awards. You also agree to [include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards that includes our report thereon OR make the audited financial statements readily

available to intended users of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards no later than the date the schedule of expenditures of federal awards is issued with our report thereon]. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the written representation letter that (1) you are responsible for presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in accordance with the Uniform Guidance; (2) you believe the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, including its form and content, is stated fairly in accordance with the Uniform Guidance; (3) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (4) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards.

You are also responsible for the preparation of the other supplementary information, which we have been engaged to report on, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). You agree to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains, and indicates that we have reported on, the supplementary information. You also agree to [include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the supplementary information that includes our report thereon OR make the audited financial statements readily available to users of the supplementary information no later than the date the supplementary information is issued with our report thereon]. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the written representation letter that (1) you are responsible for presentation of the supplementary information in accordance with GAAP; (2) you believe the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with GAAP; (3) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (4) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the supplementary information.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. Management is also responsible for identifying and providing report copies of previous financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other studies related to the objectives discussed in the Audit Scope and Objectives section of this letter. This responsibility includes relaying to us corrective actions taken to address significant findings and recommendations resulting from those audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or studies. You are also responsible for providing management's views on our current findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as your planned corrective actions for the report, and for the timing and format for providing that information.

Other Services

We will also assist in preparing the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes of the Town of High Shoals in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and the Uniform Guidance based on information provided by you. These nonaudit services do not constitute an audit under *Government Auditing Standards* and such services will not be conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. We will perform the services in accordance with applicable professional standards. The other services are limited to the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes services previously defined. We, in our sole professional judgment, reserve the right to refuse to perform any procedure or take any action that could be construed as assuming management responsibilities.

You agree to assume all management responsibilities for the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes, and any other nonaudit services we provide. You will be required to acknowledge in the management representation letter our assistance with preparation of the financial statements, the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes and that you have reviewed and approved the financial statements, the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes prior to their issuance and have accepted responsibility for them. Further, you agree to oversee the nonaudit services by designating an individual, preferably from senior management, with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience; evaluate the adequacy and results of those services; and accept responsibility for them.

Engagement Administration, Fees, and Other

We understand that your employees will prepare all cash, accounts receivable, or other confirmations we request and will locate any documents selected by us for testing.

At the conclusion of the engagement, we will complete the appropriate sections of the Data Collection Form that summarizes our audit findings. It is management's responsibility to electronically submit the reporting package (including financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, summary schedule of prior audit findings, auditor's reports, and corrective action plan) along with the Data Collection Form to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse. We will coordinate with you the electronic submission and certification. The Data Collection Form

and the reporting package must be submitted within the earlier of 30 calendar days after receipt of the auditor's reports or nine months after the end of the audit period.

We will provide copies of our reports to High Shoals; however, management is responsible for distribution of the reports and the financial statements. Unless restricted by law or regulation, or containing privileged and confidential information, copies of our reports are to be made available for public inspection.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Eddie Carrick CPA, PC and constitutes confidential information. However, subject to applicable laws and regulations, audit documentation and appropriate individuals will be made available upon request and in a timely manner to the oversight agency or its designee, a federal agency providing direct or indirect funding, or the U.S. Government Accountability Office for purposes of a quality review of the audit, to resolve audit findings, or to carry out oversight responsibilities. We will notify you of any such request. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of Eddie Carrick CPA, PC personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to the aforementioned parties. These parties may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

The audit documentation for this engagement will be retained for a minimum of five years after the report release date or for any additional period requested by the oversight agency. If we are aware that a federal awarding agency, pass-through entity, or auditee is contesting an audit finding, we will contact the party(ies) contesting the audit finding for guidance prior to destroying the audit documentation.

Eddie Carrick is the engagement partner and is responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the reports or authorizing another individual to sign them. We expect to begin our audit as coordinated with your staff.

My fee for these services will be at our agreed upon fee per our LGC contract less any amounts paid directly to Tony Brewer CPA, PC for financial statement preparation and other non-attest services. Our invoices for these fees will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation. In accordance with our firm policies, work may be suspended if your account becomes 90 days or more overdue and may not be resumed until your account is paid in full. If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, our engagement will be deemed to have been completed upon written notification of termination, even if we have not completed our report(s). You will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and to reimburse us for all out-of-pocket costs through the date of termination. The above fee is based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the engagement. If significant additional time is necessary, we will keep you informed of any problems we encounter and our fees will be adjusted accordingly.

Reporting

We will issue written reports upon completion of our Single Audit. Our reports will be addressed to the Council of the Town of High Shoals. Circumstances may arise in which our report may differ from its expected form and content based on the results of our audit. Depending on the nature of these circumstances, it may be necessary for us to modify our opinions, add a separate section, or add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph to our auditor's report, or if necessary, withdraw from this engagement. If our opinions are other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed opinions, we may decline to express opinions or issue reports, or we may withdraw from this engagement.

The *Government Auditing Standards* report on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance and other matters will state that (1) the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance, and (2) the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. The Uniform Guidance report on internal control over compliance will state that the purpose of the report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Both reports will state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to the Town of High Shoals and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. If you have any questions, please let us know. If you agree with the terms of our engagement as described in this letter, please sign the attached copy and return it to us.

Very truly yours,



Eddie Carrick CPA, PC

RESPONSE:


This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of the Town of High Shoals


Management signature:  _____

Title:  _____

Date:  _____

Governance signature:  _____

Title:  _____

Date:  _____



MAYOR
P.J. Rathbone

P.O. Box 6, High Shoals, N.C. 28077
Tel: (704) 735-1651 - Fax: (704) 735-5595

CLERK
Brandi Strange

**CITY OF HIGH SHOALS
FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the City of High Shoals seeks to protect the health, safety and welfare of its residents;
and

WHEREAS, citizens seek safe, sanitary, and habitable dwellings in all areas of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of High Shoals finds the denial of equal housing opportunities because of religion, race, age, color, sex, familial or handicap status, or national origin legally wrong and socially unjust; and

WHEREAS, the denial of equal housing opportunities in housing accommodations is detrimental to public welfare and public order; and

WHEREAS, the City of High Shoals finds the practice of discrimination against a citizen in housing a denial of equal rights and equal opportunity to seek a better living and develop community pride; and

WHEREAS, April is Fair Housing month and the City wishes to reaffirm its commitment to Fair Housing choice for all persons in protected categories; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of High Shoals, North Carolina, that

Section 1. The City of High Shoals has declared it an official policy of the City that there shall be no discrimination in the terms, conditions or choices for buying or renting housing within the City.

Section 2. All business groups and individual citizens of the City are urged to respect and implement this policy.

Section 3. The Mayor is the official authorized by the City to (1) receive and document complaints regarding housing discrimination in the City; and (2) refer such complaints to the North Carolina Human Relations Board of Commission for investigation, conciliation and resolution.

Adopted this the 14th day of April, 2026.

Mayor

ATTEST: _____



The City of High Shoals does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services



MAYOR
P.J. Rathbone

P.O. Box 6, High Shoals, N.C. 28077
Tel: (704) 735-1651 - Fax: (704) 735-5595

CLERK
Brandi Strange

April 10, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: P.J. Rathbone, Mayor
High Shoals City Council

FROM: Steve Austin, CDBG Administrator

RE: Fair Housing Resolution for 2026

As part of the requirements for of the City as a grantee of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for the High Shoals, the City has to conduct quarterly Fair Housing activities and submit reports to the state along the way. The main goal of the Fair Housing activities required by the state involve public education and awareness. Activities have included sending Fair Housing information to area realtors, mortgage lenders, and leasing agents.

One of the activities required by the state is for the City Council to adopt a resolution recognizing April as Fair Housing month. That resolution is attached.

The Fair Housing requirements for the City as a CDBG recipient are to provide information and contact resources for anyone that may experience housing choice discrimination. The City is not required to enforce state and federal Fair Housing laws. The NC Human Relations Commission in Raleigh is the agency that does that. The City's role is merely to let people know their rights and responsibilities and who to contact if they feel that they have been denied fair housing choice.



The City of High Shoals does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services