

Item Title: Public Hearing to Consider Annexation of Parcels into the Wake County Fire Protection Service Tax District

Specific Action Requested:
That the Board of Commissioners:

- 1. Holds a public hearing and adopts the draft statement finding that the requested annexation into the Wake County Fire Tax District is consistent with North Carolina General Statute §153A-303, reasonable, and in the public interest;**

and by a separate motion;
- 2. Annexes the 274 defined parcels into the Wake County Fire Protection Service Tax District on the date set forth in the Resolution.**

Item Summary:

Purpose: North Carolina State law allows the Board of Commissioners to annex territory into any service district when the area is contiguous with the district and requires the funded services. The Board must hold a public hearing before consideration.

Background: Since adopting the 2021 long-range service plan for the Wake County Fire Tax District, staff and the Fire Commission have analyzed potential service improvements. One area of Wake County without adequate fire service is the northern tip of Wake County, north of the Falls Lake bridge on Highway 98 and west of Creedmoor Road. This area is in excess of 5 miles from any existing Wake County fire station and has response times exceeding the 7-minute standard.

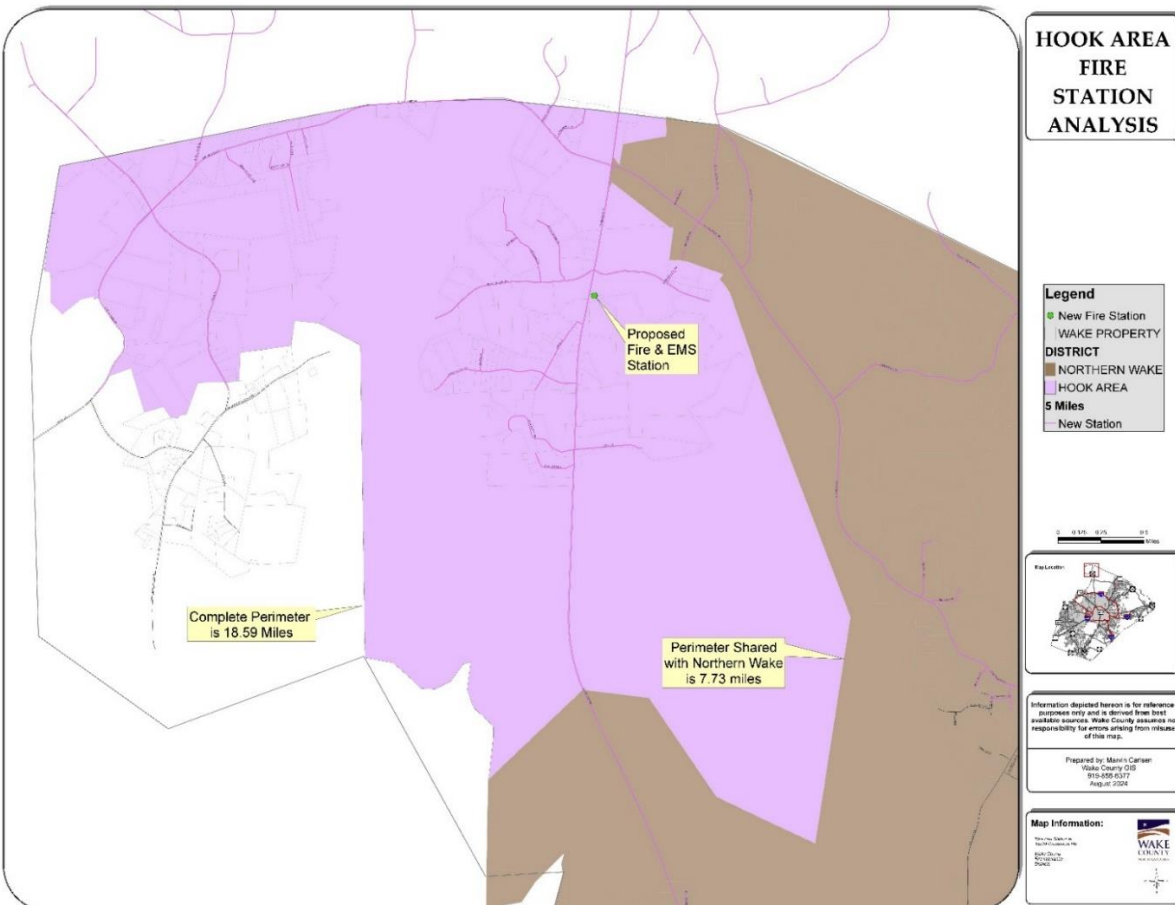
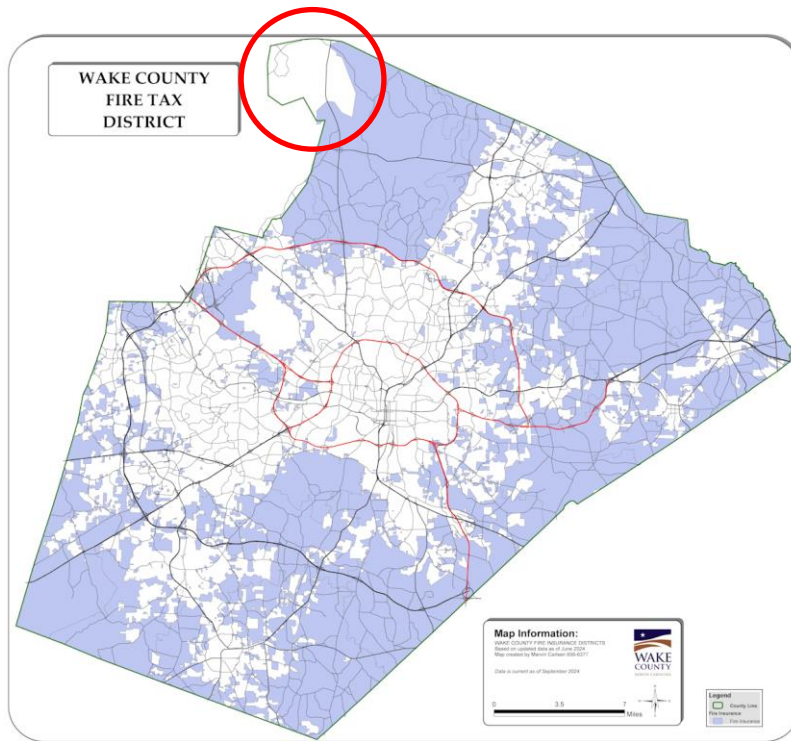
The County has funded a new fire station in the area, expected to open in Summer 2026. The effective date of the fire tax extension will be June 30, 2026. At its September 16, 2024 regular meeting, the Board approved a resolution to advance this project and schedule this public hearing. Staff recommend approving the annexation and extension of the Fire Tax District.

Strategic Plan: This action directly implements Safer Community Together Goal 1: 80% of all County public safety calls will receive an appropriate and timely emergency response.

Fiscal Impact: The construction of the facility was approved as part of the Fire Tax District capital plan during the FY2023 budget process. This Board action will generate approximately \$87,000 in new Fire Tax revenue.

Additional Information:

The subject parcels constitute 204 residential units and an estimated population of 620.



Letters have been mailed out to property owners and several public meetings have been held to discuss this plan. The Fire Services staff has received phone calls inquiring about the annexation in response to those efforts to solicit neighborhood feedback.

The requested annexation is authorized by North Carolina General Statute §153A-303, provided that:

1. The area to be annexed is contiguous to the district
2. The area to be annexed requires the services of the district

North Carolina General Statute §153A-303 also requires that a report be prepared and made publicly available that contains:

1. A map of the service district
2. A statement showing that the area to be annexed is contiguous with the current district and requires the services of the district
3. A plan for extending services to the area to be annexed

A report meeting these requirements and entitled “Northern Wake County Fire Station Needs Assessment and Extension of Service District Requirements” was prepared by personnel at Wake County Fire Services and Emergency Management and filed with the office of the clerk on September 20, 2024 for public inspection pursuant to NCGS §153A-303. That report is attached.

Summary of Fire Services staff findings as outlined in the attached report:

1. The proposed annexation complies with the statutory requirements outlined in NCGS §153A-303.
 - a. The area to be annexed is contiguous to the district with at least a one-eighth of the area’s aggregate external boundary coincident with the existing boundary of the district.
 - b. The area to be annexed requires services of the district.
2. There is no territory within the newly proposed district that lies within the corporate limits of a city or sanitary district.
3. A plan has been established to expand services throughout the proposed district through the construction of a new fire station.
4. Staff has notified the Wake County Tax Administrator as it pertains to changes in tax assessment for the subject parcels.

Attachments:

1. Presentation
2. Fire Station Needs Assessment
3. Notice to Property Owners
4. Clerk Documentation of Notification
5. Resolution for Annexation