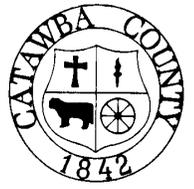




**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2015, 7 P.M.
ROBERT E. HIBBITTS MEETING ROOM
1924 COURTHOUSE, NEWTON, N.C.**



The Board adopted a Contractor Prequalification Policy. The North Carolina General Assembly amended North Carolina General Statute (G.S.) 143-135.8 which references prequalification of construction contractors. Catawba County has historically prequalified construction contractors for formal or other major projects and uses the State Construction Office's prequalification form and scoring matrix. The statute changes established specific procedural requirements for when and how local governments may prequalify construction contractors.

Prequalification is defined under the new G.S. 143-135.8(f)(2) as "a process of evaluating and determining whether potential bidders have the skill, judgment, integrity, sufficient financial resources and ability necessary to the faithful performance of a contract for construction or repair work." The focus of the requirements is to ensure that a prequalification process is conducted using criteria that relate to the specific project being bid and which are applied objectively and fairly to all bidders. The new requirement also gives contractors an opportunity to learn why they were denied and the ability to appeal a denial. Local governments must now adopt an objective prequalification policy applicable to all construction or repair work and the assessment tool and criteria to be used in prequalifying bidders for that specific project. The assessment tool must include scoring values and minimum required score for prequalification on that specific project. The Board's Finance and Personnel Subcommittee recommended the adoption of this policy.

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