



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2015, 7 P.M.
ROBERT E. HIBBITTS MEETING ROOM
1924 COURTHOUSE, NEWTON, N.C.**



PUBLIC HEARING

The Board held a public hearing to receive citizen comments and approved the submission of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application to the North Carolina Department of Commerce, Rural Economic Development Division, for the Commerce Fellows "Building Community Through Capacity and Knowledge" program.

The purpose of the Commerce Fellows program is to provide technical assistance, capacity building and training to North Carolina local governments. The State is partnering with North Carolina universities to provide high-quality professional development to local government staff with a focus on community development and improving opportunities for low and moderate income individuals.

The County plans to apply for the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill School of Government training program. The School of Government will allow the County to send multiple employees to in-person courses, provide access to four online training series and authorize the County to also send municipal staff to the courses to increase community-wide benefit. Five County employees, the City Manager of Claremont, and the City of Newton's Planning Director will benefit from attending in-person courses. Numerous other staff will benefit from attending online courses. A total of \$25,000 will be requested for course tuition, lodging and travel expenses for program participants. The grant requires no local match. Staff will work with the Western Piedmont Council of Governments to meet all grant reporting requirements.

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