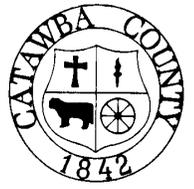




**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2014, 9:15 A.M.  
ROBERT E. HIBBITTS MEETING ROOM  
1924 COURTHOUSE, NEWTON, N.C.**



**PRESENTATION**

The Board received a resolution from the Hickory-Conover Tourism Development Authority commending the Board and County for its continued efforts to confirm the mission and goal of the Authority to promote travel and tourism in the area. The text of the resolution reads:

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE COUNTY OF CATAWBA'S EFFORTS TO PROMOTE AND SUPPORT THE HICKORY-CONOVER TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

THAT, WHEREAS, Senate Bill 896 was enacted by the General Assembly of North Carolina during the 1985 Session (Short Session 1986) and ratified as the 1985 Session Laws Chapter 929;

WHEREAS, the provisions of the 1985 Session Law-Chapter 929 the City of Conover and the City of Hickory by joint resolutions levied a room occupancy tourism tax;

THAT, WHEREAS, the City of Hickory and the City of Conover authorized the acquisition and improvement of the Hickory Metro Convention Center in 1998 and the occupancy tax proceeds were used to make lease payments which in turn provided for the payment of the original construction and improvement of the Convention Center.

THAT, WHEREAS, in 2004 the Board of Commissioners of the County of Catawba, the City Council of the City of Hickory, North Carolina, and the City Council of the City of Conover adopted joint resolutions approving Hickory's expansion and improvement of the Hickory Metro Convention Center, and amending the Lease to Hickory-Conover Tourism Development Authority to provide for the expansion of the Convention Center, provide for the co-location of the Catawba County Economic Development Corporation with the Convention and Visitors Bureau to coordinate with nearby facilities including the higher Metro Education Centers, the Catawba County Chamber of Commerce, the Western Piedmont Council of Governments and various other client services such as hotels/ motels and dining; and

WHEREAS, the Hickory Metro Convention Center has served as a focal point for Western North Carolina business and industry as has been suggested by Foresight, Future Forward, Priority One and other regional studies and plans.

WHEREAS, the Hickory-Conover Tourism Development Authority and the operations of the Convention Center have been a key economic engine providing an economic benefit to the entire Catawba Valley region for more than sixteen (16) years since the facility first opened. Revenue generated from events held at the Convention Center in fiscal year 2013/14 amounted to \$6,900,000 with 86,233 tourist attending events at the facility.

WHEREAS, the Hickory-Conover Tourism Development Authority is greatly appreciative for the efforts of the County Commissioners for the County of Catawba in providing its support in many ways including but not limited to an annual contribution to the ongoing efforts of the Hickory-Conover Tourism Development Authority staff to promote tourism in the Catawba Valley region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Hickory-Conover Tourism Development Authority does hereby recognize and commend the County of Catawba for its continued efforts to confirm the mission and goal of the Hickory-Conover Tourism Development Authority to promote travel and tourism in the area, and to recognize that the Convention Center is truly an economic engine and its effects are far reaching in both during a sound and stable economy.

This the 6<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2014.

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