

Regular Session, February 18, 2013, 7:00 p.m.
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

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The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, February 18, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Robert E. Hibbitts Meeting Room of the 1924 Courthouse, 30 North College Avenue, Newton, North Carolina.

Present were Chair Katherine W. Barnes, Vice-Chair Barbara G. Beatty and Commissioners Dan A. Hunsucker and Randy Isenhower. Commissioner Lynn M. Lail attended by teleconference.

Also present were County Manager J. Thomas Lundy, Assistant County Managers Dewey Harris and Mary Furtado, County Attorney Debra Bechtel and County Clerk Barbara Morris.

1. Chair Katherine W. Barnes called the meeting to order 7:00 p.m.
2. Commissioner Randy Isenhower led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. Commissioner Lynn M. Lail offered the invocation.
4. Vice-Chair Barbara G. Beatty made a motion to approve the minutes of the Board's Regular and Closed Session Meetings of February 4, 2013.
5. Recognition of Special Guests: Chair Barnes welcomed all..
6. Public Comments for Items Not on the Agenda: None.
7. Public Hearing:
Finance Director Rodney Miller came forward and requested the Board hold a public hearing on proposed installment purchase financing for the construction of new Longview and South Newton Elementary Schools, renovations to two existing school facilities and improvements at Catawba Valley Community College, a new Animal Shelter and Highway 150 sewer lines and requested the Board adopt a resolution making certain findings and determinations regarding the financing, seeking approval from the Local Government Commission and authorizing execution of an installment financing agreement, deed of trust, construction and acquisition agreement, lease agreement and related documents in connection with the installment financing for public school improvements. Mr. Miller noted the public notice had omitted two properties involved in the request but the complete list of properties is listed below.

In the County's Fiscal Year 2011-12 budget, the Board continued its practice of funding school/community college projects by dedicating two cents of the property tax rate towards a new four-year construction cycle. The first year of this cycle included an addition at Webb Murray Elementary and the completion of a Hickory High School project, though both were advanced in the previous funding cycle and reduced from the current four-year allocation. The other two projects included renovations to the Hickory Career and Arts Magnet School and campus improvements at CVCC.

Apart from the school construction cycle, the County has set aside funding over multiple years in anticipation of a new animal shelter and the addition of sewer lines along Highway 150 to account for population growth in the County. Total projects to be financed are approximately \$39 million and no future tax increase is planned or needed to account for the annual debt service.

The County has approved the following construction projects and amounts to be financed:

- South Newton Elementary Project - \$10,790,580 (September 2012)
- Animal Shelter - \$4.2 million (December 2012)
- Highway 150 Sewer - \$8 million (December 2012)
- CVCC Campus Renovations - \$1.5 million (April 2012)
- Hickory Career & Arts Magnet School - \$1.5 million (September 2011)
- Newton-Conover Middle School Conversion - \$1 million (February 2012)

The Longview Elementary School Project was originally estimated at \$11 million, with an additional \$824,670 needed to complete the financing for the project.

For more than a decade, Catawba County has financed school construction through an installment payment method, described under North Carolina General Statute 160A-20. This type of financing pledges the asset acquired or constructed as collateral for the loan in case of default. Since the County does not own the land on which the two elementary schools will be built, the Boards of Education for both school districts must convey the land to the County in order for the County to borrow the funds for the new schools. The County will, in turn, lease the new schools and land to the Boards of Education for their use, and at the end of the financing term, transfer all rights to the property back to the school systems. For the County projects, the County would pledge both the new Animal Shelter and sewer lines to the bank as collateral for the loan. It is anticipated that these four projects will be sufficient collateral to secure the loan for all seven projects.

All local governments in North Carolina that borrow funds greater than \$500,000, or for longer than five years to maturity, must receive approval by the Local Government Commission (LGC), a division of the

North Carolina Department of State Treasurer. The LGC will consider this financing at its April 2, 2013, meeting in Raleigh.

Commissioner Isenhower asked if CVCC would be used for collateral and Mr. Miller indicated no but the other four properties would meet all the collateral needs. Chair Barnes then opened the public hearing, indicating that it had been duly advertised. Seeing and hearing no one caring to speak, Chair Barnes closed the public hearing. Commissioner Isenhower then made a motion to adopt a resolution making certain findings and determinations regarding the financing, seek approval from the Local Government Commission and authorize the execution of an installment financing agreement, a deed of trust, a construction and acquisition agreement, a lease agreement and related documents in connection with the installment financing for public schools improvements. The motion carried unanimously. The following resolution applies:

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF CATAWBA, NORTH CAROLINA AUTHORIZING THE NEGOTIATION OF AN INSTALLMENT FINANCING AGREEMENT AND PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN OTHER RELATED MATTERS THERETO

WHEREAS, the County of Catawba, North Carolina (the "*County*") is a political subdivision validly existing under the Constitution, statutes and laws of the State (the "*State*");

WHEREAS, the County has the power, pursuant to the General Statutes of North Carolina, to (1) purchase real and personal property, (2) enter into installment purchase contracts to finance the purchase or improvement of real and personal property used, or to be used, for public purposes, and (3) grant a security interest in some or all of the property purchased or improved to secure repayment of the purchase price;

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioner of the County (the "*Board*") hereby determines that it is in the best interest of the County to (1) enter into an installment financing agreement (the "*Contract*") with a financial institution to be determined (the "*Bank*") in order to pay the capital costs of acquiring, constructing, improving, expanding, installing and equipping various facilities in the County (collectively, the "*Mortgaged Projects*"), including, without limitation, (1) Longview Elementary School, located at 737 12th Street SW, Hickory, (2) South Newton Elementary School, located at 306 West I Street, Newton, (3) Catawba Valley Community College, located at 2550 US Highway 70 SE, Hickory, (4) Catawba County Animal Shelter, located at 201 Government Services Drive, Newton and (5) sewer lines to be installed along US Highway 150, and (2) in order to provide security for the County's obligations under the Contract, grant to the Bank a security interest in all or a portion of the Mortgaged Projects under the Contract or a deed of trust, security agreement and fixture filing (the "*Deed of Trust*") on all or such portion of the County's fee simple interest in any of the sites of the Projects as the Bank may require;

WHEREAS, the Board also hereby determines that the County will use proceeds from the Contract to finance renovations and improvements to the Hickory Career and Arts Magnet School and the former Newton-Conover Middle School for its conversion to an elementary school (the "*Other Projects*" and collectively with the Mortgaged Projects, the "*Projects*");

WHEREAS, the County hereby determines that the Projects are essential to the County's proper, efficient and economic operation and to the general health and welfare of its inhabitants; that the Projects will provide an essential use and will permit the County to carry out public functions that it is authorized by law to perform; and that entering into the Contract and Deed of Trust is necessary and expedient for the County by virtue of the findings presented herein;

WHEREAS, the County hereby determines that the Contract allows the County to purchase the Projects and take title thereto at a favorable interest rate currently available in the financial marketplace and on terms advantageous to the County;

WHEREAS, the County hereby determines that the estimated cost of financing the Project is an amount not to exceed \$40,000,000 and that such cost of the Projects exceeds the amount that can be prudently raised from currently available appropriations, unappropriated fund balances and non-voted bonds that could be issued by the County in the current fiscal year pursuant to Article V, Section 4 of the Constitution of the State;

WHEREAS, although the cost of financing the Projects pursuant to the Contract is expected to exceed the cost of financing the Projects pursuant to a bond financing for the same undertaking, the County hereby determines that the cost of financing the Projects pursuant to the Contract and Deed of Trust and the obligations of the County thereunder are preferable to a general obligation bond financing or revenue bond financing for several reasons, including but not limited to the following: (1) the cost of a special election necessary to approve a general obligation bond financing, as required by the laws of the State, would result in the expenditure of significant funds; (2) the time required for a general obligation bond election would cause an unnecessary delay which would thereby decrease the financial benefits of acquiring and constructing the Projects; and (3) insufficient revenues are produced by the Projects so as to permit a revenue bond financing;

WHEREAS, the County has determined and hereby determines that the estimated cost of financing the Projects pursuant to the Contract reasonably compares with an estimate of similar costs under a bond financing for the same undertaking as a result of the findings delineated in the above preambles;

WHEREAS, the County does not anticipate a future property tax increase to pay installment payments falling due under the Contract;

WHEREAS, Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP, as special counsel ("*Special Counsel*"), will render an opinion to the effect that entering into the Contract and the transactions contemplated thereby are authorized by law;

WHEREAS, no deficiency judgment may be rendered against the County in any action for its breach of the Contract, and the taxing power of the County is not and may not be pledged in any way directly or indirectly or contingently to secure any moneys due under the Contract;

WHEREAS, the County is not in default under any of its debt service obligations;

WHEREAS, the County's budget process and Annual Budget Ordinance are in compliance with the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act, and external auditors have determined that the County has conformed with generally accepted accounting principles as applied to governmental units in preparing its Annual Budget ordinance;

WHEREAS, past audit reports of the County indicate that its debt management and contract obligation payment policies have been carried out in strict compliance with the law, and the County has not been censured by the North Carolina Local Government Commission (the "*LGC*"), external auditors or any other regulatory agencies in connection with such debt management and contract obligation payment policies;

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the Contract after publication of a notice with respect to such public hearing was held on February 18, 2013 and approval of the LGC with respect to entering the Contract must be received; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CATAWBA, NORTH CAROLINA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. ***Authorization to Negotiate the Contract.*** That the County Manager and the Finance Director, with advice from the County Attorney and Special Counsel, are hereby authorized and directed to solicit proposals from financial institutions to finance the Projects and to proceed and negotiate on behalf of the County for the financing of the Projects for a principal amount not to exceed \$40,000,000 under the Contract to be entered into in accordance with the provisions of Section 160A-20 of the General Statutes of North Carolina and to provide in connection with the Contract, as security for the County's obligations thereunder, a security interest in all or a portion of the Mortgaged Projects as may be required by the Bank providing the funds to the County under the Contract.

Section 2. ***Application to LGC.*** That the Finance Director or his designee is hereby directed to file with the LGC an application for its approval of the Contract and all relevant transactions contemplated

thereby on a form prescribed by the LGC and to state in such application such facts and to attach thereto such exhibits regarding the County and its financial condition as may be required by the LGC.

Section 3. **Direction to Retain Special Counsel.** That the County Manager and the Finance Director, with advice from the County Attorney, are hereby authorized and directed to retain the assistance of Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP, Charlotte, North Carolina, as special counsel. The County Manager and the Finance Director, with advice from the County Attorney, are hereby authorized to retain the assistance of other professionals as they deem necessary and desirable to carry out the intention of this Resolution.

Section 4. **Repealer.** That all motions, orders, resolutions and parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 5. **Effective Date.** That this Resolution is effective on the date of its adoption.

8. Appointments:

Commissioner Lail recommended the appointment of Elenor and Fred Pender for first terms to fill vacancies on the Nursing and Rest Home Advisory Board. These terms will expire February 17, 2014. Commissioner Hunsucker recommended the appointment of Steve Killian for a first term and the reappointment of Susan Proctor for a second term on the Agricultural Advisory Board. These terms will expire January 20, 2016.

Staff recommended the appointment of Lori A. Mathes as the County's new Tax Collector, to fill an unexpired term which will expire June 30, 2014. This appointment is effective April 1, 2013. Ms. Mathes served as Chief Financial Officer for Mental Health Services and Mental Health Partners of Hickory for eight years, responsible for overseeing these agencies' expenditures and revenues, accounting policies and procedures. Ms. Mathes, set to begin her new duties on March 5, will succeed Ona Scruggs, who is retiring effective April 1 after serving as Tax Collector since March 2008. Scruggs will work with Ms. Mathes in her final month as Ms. Mathes assumes her new job.

Chair Barnes stated that these recommendations came in the form of a motion, which carried unanimously.

9. Consent Agenda:

County Manager J. Thomas Lundy presented the following six items on the consent agenda:

a. A request for the Board to approve the conversion of a temporary/hourly position to a part-time position in the Finance Department's Purchasing Division to assist with project management of multiple County construction projects now in progress. The County begins construction of a new Animal Shelter and will receive construction bids for a new parking structure in February 2013, is in the final stages of the design of a new Justice Center/Public Safety Expansion Project and will soon be ready to solicit bids for construction of a new Sherrills Ford Branch Library.

Last fall, staff added a temporary/hourly employee to assist the Finance Director and Purchasing Manager with the management of all construction projects noted above for a total of twenty hours per week. This was in addition to an earlier agreement with Newton-Conover City Schools to contract with their construction coordinator (Allen Kirby) to assist the County with design development and construction management of County projects.

In light of the timing of the four major construction projects, it has become evident that more staff time is needed to manage all of the projects, including meetings with architects and end users; coordinating the relocation of underground utilities; procuring adequate technology equipment; insuring each contractor is following schedule/plans; handling logistics of moving staff and furnishings/equipment, and assisting with countywide purchasing functions while the Purchasing Manager is involved with construction activities. The part-time position will replace the temporary/hourly position, and work a schedule of thirty-two hours per week with benefits, beginning immediately when filled. With the construction of the Justice Center/Public Safety Project projected to end in late 2015, the position is needed for a multi-year period. In addition, this position will be needed for future construction plans including expansion of the existing Register of Deeds space, renovations to the existing Emergency Operations Center and 911 center, future expansion of the

Jail and possible renovations to the current Clerk of Court space and Animal Shelter building. Funding is sufficient in the current Finance Department budget to account for the increase in hours and switch from hourly to part-time.

b. A request for the Board to declare a 2004 Ford Crown Victoria and strobe bar light surplus and adopt a resolution conveying these items to the Sherrills Ford Fire and Rescue Department, which requested a surplus Sheriff Office vehicle and surplus strobe bar light to conduct fire department business such as transportation of firefighters to and from fire and rescue training, delivering station supplies and day to day fire department operations.

The approximate value of the vehicle is \$2,000 and the approximate value of the strobe bar light is \$20. North Carolina General Statute 160A-279 authorizes the County to convey personal property to a nonprofit organization without monetary consideration as long as the property will be used for a public purpose. The process begins with the governing board adopting a resolution authorizing the conveyance of the property and a ten day public notice. The following resolution applies:

**RESOLUTION No.
DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY AND DONATION TO THE
SHERRILL'S FIRE DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, Catawba County owns a 2004 Ford Crown Victoria Vehicle and strobe bar light that is no longer needed for any governmental use;

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute 160A-279 authorizes a county to convey personal property by private sale to a nonprofit organization;

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute 160A-279 authorizes the conveyance without monetary consideration if the recipient ensures the property will be used for a public purpose;

WHEREAS, the Sherrills Fire and Rescue Department is a nonprofit organization that provides a public service;

THEREFORE, the Catawba County Board of Commissioners resolves that:

1. A 2004 Ford Crown Victoria Vehicle and strobe bar light are declared surplus property.
2. The property will be donated to the Sherrills Ford Fire and Rescue Department without monetary consideration.
3. The Purchasing Agent shall be authorized to conduct the transfer of property and shall publish a notice summarizing the contents of this resolution and the property shall be conveyed anytime after ten days after the notice publication.

This the 18th day of February, 2013.

c. A request for the Board to appropriate a Department of Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$40,000 to fully fund incident management team training. A core mission of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is to enhance the ability of state, local, and tribal governments to prepare, prevent, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks and other disasters. The Homeland Security Grant Program is a primary funding mechanism for building and sustaining national preparedness capabilities through activities such as training, exercises and plan development.

Catawba County Emergency Management applied to the North Carolina Department of Public Safety for a DHS grant to sponsor a fifty hour U.S. Fire Administration training program which prepares emergency responders to function on Type 3 incident management teams. The program will be conducted in

cooperation with Catawba Valley Community College and will be open to emergency response personnel from across North Carolina.

Incident Management Teams are designated groups of trained personnel from different departments, organizations, and agencies who manage major and/or complex incidents requiring a significant number of local, state, or federal resources. They manage incidents that extend into multiple operational periods and require a written Incident Action Plan, such as weather-related disasters such as tornadoes, earthquake or flood; a joint law enforcement operation; public health emergency; planned exercise or event. There is no County or local cost share for this project, as this grant will fund the entire cost.

d. A request for the Board to appropriate a Department of Homeland Security Grant (DHS) in the amount of \$20,000 for a planned Catawba Valley Community College exercise. The Homeland Security Grant Program is a primary funding mechanism for building and sustaining national preparedness capabilities through activities such as training, exercises, and plan development.

Catawba County Emergency Management applied to the North Carolina Department of Public Safety for this grant to sponsor a multi-stage, active shooter exercise which will allow emergency responders, including law enforcement, emergency medical services, fire, and rescue, CVCC staff and students to practice their planned response to life-threatening incidents on the campus. The grant will be used to work with a contractor to develop and facilitate all phases of the drills and full-scale exercise, and provide Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program documents. Annual documentation of exercises is required for various entities to receive assistance and grant funding from state and federal agencies or as part of certification and compliance programs. There is no county or local cost for this project as it is funded entirely by the grant.

e. At the request of the Town of Maiden, City of Newton and County staff, the Board consider amending the list of Map Review Officers. On July 17, 1997, the North Carolina General Assembly ratified Senate Bill 875 - Maps and Plats Law, which required all counties to appoint review officers who would review each plat or map before it is recorded and certify that it meets the statutory requirements for mapping. The law states that individuals have to be appointed by name, not job title, so any time a change occurs in staffing, a new Review Officer has to be appointed and approved by resolution of the Board of Commissioners and recorded in the Register of Deed's Office.

The active list of Review Officers is:

- Catawba County: Jacky M. Eubanks, Mary K. George, Susan Ballbach, and Chris Timberlake
- City of Hickory: Brian Frazier, Cal Overby, John Furmage, and David Leonetti
- City of Newton: Alex S. Fulbright, and Maxton D. Sigler
- City of Conover: Q. Lance Hight, and Cara C. (Chris) Reed
- City of Claremont: Laurie Locicero
- Town of Long View: David Epley, and Charles T. Mullis
- Town of Maiden: Travis Ramsey
- Town of Catawba: John Kinley
- Town of Brookford: Marshall Eckard

The following resolution applies:

RESOLUTION #2013-_____
APPOINTMENT OF MAP REVIEW OFFICERS

WHEREAS, S.L. 1997-309 (SB875) made a number of significant changes in the procedures for recording maps and plats; and

WHEREAS, the main purpose of the law was to transfer the responsibility for reviewing plats to determine whether they meet recording requirements from the Register of Deeds to a Review Officer; and

WHEREAS, G.S. 47-30.2 requires the Board of County Commissioners in each County, by resolution, to appoint a person or persons to serve as Review Officer to review each plat or map before it is recorded and certify that it meets the statutory requirements for recording; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Catawba County Board of Commissioners to insure an expeditious review of all maps and plats as required by G.S. 47-30.2 before they are presented to the Register of Deeds for recording.

WHEREAS, the Catawba County Board of Commissioners on July 11, 2011 adopted Resolution #2011-264 which included names of individuals who were appointed as Review Officers for representative jurisdictions in Catawba County; and

WHEREAS, said Resolution was recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds in Book 3083 Pages 1953, 1954, and 1955; and

WHEREAS, staffing changes have occurred in the Town of Maiden, City of Newton, and Catawba County, which necessitates an amendment to the approved list of Map Review Officers; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Travis Ramsey, is hereby appointed to perform the responsibilities as required for Map Review Officer for the Town of Maiden as indicated in accordance with the appropriate General Statutes.

And that Sam Schultz is hereby removed from the list of appointed Review Officers for the Town of Maiden. Glen J. Pattishall is hereby removed from the list of appointed Review Officer for the City of Newton. Michael Poston is hereby removed from the list of appointed Review Officer for Catawba County.

With the above changes, the comprehensive list of Map Review Officers is as follows:

- Catawba County: Jacky M. Eubanks, Mary K. George, Susan Ballbach, and Chris Timberlake
- City of Hickory: Brian Frazier, Cal Overby, John Furmage, and David Leonetti
- City of Newton: Alex S. Fulbright, and Maxton D. Sigler
- City of Conover: Q. Lance Hight, and Cara C. (Chris) Reed
- City of Claremont: Laurie Locicero
- Town of Long View: David Epley, and Charles T. Mullis
- Town of Maiden: Travis Ramsey
- Town of Catawba: John Kinley
- Town of Brookford: Marshall Eckard

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Map Review Officers for Catawba County have the authority to sign maps in the municipal planning jurisdictions when there is a staff transition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution designating the Review Officer be recorded in the Catawba County Register of Deed's Office and indexed in the names of the Review Officers.

Adopted this the _____ day of _____, 20____.

f. A request from the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) for the Board to adopt a resolution specifying that the Board concurred with the Secondary Roads Improvement Plan for Catawba County for fiscal year 2012-2013, approved by NCDOT, as presented at the Board's February 4, 2013, meeting. The following resolution applies:

Resolution 2013-___

WHEREAS, representatives from the North Carolina Department of Transportation appeared before the Catawba County Board of Commissioners on Monday, February 4, 2013 and presented the Secondary Roads Improvement Program for 2012-2013 for Catawba County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CATAWBA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS that the Board has reviewed said program and concurs with the Secondary Roads Improvement Program for the fiscal year 2012-2013 as presented by the representatives of the North Carolina Board of Transportation as follows:

**North Carolina Department of Transportation
Catawba County Secondary Roads Construction Program
2012 – 2013 Paving Priority**

FY 2012-2013 Allocation

Highway Fund (G.S. 136-44b, c)	\$ 377,744.81
Trust Fund (G.S. 136-182)	\$ 501,152.80

Total \$ 878,897.61

I. Paving Unpaved Roads

Programmed Paving Goal: 1.11 Miles

A. Rural Paving Priority

Priority Number	Length SR No. (Miles)	Road Name and Description	Est. Cost
1	§R 1865 0.50	Lawing Chapel Road (Complete Funding)	\$245,000

Total Miles 0.50

Subtotal \$ 245,000.00

* Rural Paving Alternates

Priority Number	Length SR No. (Miles)	Road Name and Description	Est. Cost
2	§R 1945 0.26	Indian Trail Road	\$118,500
3	§R 1834 0.30	Crappie Drive	\$142,300
4	§R 1720 0.16	Liberty Lane	\$90,000
5	§R 1778 0.18	Portion Road	\$100,000
6	§R 2905 0.40	No Name Road	\$220,000

B. Subdivision Paving Priority

Priority Number	Length SR No. (Miles)	Road Name and Description	Est. Cost
1	§R 2657M 0.61	Woodchuck Rd & a portion of Lynnbrook Rd. (Complete Funding)	\$272,000

Total Miles 0.61

Subtotal \$ 272,000.00

* Subdivision Paving Alternates

<u>Priority Number</u>	<u>Length SR No.</u>	<u>(Miles)</u>	<u>Road Name and Description</u>	<u>Est. Cost</u>
17	SR 1979	0.10	Peakwood Drive	\$55,000
18	SR 1266M	0.32	Dglesby Lane/Tico Road	\$175,000
19	SR 1211	0.29	Ponderosa Road	\$160,000

* In the event that any roads in priority have to be placed on the "Hold List" due to unavailable right of way or environmental review, or if additional funding becomes available, funds will be applied to the roads listed in priority order in the paving alternate list.

II. General Secondary Road Improvements

A. Paved & Unpaved Road Improvements

<u>SR No.</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Est. Cost</u>
SR 1512	Widen 2-ft and resurface Houston Mill Road 1.47 miles from SR 453 (Springs Road) to SR 1486 (Lee Cline Road)	\$326,000
None	Maintenance functions on various roads as needed. Functions may include spot stabilization, paved road improvements, replacement of small bridges with pipes, safety projects, etc.	\$0

Subtotal \$ 326,000.00

B. Unpaved Road Spot Stabilization

None		\$0
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Subtotal \$ 0.00

III. Funds reserved for surveying, right of way acquisition, acquisition, road additions, contingencies, overdrafts, and paving entrances to certified fire departments, rescue squads, etc.

Subtotal \$ 35,897.61

GRAND TOTAL \$ 878,897.61

NOTES:

1. PROGRAM SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING, RIGHT OF WAY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.

This the 18th day of February, 2013.

Chair Barnes asked if any Commissioner wished to have an item broken out of the consent agenda for consideration. None were requested. Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to adopt the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Departmental Report:
FINANCE

Finance Director Rodney Miller and Hickory Schools Superintendent Walter Hart presented a request from Hickory Public Schools to transfer \$180,000 from existing and/or completed school projects, and appropriated an additional \$824,670, to complete the Longview Elementary School Project.

In fiscal year 2011-12, the Board continued its practice of a four-year funding cycle for school construction by pledging three cents of the property tax rate along with lottery funds to finance approximately \$69 million in school/community college improvements. Projects included in the first year of the funding cycle were improvements to Hickory High and Murray Elementary Schools, both financed in the last fiscal year. Improvements to the Hickory Career Arts & Magnet School (HCAM) and on the campus at CVCC were also included, though these two projects have not yet been financed.

In fiscal year 2012-13, plans included two new elementary schools, South Newton, estimated at \$10 million, and Longview, estimated at \$11 million, as well as renovations to the old Newton-Conover Middle School and CVCC for \$1 million and \$2 million, respectively. All of these projects are planned to be financed along with the HCAM and CVCC improvements in April 2013.

Bids were received in January 2013 for the Longview Elementary School Project with a low base bid from Hickory Construction Company of \$11,430,000, which equals \$151.74 per square foot. Including architectural fees (5.9%), inspections, furnishings and technology, the total project equals \$12,672,670, compared to the budget of \$11 million. The South Newton Elementary School project was bid in September 2012 at a total cost of \$12,723,580, or \$158/square foot.

The project consists of 28 classrooms with a capacity of 450 students and a core of 600, in addition to a media center, administrative area, and cafetorium (gym, cafeteria, stage). The facility has 70,321 heated square feet plus 5,003 unheated square feet for entranceways and bus drop off areas. It is designed to obtain a LEED Silver classification. After a review with County staff, it was determined that several options could be used to reduce the project amount by using existing County appropriations to pay for technology separately, pledging State sales tax refunds to the project, transferring funds from existing and/or closed projects, and reducing some other items, resulting in a total project cost of \$11,824,670.

Commissioners asked about roofing materials (shingles vs. metal); core capacity supporting additional classrooms if added later and if the technology needs were covered in the budget (yes).

Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to transfer \$180,000 from existing and/or completed school projects, and appropriated an additional \$824,670, to complete the Longview Elementary School Project. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Other Items of Business:

Assistant Manager Dewey Harris and Tax Administrator Mark Logan introduced new Catawba County Library Director Suzanne White. Ms. White served as Public Services Manager for the Rowan Public Library in Salisbury, North Carolina, managed comprehensive library programs, services and personnel at two full service library branches in Rowan County for more than seven years, and has had a successful career in library services spanning more than twenty years. She succeeds Karen Foss, who retired on February 1,

2013, after serving as the County's Library Director since July 1999. Ms. White and her husband, Rex, have one daughter, Janssen, who is a senior at the North Carolina School of Science and Math.

11. Attorney's Report: County Attorney Debra Bechtel reported to the Board that the County had received a dismissal in the Minor v. Reid case, 5:12-CV-197. This dismissal is with prejudice, which means the matter cannot be brought back to the court for consideration.
12. Manager's Report: None.
13. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Katherine W. Barnes, Chair
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Barbara E. Morris
County Clerk