

Regular Session, April 18, 2011, 7:00 p.m.
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Appointments

Home & Community Block Grant Advisory Board	76	04/18/11
Community Service Block Grant Advisory Board	76	04/18/11
Library Board of Trustees	76	04/18/11
Town of Catawba Planning Board	76	04/18/11

Catawba County Schools

Funding for St. Stephens Kitchen/Cafeteria Renovation	76	04/18/11
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Comments for Items Not on the Agenda

John Marino – Lake Norman Marine Commission	75	04/18/11
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Finance

Funding for St. Stephens Kitchen/Cafeteria Renovation	76	04/18/11
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Proclamations

Spring Litter Sweep	75	04/18/11
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The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, April 18, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Robert E. Hibbits Meeting Room of the 1924 Courthouse, 30 North College Avenue, Newton, North Carolina.

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

Also present were County Manager J. Thomas Lundy, Assistant County Manager Lee Worsley, County Attorney Debra Bechtel, Deputy County Attorney Anne Marie Pease and County Clerk Barbara Morris.

1. Chair Katherine W. Barnes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Commissioner Barbara G. Beatty led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Chair Barnes offered the invocation.
4. Commissioner Beatty made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 4, 2011. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Recognition of Special Guests: Chair Barnes welcomed all present and specifically recognized students from Bandys High School AP Government Class.
6. Public Comments for Items Not on the Agenda:
At Commissioner Beatty's request, Lake Norman Marine Commission Member John Marino briefly summarized recent issues that had come before the Marine Commission. These items included a request by a marina to add 125 new slips, which was approved with the requisite dredging, and proposed buoy ordinance changes that were not voted on as more research was required before a decision could be made.
7. Presentation:
Commissioner Dan Hunsucker came forward to present Executive Director of Keep Catawba County Beautiful Kelly Groves with a proclamation declaring April 16-30 as Spring Litter Sweep in Catawba County to encourage local governments and communities, civic and professional groups, businesses, churches, schools, families and individuals to participate in the cleanup of roadsides

and common areas such as parks and lake shores. During these weeks, citizens who bring trash collected from roadsides, parks, lakesides and other common areas in special orange bags, or recyclable materials collected from the same areas in blue bags, to the Blackburn Landfill or one of the County's five convenience centers may dispose of the bags free of charge. Bags are available at the North Carolina Department of Transportation's County Maintenance Office at 1302 Prison Camp Road south of Newton. Ms. Groves thanked the Board for the proclamation and was pleased to announce that recent studies of specific sites in the County had indicated that littering had decreased.

8. Appointments:

Vice-Chair Lynn Lail recommended the following reappointments to the Home & Community Block Grant Advisory Committee: Miriam Davis for a sixth term; Frances Frock for a ninth term; Tami Hefner for a second term; Rev. Luther Knauff for a ninth term; Alice Layne for a fourth term; Mary Mode for a fourth term; John Waters for a fourth term, and Sheila Weeks for a fifth term. Vice-Chair Lail also recommended the appointment of Michele Roseman for a first term on this Committee to replace Gladys Seitz who had moved to Burke County. These terms will expire June 30, 2012.

Vice-Chair Lail recommended the reappointment of Alice Whitener for a second term; Alanda Jackson for a fifth term; Donna Mull for fourth term, and Jennie Connor for a second term on the Community Service Block Grant Advisory Board. Ms. Whitener's term will expire February 28, 2014; Ms. Jackson's, Ms. Mull's and Ms. Connor's terms will expire June 30, 2014. Vice-Chair Lail also recommended the appointment of Sarah Gareau for a first term on this Board. Ms. Gareau's term will expire April 18, 2014.

Commissioner Barbara Beatty recommended the appointment of Brenda Huggins for a first term on the Library Board of Trustees to replace Jody Street who did not wish to be reappointed and the appointment of Amanda Edwards for a first term to replace Joe Kerley who was not eligible for reappointment. Commissioner Beatty also recommended the reappointment of Amy Smith as a trustee for a second term. These terms will expire June 30, 2015.

Commissioner Beatty's recommended the appointment of Jacob Ray Abernathy for a first term as the ETJ alternate on the Town of Catawba Planning Board. Mr. Abernathy's term will expire December 30, 2013.

These recommendations came in the form of a motion, which carried unanimously.

9. Departmental Report:

Finance/Catawba County Schools:

Finance Director Rodney Miller presented a request from the Catawba County Schools for final approval of kitchen/cafeteria renovations at St. Stephens High School and funding in the amount of \$1,186,792, with the funding to come from funds remaining from completed projects and lottery proceeds.

In late 2009 and early 2010, Catawba County applied for an allocation of Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCBs), made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The County received a total allocation of \$21,508,553 that has been used to fund a new Newton-Conover Middle School (\$16,508,553) and additions to the existing Arndt Middle School (\$5.2 million). Staff was able to issue the 2009 and 2010 QSCBs at a 0% rate for 15 years, and financed the balance of the Newton-Conover Middle School project with traditional means, at a rate of 3.185% over 15 years. By issuing the QSCBs at 0%, the County realized approximately \$7.5 million in interest savings over the financing term.

In late 2010, Catawba County was notified by the State that additional QSCB dollars were available, so an application was submitted to request those funds. The County was awarded an additional \$6.3 million to be used for a classroom expansion project at Murray Elementary School, which was planned for the next four-year construction cycle beginning in Fiscal Year 2011-12. Catawba County agreed to advance funds from the next four-year cycle and move forward with bidding the project to

take advantage of the QSCB funding and a favorable construction climate. Bids were received in December 2010 for a total project cost of \$5,776,800 for an addition of 18 classrooms, a new entrance to the school, expansion of the media center and renovation of existing classrooms. This was \$523,200 less than the QSCB allocation of \$6.3 million, which was the expected budget for the project.

On January 17, 2011, the Board approved the transfer of \$523,200 in QSCB funds remaining from the Murray Elementary project to the St. Stephens High project and agreed to proceed with bidding. The St. Stephens High kitchen/cafeteria has had no renovation or expansion since the early 1960s when the original building was built and is severely overcrowded as the school population has increased. Currently, serving lines enter into the kitchen as students pick up their food because all available space in the cafeteria is being used for seating. The project includes the construction of a new kitchen with four serving lines and the renovation of the existing kitchen into dining area space. In addition, a new dining area is proposed with new cafeteria seating, for a total capacity of 528. Finally, new kitchen and HVAC equipment would be purchased and some site improvements that are needed with the expansion of the building would be completed.

Construction bids were received on February 25, 2011, in the amount of \$1,747,992. To complete the funding of the project, funds would be transferred from completed Catawba County Schools' projects in the amount of \$380,000 and lottery funds in the amount of \$806,792 would be appropriated, totaling \$1,186,792. Lottery funds are currently dedicated for school debt, but the amount received in the last fiscal year was higher than expected due to a change in the State's distribution formula, to allocate funds to school systems on an Average Daily Membership (ADM) basis instead of based on county tax rates. This increase, applicable to Catawba County Schools, will be used to complete the County's funding of the project. The County plans to issue the entire \$6.3 million in QSCBs over the next few weeks as interest rates stabilize, which should afford the County with another 0% rate over fifteen years, saving an additional \$2.4 million in interest costs that would have been incurred without the QSCB funding.

Vice-Chair Lail confirmed that the lottery funds that were going to be used for the project were already in hand and not funds that were just anticipated. Commissioner Randy Isehower stated it was evident there was a great need for this addition with students being served lunch from the concession stand in the lobby and entering the kitchen itself to go through a serving line. Commissioner Beatty commended those involved for getting feedback from the kitchen staff regarding the kitchen design. Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to appropriate \$1,186,792 to complete the kitchen/cafeteria renovations at St. Stephens High School. The motion carried unanimously. The following appropriations apply:

Appropriation:		
423-740100-863200-31121-3-05	SSHS Kitchen/Cafeteria	\$1,186,792
423-740100-863200-31128-2-01	Snow Creek Elementary	(\$250,000)
423-740100-863200-31111-3-04	Fred T Foard Addition	(\$30,000)
423-740050-630501	Lottery Funding	\$806,792
423-740050-695420	Transfer from Schools Capital	\$100,000
420-750100-863200-31101-2-01	Arndt Gym Addition	(\$50,000)
420-750100-863200-31101-3-02	Arndt Roofing Project	(\$50,000)
420-750050-995423-30050-9-02	Transfer to Schools Construction	\$100,000

- 10. Other Items of Business: None.
- 11. Attorney's Report: None.
- 12. Manager's Report: None.

13. Adjournment: Chair Barnes reviewed the upcoming calendar for May: The Board of Commissioners will hold its regularly scheduled meetings on Monday, May 2, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. and on Monday, May 16, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. and Budget Hearings with Departments on Tuesday, May 31, 2011 from 8:00 to 5:00 p.m. The Budget Public Hearing and Wrap Up will take place on Thursday, June 2, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Beatty wished everyone a Happy Easter. The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Katherine W. Barnes, Chair
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Barbara E. Morris
County Clerk