

Catawba County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Session, May 4, 2009, 9:30 a.m.

**Appointments**

Western Piedmont Regional Transit Authority	351	05/04/09
Catawba County Planning Board	351	05/04/09

**Awards**

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting	351	05/04/09
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**Budget**

Update/Rescheduling of Budget Hearings	352	05/04/09
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**Closed Session**

Attorney/Client Privilege; Property Acquisition	352	05/04/09
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**Proclamations**

Emergency Medical Services Week	350	05/04/09
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**Public Health**

Increase in the Home Health Budget	351	05/04/0
Update on the Swine Flu Outbreak	351	05/04/09

The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, May 4, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in the 1924 Courthouse, Robert E. Hibbitts Meeting Room, 30 North College Avenue, Newton, North Carolina.

Present were Chair Katherine W. Barnes and Commissioners Dan Hunsucker, Glenn Barger and Barbara Beatty.

Vice-Chair Lynn M. Lail was absent.

Also present were County Manager J. Thomas Lundy, Assistant County Manager Lee Worsley, Assistant County Manager Dewey Harris, 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 9:30 a.m.
2. Commissioner Barbara G. Beatty led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Commissioner Dan Hunsucker offered the invocation.
4. Commissioner Barger made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 20, 2009. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Recognition of Special Guests: Chair Barnes first noted that Vice-Chair Lynn M. Lail was unable to attend this meeting and then welcomed Pastor Ross and everyone present.
6. Public Comments for Items not on the Agenda: None.
7. Presentations:
  - a. Commissioner Beatty presented Emergency Services Director David Weldon and Emergency Services Manager Bryan Blanton with a proclamation recognizing May 17-23, 2009 as Emergency Medical Services Week. The week commends Emergency Medical Services for providing lifesaving care for those in need, twenty-four hours per day, seven days a weeks, and spotlights the benefits Americans receive from these highly trained, knowledgeable individuals and the reduction in national health care costs resulting from these services.

b. Chair Barnes presented Finance Director Rodney Miller, Assistant Finance Director Jeanne Jarrett and Internal Auditor Kenneth Maynor with a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) to the County's Finance Department. This award is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, awarded to the County for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. The award is presented to governmental units that the GFOA says "prepare and publish an easily readable, understandable comprehensive annual financial report covering all funds and financial transactions during the fiscal year." Catawba County has now won this award for 27 consecutive years.

8. Appointments.

Commissioner Beatty recommended the reappointment of County Manager J. Thomas Lundy for a third term on the Western Piedmont Regional Transit Authority (WPTA) Board. This term will expire on June 30, 2012. Commissioner Beatty also recommended Planning Director Jacky Eubanks to act as Mr. Lundy alternate on the WPTA Board. Chair Barnes presented Commissioner Lail's recommendation to reappoint Larry Drum for a first full term on the Catawba County Planning Board. This term will expire on December 31, 2012.

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

9. Departmental Reports:

Public Health

a. Public Health Director Doug Urland presented a request for the Board to approve an increase to the overall Home Health budget of \$94,700, to fund a significant increase in home health service demand. The average patient caseload has increased over 30% and this budget increase will allow Home Health to address approximately 115 more patients per month than are reflected in the current budget. Home Health's average caseload from July 2007 through February 2008 was 370 cases; for July 2008 through February 2009, the average caseload rose to 485 cases. The budget increase request follows an expenditure analysis conducted by staff over an eight month period and relates to the need for additional funding for medical supplies, travel, air card services, postage, speech therapy, occupational therapy, auditing and other contractual services. These additional costs will be covered by earned revenues. No County funds are included in the Home Health budget.

Commissioner Hunsucker inquired as to the cause of the substantial increase in caseload and Mr. Urland said it was related to the aging population and the increase in the indigent population. Commissioner Barger made a motion to approve the increase to the Home Health budget as presented. The motion carried unanimously. The following appropriations apply:

Supplemental Appropriations:

580150-833010 Medical Supplies	\$ 35,000
580150-841010 Travel	\$ 26,000
580150-841500 Air Card Service	\$ 1,200
580150-841510 Postage	\$ 500
580150-856302 Speech Therapy	\$ 27,000
580150-856304 Occupational Therapy	\$ 2,500
580150-856700 Auditing Services	\$ 2,000
580150-857900 Other Contract Services	\$ 500
580150-672106 Home Health Third Party	\$ 94,700

b. Public Health Director Urland then updated the Board on Public Health's monitoring of the swine flu outbreak. Public Health has been monitoring the evolving outbreak, along with other health departments across the state, since April 23. Contact has been made with local hospitals, schools and community partners in order to share information about the recent outbreak. Public Health staff has participated in conference calls with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Public Health, and reviewed websites such as the site maintained by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) for updates. Catawba County Emergency Services has also

participated in the conference calls and has been working collaboratively with Public Health and North Carolina Emergency Management to prepare to respond if necessary. Public Health has received and inventoried medicine and medical supplies from the CDC to supplement the local supplies of these items.

10. Other Items of Business:  
Chair Barnes updated those present on the current status of the State budget process and legislation that affects County budgets. She indicated that state income tax revenues fell 40% short of projected revenues and that changes have been proposed to the current state taxation policies. Chair Barnes indicated it appears likely the State would retain ADM funds which have historically gone to counties for school capital costs and the State's tax system was under review for revision, with a goal to simplify the system and broaden the tax base.
11. Attorneys' Report: None.
12. Manager's Report:  
County Manager J. Thomas Lundy followed Chair Barnes' comments by stating that, since so much remains unanswered regarding the State budget, it is likely that the County's budget hearings and adoption would be delayed from the originally scheduled dates and staff will present a new proposed schedule for these budget hearing and budget public hearing at the Board's May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Lundy then requested the Board consider moving into closed session pursuant to General Statute to confer with the County Attorney regarding the acquisition of real property and no action was anticipated upon return to open session. Commissioner Beatty made a motion to move into closed session and the motion carried unanimously. The Board moved into closed session at 10:20 a.m.
13. Adjournment: Upon return to open session Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to adjourn at 11:07 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.

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Katherine W. Barnes, Chair  
Board of Commissioners

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Barbara E. Morris, County Clerk