

Minutes  
Catawba County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Session, Monday, May 19, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

**Public Hearings**

Closeout of CDBG Grant 107 05/19/08

**Hickory Public Schools**

Request for Letter of Intent 108 05/19/08

Request for Budget Transfer – Viewmont Gym Floor 108 05/19/08

**Tax**

Settlement report of Retiring Tax Collector 108 05/19/08

Refund Request 108 05/19/08

**Utilities and Engineering**

Closeout of CDBG Grant 107 05/19/08

The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, May 19, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria of the St. Stephens Elementary School, 684 30<sup>th</sup> Street NE, Conover. This meeting followed a Community Information Meeting which took place from 5:00-6:30 p.m. in the same location where staff from Catawba Valley Community College, the Hickory Metro Higher Education Center and the NC Center for Engineering Technologies was available to discuss higher education opportunities in the County. County Staff was also available to talk to citizens about the County's Parks Division, the St. Stephens Library, Sheriff's Office, Register of Deeds and the Utilities and Engineering Department.

Present were Chair Katherine W. Barnes, Vice-Chair Lynn Lail and Commissioners Dan Hunsucker, Barbara G. Beatty and Glenn E. Barger.

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. Vice-Chair Lynn Lail led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Commissioner Glenn Barger offered the invocation.
4. Commissioner Dan Hunsucker made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Monday, May 5, 2008. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Recognition of Special Guests: Chair Barnes welcomed everyone present and specifically Hickory Board of Education members Joab Cotton and Sarah Talbert.
6. Comments for Items not on the Agenda. None.
7. Public Hearings:  
Jack Chandler, Public Services Administrator, came forward to request the Board conduct a close-out public hearing to receive citizen comments regarding a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the amount of \$481,907 which assisted with the construction of 1,800 linear feet of 12-inch water line, 18,000 linear feet of 4-inch force main sewer line, and a sewer pump station. Grant guidelines required that the project create new jobs. The water and sewer lines installed serves Gregory Wood Products, which currently has 125 employees and exceeded its goal job creations of low to moderate income persons. The project in its entirety provided water and sewer service to the Blackburn Landfill, Gregory Wood Products, and Pallet One, and in the future will serve other components of the EcoComplex and Resource Recovery Facility, the Target Distribution Center, and other future development. On August 13, 2007, the Commerce Finance Center visited Catawba County to monitor

the program's progress. In general, the program files and supporting documentation were in compliance with CDBG applicable laws and regulations. The final and last requirement of the grant was to hold the closeout public hearing. Chair Barnes noted the public hearing had been duly advertised and opened the public hearing. No one came forward to speak for or against the closeout and Chair Barnes then closed the public hearing. Commissioner Barbara Beatty made a motion to close out the Community Development Block Grant and authorize the Chair to execute the necessary documents. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Appointments. None.

9. Departmental Reports:

a. Hickory Public Schools:

1. Judy Ikerd, Budget Manager, presented a request for the Board to issue a letter of commitment for Hickory Public Schools for funding in the FY 2008/09 budget. In order to complete asbestos abatement at Hickory High School this summer, and ensure new mobile classrooms are in place for the opening of the new school year, a letter of commitment is necessary to retain the contractor for the asbestos abatement and sign a contract for the mobile classrooms. Funds necessary are \$400,000 for asbestos abatement at Hickory High School and \$90,000 for the purchase of three mobile classrooms for Jenkins, Oakwood, and Viewmont Elementary Schools. Chair Barnes inquired if this would complete the asbestos abatement at the High School and it was indicated there would be one more request at a later date to complete that project. Commissioner Barger made a motion to issue the letter of commitment. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Judy Ikerd, Budget Manager, presented a request for the Board to approve the transfer of funds from four completed projects at Hickory Public Schools in order to replace the gym floor at Viewmont Elementary School. This project was included in the FY2008/09 recommended budget but, in order to secure the contract to replace the floor during the summer months, the Hickory Board of Education requested the transfer of \$63,165 from four completed projects. The \$63,165 will now be removed from the FY2008/09 recommended budget. Vice-Chair Lail made a motion to approve these transfers. The motion carried unanimously. The appropriations are as follows:

Supplemental Transfer:

From: 420-750100-865300-32103-3-02	Annex Heat Upgrade	\$12,500
420-750100-865300-32150-4-01	16 Passenger Mini Bus	\$28,330
420-750100-865300-32107-3-01	Northview Gym Floor	\$10,014
420-750100-865300-32105-3-06	Jenkins HVAC	\$12,331
To: 420-750100-865300-32105-3-06	Viewmont Gym floor	\$63,165

b. Tax Department:

1. Ona Scruggs, Tax Collector, in accordance with North Carolina General Statutes, presented the Board with a settlement report prepared by retiring tax collector Jackie Spencer concerning the tax levy for the County for Fiscal Year 2007/2008, the 2007 tax year. The report reflected that \$72,917,767 (97.26%) in real estate and personal property tax and \$4,774,024 in motor vehicle tax had been collected as of April 30, 2008, with \$1,555,451 in real estate and personal property tax outstanding for 1999 through 2006 and \$1,704,889 in vehicle tax outstanding for the same period. Commissioner Lail made a motion to accept the report. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Ona Scruggs, Tax Collector, presented a request for a tax refund in the amount of \$198.16. The records had been checked and this refund verified as due to Bramsa Associates LLC for taxes paid in 2005, 2006 and 2007. The Secretary of State had incorrectly listed this corporation as a restaurant, rather than a consultant of textiles-clothing which had no assets for the period in question. Commissioner Barger made a motion to approve this refund request. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Other items of Business: None.

11. Attorneys' Report: None
12. Manager's Report. None.
13. Adjournment: Chair Barnes adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

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Katherine W. Barnes, Chair  
Board of Commissioners

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Barbara E. Morris, County Clerk