

**Minutes**  
**Catawba County Board of Commissioners**  
**Budget Hearings**  
**Tuesday, June 1, 2010, 8:00 a.m.**

**Budget**

Budget Hearings with Departments and outside agencies

580 06/01/10

The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in Special Session on Tuesday, June 1, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. in the Robert E. Hibbitts Meeting Room of the 1924 Courthouse in Newton, North Carolina. The purpose of the special meeting was for budget hearings for County departments and outside agencies for Fiscal Year 2010/11.

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

Absent: None

A quorum was present.

Also present were County Manager J. Thomas Lundy, Assistant County Manager Lee Worsley and Budget Manager Jennifer Mace.

1. Chair Barnes called the special meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

2. Budget Hearings:

The following departments presented their proposed budgets for Fiscal Year 2010/11:

Technology/Communications Center

Catawba County Schools

Action: Arndt Middle School Project Reduction. In the current fiscal year, Catawba County Schools received \$200,000 for planning and design for the Arndt Middle School addition. The budget request for next year included \$125,000 for technology, which cannot be paid with QZAB funds. Since planning and design are allowable QZAB expenses, these expenses were shifted to the construction project to free the annual capital funds for technology needs. It is recommended that project #31101-2-01 be reduced by \$75,000 to match the technology request. These funds will fall to fund balance in Schools Capital Project, to be available for future school needs. Commissioner Glenn Barger made a motion to approve this request. The motion carried unanimously.

Newton-Conover Schools

Hickory City Schools

Catawba Valley Community College

Mental Health Partners

Utilities and Engineering

Sheriff

Emergency Services

Action: Fire District Projects. Last year the County started a process for fire districts to set aside funds for capital purchases. At the time the County's financial management software did not allow establishing ongoing capital projects for fire district funds, which meant unspent capital fell to fund balance at year end. Capital projects can now be established for the fire departments, and have recommended such in next year's budget. Once a capital project is approved as part of the budget process, it will carry forward to future fiscal years along with any interest earnings until funds are needed and the project is complete. St. Stephens and Conover fire departments have funds in the current budget which are earmarked for future capital, and staff would like to have these funds placed in a capital project so they do not fall to fund balance. Staff needs authority to establish projects for a building addition for St. Stephens (\$150,000) and a 5-year apparatus replacement plan for Conover (\$79,648). Both are setting aside money next year for the same purposes. Vice-Chair Lynn Lail made a motion to approve establishing the requested capital projects. The motion carried unanimously.

Forestry

Soil and Water  
Tax Administration  
Board of Elections  
Register of Deeds  
Finance

Action: Ambulance Billing. The County pays EMS Management a monthly fee of 8% of net ambulance collections and also contracts with a collection agency that collects delinquent accounts on our behalf. In addition, the County uses the North Carolina Debt Setoff program to collect delinquent accounts. The initial budget in this fiscal year for ambulance fees was set at \$370,000, which included \$344,320 (8% of our budgeted revenues of \$4,304,000) plus \$25,680 for delinquent accounts. Based on revenues collected to date, it is estimated that our current ambulance revenues will equal \$4,550,000, an increase of approximately \$250,000 this fiscal year. This will result in an additional expense of \$20,000. Collections for past due accounts and from our debt setoff program are estimated to reach \$215,000 for the year. The proposed fiscal year 2010-2011 budget includes funds for billing services in the amount of \$380,000. A budget revision is requested to increase the Finance Department expenditure budget and ambulance revenue by \$20,000 to reflect the increase in ambulance collections this fiscal year. Commissioner Barger made a motion to approve this budget revision. The motion carried unanimously. The following supplemental appropriations apply:

Supplemental Appropriations:

Finance Department

Other Professional Services	110-170060-856900	\$20,000
Ambulance Charges Revenue	110-260150-671201	\$20,000

Action: Justice and Public Safety Project Combination. After further discussions with architects and staff, it is recommended that the Justice and Public Safety projects be combined into one expansion project. It is requested that the Board approve combining the projects into one account to be renamed Justice/Public Safety Center. This action does not change the funding in either year, it simply combines the funds into one project. Vice-Chair Lail made a motion to combine these projects. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Lunch Break

Subcommittee Meetings were held at 12:30 p.m.

Planning & Zoning  
Catawba Valley Medical Center  
Public Health  
Social Services  
Cooperative Extension  
Library  
Human Resources  
County Manager  
Other Agencies  
    United Arts Council  
    Salt Block  
    Historical Association  
    Patrick Beaver Memorial Library  
    Newton-Conover Auditorium Authority  
    Economic Development Corporation  
    Convention and Visitors Bureau  
    Repay  
    Lake Norman Marine Commission  
    Conflict Resolution Center

Commissioner Dan Hunsucker departed the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

4. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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Katherine W. Barnes, Chair  
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

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J. Thomas Lundy  
County Manager/Deputy Clerk