

**Budget Public Hearing and Wrap Up
June 1, 2017, MB#54**

**Minutes
Catawba County Board of Commissioners
Budget Hearing and Wrap-Up
Thursday, June 1, 2017, 7:00 p.m.**

The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met on Thursday, June 1, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the 1924 Courthouse, Robert E. Hibbitts Meeting Room, 30 North College Avenue, Newton, North Carolina. The purpose of this meeting was for a public hearing for public comment on the proposed County budget for Fiscal Year 2017/18.

Present were Chair Randy Isenhower, Vice-Chair Barbara G. Beatty and Commissioners Katherine W. Barnes, Sherry E. Butler and Dan Hunsucker.

Also present were County Manager Mick Berry and Budget and Management Director Jennifer Mace.

1. Chair Randy Isenhower called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Chair Isenhower noted that budget hearings with County departments and outside agencies took place on Monday, May 22, 2017, and the purpose of the meeting was to conduct a public hearing to receive citizen comments on the proposed budget. He then opened the public hearing at 7:01 p.m. and asked for anyone who wished to speak to come forward. Monroe Pannell of Conover came forward and spoke of the K-64 initiative and encouraged the Board to look at a similar effort which took place in the County in the late 80's which sought excellence in education and a public/private partnership was established to accomplish this goal. He referenced a report by Peter Nagroni and indicated he would email this report to the clerk for dissemination to Board members. Commissioner Katherine W. Barnes indicated she remembered Dr. Nagroni and the previous effort which prompted conversation and thought regarding education efforts in the County. No one further came forward to speak. Chair Isenhower closed the public hearing at 7:12 p.m.

Chair Isenhower then asked Mr. Berry to review the proposed changes to the budget based on budget hearings. Mr. Berry recapped three wrap-up action items:

Based on conversations held during the Board's budget hearings on Monday, May 22, 2017, there are 2 proposed changes to the recommended budget:

- SALT Block funding – a request to allocate \$12,500 in additional General Fund dollars from General Fund fund balance to the SALT Block for total funding of \$87,500.
- Newton-Conover Auditorium Authority – a request to allocate \$2,500 in additional General Fund dollars from General Fund fund balance to the Newton-Conover Auditorium Authority for total funding of \$13,000.

In addition to these funding changes, there was discussion of adding a stipulation to the \$3 million in recommended funding for Newton-Conover City Schools' High School Cafeteria / Kitchen Project to require a master plan for the Newton Conover High School Campus before those funds are released.

Commissioner Sherry E. Butler added that the model for funding the Newton-Conover Auditorium and the Salt Block would be reviewed in the upcoming year and the County will develop a new model for County participation via the strategic planning process.

Commissioner Butler made a motion to approve these changes. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Randy Isenhower, Chair
Board of Commissioners

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Barbara E. Morris
County Clerk