

Catawba County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session, Monday, August 4, 2008, 9:30 a.m.

Appointments

Public Health Board	151	08/04/08
Region E Development Corporation	151	08/04/08
Juvenile Crime Prevention Council	151	08/04/08

Ethics

Update on Ethic Rules and Laws Governing Lobbying Efforts	151	08/04/08
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Lobbyists

Update on Ethic Rules and Laws governing Lobbying Efforts	151	08/04/08
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The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, August 4, 2008 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 and Barbara G. Beatty.

Vice-Chair Lynn Lail and Commissioner Glenn Barger were absent.

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 9:30 a.m. Chair Barnes noted Vice-Chair Lail and Commissioner Barger's absence but indicated a quorum was present to enable the Board to take action.
2. Chair Barnes led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Commissioner Dan Hunsucker offered the invocation.
4. Commissioner Dan Hunsucker made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Session and Closed Session of Monday, July 21, 2008. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Recognition of Special Guests: Chair Barnes welcomed everyone present and specifically representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and Lewis Woods.
6. Comments for Items not on the Agenda. None.
7. Presentation:
Mr. Jack L. Cozort of Womble, Carlyle, Sandridge and Rice, PLLC, of Raleigh, North Carolina came forward to present the Board with an update on the State of North Carolina's ethics rules and laws that govern lobbying efforts. Mr. Cozort serves as the county's lobbyist. He outlined the changes in the ethic laws, adopted by the North Carolina General Assembly in 2006 and amended in 2007 and 2008. The new laws now govern the relationship between lobbyists and legislators, activities of the principal (the entity that hires a lobbyist, such as Catawba County) and the lobbyist, and required registration with the North Carolina Secretary of State's Office by both the lobbyist and the principal.
8. Appointments.
Commissioner Dan Hunsucker recommended the appointment of Mr. Cecil Clark for a first term in the Engineer Category on the Public Health Board to replace Mr. Clark Isaac who was not eligible for reappointment. Chair Barnes presented Vice-Chair Lail's recommendations for reappointments to the Region E Development Corporation: Mr. Jeff Gniadek for a second term, Mr. Rodney Miller for a third term and Mr. Corky Upchurch for a sixth term. Chair Barnes then recommended Mr. Chris

Johnson from The Cognitive Connection for a first term on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council in the Substance Abuse Professional Category. These recommendations came in the form of a motion. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Other items of Business.

Assistant County Manager Lee Worsley presented the Board with an update on the "Short Session" of the North Carolina General Assembly that ended on July 18, 2008, and on progress toward the Board's State Legislative Goals for fiscal years 2007-08 and 2008-2009. He reported on goals which were met or partially met, including an increase in the Homestead Exclusion to provide property tax relief for senior citizens and the permanently disabled, which is expected to receive full consideration in the General Assembly in 2009; flexible revenue options to avoid future property tax increases; a fairer distribution in the school capital fund formula applied to lottery proceeds; additional child care subsidies funding; reestablishment of Juvenile Crime Prevention Council funding; opposition to an unfunded mandate requiring counties to pay for the implementation of Administrative Office of Courts phone systems in courthouses; opposition to a reduction in the property tax base, which would have placed more burden on property taxpayers; and additional strengthening of interbasin transfer rules.

Mr. Worsley also outlined the Board's goals that were not accomplished in the Short Session including opposition to a \$2 per ton Solid Waste disposal tax; an exemption from State sales tax for purchases made by local school systems; an end to cuts to reimbursement levels for Medicaid services and the return of reimbursement levels that reflect actual costs; an increase in reimbursement rates for local government legal work related to in-rem foreclosures; an increase in funding to support mental health care in jails; the return of funding for the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program to 1996 levels; changes to the required start date for public school systems, to no earlier than August 25; and increases in funding for the on-going maintenance of North Carolina's secondary roads system, under the North Carolina Department of Transportation Secondary Roads Program.

Mr. Worsley concluded his presentation by outlining items of interest that are expected to be addressed in the Long Session which will convene on January 29, 2009. These items included (but are not limited to) transportation, what impact the new Governor will have on policy, lottery formula/school funding formulas; the economy and the impact on the new biennial budget, municipal annexation, mental health, collective bargaining, environmental issues, criminal justice/prisons and what will come out of the studies bills.

10. Attorneys' Report. None.

11. Manager's Report. None.

12. Adjournment: Chair Barnes adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Katherine W. Barnes, Chair
Board of Commissioners

Barbara E. Morris, County Clerk