

October 13, 2017, MB#54
Board Retreat

Special Session, October 13, 2017, 8:00 a.m.
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Monday, October 13, 2017, at 8:00 a.m., at the Catholic Conference Center, 1551 Trinity Lane, Hickory, North Carolina.

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

Also present were County Manager Mick Berry, Assistant County Managers Dewey Harris and Mary Furtado, Assistant County Attorney Jodi Stewart and County Clerk Barbara Morris.

Chair Isenhower called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

Agenda:

8:00 Chair Isenhower welcomed all present and then turned the meeting over the County Manager Mick Berry. Mick indicated that they would review upcoming Strategic Plan activities at the lunch break as well as other subjects not on the agenda which would be identified by Board members for discussion. He then turned the program over to Amy McCauley, Communications and Marketing Director. Amy presented a PowerPoint presentation which documented the Board's Strategic Plan activities over the past year.

Commissioners then identified various subjects to be included in discussions:

Barbara Beatty – FERC Relicensing; can't control housing complaints with our ordinances

Dan Hunsucker – development of an easily navigated ordinance process and adhere to the process and ordinances; work with municipalities on housing issues

Randy Isenhower – develop ordinances that are customer friendly; coordinate these ordinances with municipalities to cultivate a regional attitude

Sherry Butler – develop a facilities usage plan – what are we going to do with our old buildings?

Kitty Barnes – Identify the UDO issues the Board members get multiple calls about; address adequate housing standards; agrees with Sherry on the facilities plan

8:30 Communications and Marketing Director Amy McCauley presented an update on the Branding initiative update. Note: The Board wants time to respond to the final proposal before final presentation.

8:45 Mick presented a PowerPoint regarding finalizing the Strategic Plan. The Board requested the following changes to the "Why it Matters" summary:
Under **Healthy, Safe Community**, all words after "well-being of our citizens" should be removed.
Under **Parks**, the Board stressed using a community-wide approach to the park system and use terminology "**provides and invites**".
Under **Arts & Culture**, replace "&" with "and", and remove "existing" before showcasing.
Under **K-64**, replace the work "linking" with "partnering".

9:00 Tax Administrator Mark Logan presented an overview of the 2019 Property Revaluation.

9:30 Chief Financial Officer Bob Miracle presented an update on the Burke/Catawba District Confinement Facility (BCDCF) as well as the Newton Jail Expansion Project Update. It was confirmed that the jail expansion will be phased to have space to coincide to when we have to be out of the BCDCF and the jail expansion space is flexible so it can handle an increase in the female jail population. Assistant County Manager Mary Furtado gave a brief update on the Court Improve Board Jail Diversion initiatives

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- 10:40 Bob Miracle presented an update on facilities master planning. The Board raised questions about a location for Board of Elections – noted the location should be convenient for loading/unloading trucks (equipment); the possibility of space at the hospital; could it be a stand-alone building (i.e. old Employment Security building)? Ideas for additional library space/locations were also discussed.
- 11:30 Mick Berry and Hickory City Manager Warren Wood presented an update on Park 1764.
- 12:00 Working Lunch –
Wrap-Up – areas to address:
- Code Enforcement
 - Partnerships with municipalities to have similar requirements
 - More “meat” needed in ordinances – can’t enforce removal of dilapidated homes
 - Problem with vacant homes – grass, snakes
 - Problem with those who can’t afford to keep up their homes – community outreach should be encouraged – partner with non-profit/faith organizations
 - Staff is working on a dashboard on these issues and will bring to Board at a later date and bring back policy options
 - Permitting
 - Dept Team working on streamlining process
 - Summits
 - Yes, with municipalities and school boards (to include CVCC)
 - FERC
 - Should have attendance at Stakeholders Conference in November
 - Younger staff needs to get involved
 - Jacky Eubank should take Chris Timberlake to these meetings
 - Should have legislators working on and committed to recreational sites
 - Transportation
 - John Marshall should be scheduled to come to Subcommittee Meetings to update
 - Subdivision Roads
 - Still an issue
 - Give guidance to citizens on how to set up a Road Maintenance Association
 - Require performance bond from developers
 - Upcoming Strategic Plan activities:
 - Chatham Park site visit – 10/18
 - Newland Developers – 11/16

Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to adjourn at 12:50 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Randy Isenhower, Chair
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Barbara E. Morris
County Clerk