

Regular Session, October 16, 2017, 7:00 p.m.
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

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The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, October 16, 2017, at 7:00 p.m., in the Robert E. Hibbitts Meeting Room of the 1924 Courthouse, 30 North College Avenue, Newton, North Carolina.

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

Also present were County Manager Mick Berry, Assistant County Managers Dewey Harris and Mary Furtado, Counsel to the Board David Hood and County Clerk Barbara Morris. County Attorney Debra Bechtel and Assistant County Attorney Jodi Stewart were absent.

1. Vice-Chair Barbara G. Beatty called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., noting a quorum was present.
2. Vice-Chair Beatty led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Commissioner Sherry E. Butler offered the invocation.
4. Commissioner Butler made a motion to approve the minutes of the Board's Regular Meeting and Closed Session of October 2, 2017. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Recognition of Special Guests: Vice-Chair Beatty welcomed Counsel to the Board David Hood.
6. Public Comments. None.
7. Public Hearing:
Social Services Director Karen Harrington requested the Board hold a public hearing to receive citizen comments regarding the submittal of an application for a Federal 5310 grant from the North Carolina Department of Transportation for transportation assistance for elderly individuals and individuals with

disabilities residing in rural areas and authorize the submittal of the grant application, the adoption of the Public Transportation Program Resolution regarding the Federal 5310 grant and authorize Karen Harrington, Director of Catawba County Social Services, to submit the grant application on behalf of the County as outlined in the Resolution.

The goal of the Section 5310 program is to improve mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities by removing barriers to transportation services. Catawba County received a 5310 rural transportation grant in the amount of \$250,000 (federal, state and local funds) for a one-year grant ending June 30, 2018. Catawba County has received 5310 grant funds since FY 13.

The 5310 program requires submission of two separate grants, one for trips originating in urban areas and one for trips originating in rural areas. The request for urban funds was submitted to the Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization in August 2016 for a two-year period. The urban grant was approved for a total of \$300,000. The grant application for trips originating in rural areas must be submitted to the Department of Transportation annually. For FY 17/18 the 5310 rural grant was approved for a total of \$250,000. The FY 18/19 request was for the same amount of funding approved in the current year.

Catawba County will continue to contract with Western Piedmont Regional Transportation Authority (WPRTA) to provide transportation funded by Section 5310. The funds will allow seniors and individuals with disabilities to primarily attend the congregate nutrition program and have access to essential shopping, medical appointments, pharmacy, banking, and other essential services. Additionally, as funds allow, transportation will be provided for individuals to access education and employment opportunities, volunteer activities, senior centers, and Adult Day Care/Day Health programs when no other transportation is available.

A total of \$250,000 is being requested for trips originating in rural areas in FY 18/19. While there is a possibility of a 10% state match, the state match is not guaranteed at this time. If the state match is not available, the requirement for local match would be 20% or \$50,000. If the state match is available, the local match requirement will be 10% or \$25,000. Social Services will provide the match utilizing current local funding allocated for senior transportation. There will be no increased cost to the County.

Approximately 10,000 one-way trips will be provided to an estimated 80-160 individuals for the period of the grant (July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019). Many of the seniors will utilize transportation for multiple purposes and a large percentage of the target population will utilize transportation daily. Providing transportation will allow older adults the opportunity and the choice to remain active, remain in their homes and involved in the community.

Vice-Chair Beatty opened the public hearing. No one came forward to speak and Vice-Chair Beatty closed the public hearing. Commissioner Butler made a motion to approve the submittal of the proposed application, the adoption of the applicable resolution and the authorization of Karen Harrington to submit the application on behalf of the County. The motion carried unanimously. The following resolution applies:

HUMAN SERVICE AGENCY TRANSPORTATION RESOLUTION

State Funds

FY 2019 RESOLUTION

Section 5311 (ADTAP), 5310, 5339, 5307 and applicable State funding, or combination thereof.

Applicant seeking permission to apply for Human Service Transportation funding, enter into agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation, provide the necessary assurances, and the required local match.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sherry E. Butler and (second not required) for the adoption of the following resolution, and upon being put to a vote was duly adopted.

WHEREAS, Article 2B of Chapter 136 of the North Carolina General Statutes and the Governor of North Carolina have designated the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) as the agency responsible for administering federal and state public transportation funds; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation receives funds from the North Carolina General Assembly to provide assistance for rural public transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of these transportation funds is to provide grant monies to local agencies for the provision of rural public transportation services; and

WHEREAS, the funds applied for may be Administrative, Operating, Planning or Capital funds and will have different percentages of federal, state, and local funds.

WHEREAS, non-Community Transportation applicants may only apply for funding for "purchase-of-service" projects under the Section 5310 program

WHEREAS, Catawba County hereby assures and certifies that it will provide the required local matching funds; that its staff has the technical capacity to implement and manage the project, prepare required reports, obtain required training, attend meetings and conferences; and agrees to comply with the federal and state statutes, regulations, executive orders, and all administrative requirements related to the applications made to and grants received from the North Carolina Department of Transportation;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Karen Harrington, Director, Catawba County Department of Social Services of Catawba County Government is hereby authorized to submit a grant application for state funding, make the necessary assurances and certifications and be empowered to enter into an agreement with the NCDOT to provide rural public transportation services.

I, Barbara Morris County Clerk do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of an excerpt from the minutes of a meeting of the Catawba County Board of Commissioners duly held on the 16th day of October, 2017.

8. Appointments.

Commissioner Butler recommended the appointment of AJ Kerley, Debbie Rights and Cathy Banner for first terms on the Western Piedmont Council of Governments Aging Advisory Committee. These terms will expire June 30, 2020. These recommendations came in the form of a motion, which carried unanimously.

9. Consent Agenda.

County Manager Mick Berry presented the following items for Board consideration:

- a. A request for the Board to award the bid for Aggregate Materials for the construction of the Subtitle D Landfill Cell Unit 3 Phase 2 to Dickinson Hauling & Grading, Inc. in the amount of \$2,726,401 and authorize County Manager Mick W. Berry to execute a contract with Dickinson Hauling & Grading, Inc.

The Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Landfill at the Blackburn Resource Recovery Facility will reach disposal capacity in the summer of 2020 and the next Subtitle D Cell, Unit 3 - Phase 2, which is a 5-year municipal solid waste cell, is on schedule to begin construction in April 2019. 120,000 tons of gravel is needed for the construction of the drainage layer. Subtitle D cell construction requires a 2-foot thick layer of washed stone for drainage of leachate into the collection system. The gravel will be purchased and hauled to the landfill over a 2-year period. This will allow the rock quarry production time and reduces the cost by allowing the contractor to transport the gravel during winter months when they are not as busy, thus providing the County with the best pricing.

On September 8, 2017, Catawba County received a total of 4 bids for the Sale of Aggregate Materials. Each bidder was to provide a Mobilization Charge in 1-unit price and NCDOT #57 Aggregate Material (gravel) unit price per ton and a total bid price for 120,000 tons. Based on the review of the bids and qualifications, staff recommended the bid be awarded to Dickinson Hauling & Grading, Inc. of Hickory, North Carolina, in the amount of \$2,726,401.

As part of the Solid Waste Management Plan, the County sets aside funding with each budget for the construction of Subtitle D Landfill Cells. The estimated cost of Unit 3 - Phase 2 is \$8.2 million. Gravel is the first major expense in the process of constructing a Subtitle D Landfill Cell. The next steps are bids for construction, to include pond/wetland mitigation, and contracting for Construction Quality Assurance (CQA). All costs associated with the Landfill are funded from the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund which contains no ad valorem tax proceeds.

b. A request for the Board to delegate authority to Jonathan Greer, Utilities & Landfill Project Manager, to conduct an open meeting concerning a preferred alternate for the Highway 150 Sewer Project.

As with previous SECC sewer projects, Catawba County and its service provider, City of Hickory, has a preferred pump brand, Fairbanks Morse. This brand of pump is currently in use in the eight pump stations that are part of the SECC sewer system and have been standardized throughout the system. The preferred alternate process has been followed in each county utility project where a preferred piece of equipment or material is requested and part of the service provider's standards and specifications.

As approved by the Board of Commissioners in the FY11/12 budget, the Highway 150 Sewer project will extend sewer along N.C. Highway 150 from Marshall Stream Station, east to the county line. Approximately 3,500 linear feet of gravity, 5,000 linear feet of force main, and one submersible pump station will be installed. Once complete, this project will finish Catawba County's efforts to extend sewer service along N.C. Highway 150. The bid advertisement for this project went out on October 16, 2017.

Catawba County owns the South Eastern Catawba County Water and Sewer Systems and by contract, the City of Hickory provides operations, maintenance and management. According to the contract, the system is to be designed according to the City of Hickory's specifications and standards. The City of Hickory Public Utilities Department has standardized on Fairbanks Morse Pumps, which have been in operation within Hickory's system for over 35 years, for applications in any location they operate and maintain due to proven history with the City, local sales, service and support, and reduction in required spare parts inventory as required by N.C. General Statutes. The City has an excellent relationship with the local Fairbanks Morse vendor who has impeccable in-house support for the City's operations for both infield support, trouble shooting, start-up and for records on pumps currently in service.

General Statute 133-3 provides for free and open competition on public contracts. It states the following: Specifications shall contain a performance specification or name at least three brands of equal or equivalent design characteristics; if the owner prefers a particular brand or product or material then such brand shall be bid as an alternate to the three items or equivalent design in the base bid, one of which may be the preferred brand; the specifications for the preferred brand must also identify the performance standards that support the preference; the owner shall publish a notice announcing an open meeting for the presentation of the performance standards; the open meeting may be held separately or in conjunction with the project pre-bid meeting; a designated official of the owner will conduct the meeting; and the justification must either indicate a cost savings or maintain or improve the function of any process or system affected by the preferred product or both.

Since any preferred alternate must be discussed at an open meeting by an official designated by the owner, staff requested that the authority to act as the official for the County be delegated to the Utilities & Landfill Project Manager, Jonathan Greer. The preferred alternate discussion will occur at the advertised pre-bid meeting; all procedures set by the State Construction Office will be followed.

c. A request for the Board to authorize Chair Isenhower to execute the contract between Catawba County and the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) and approve the appropriation of funds for the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grant in the amount of \$414,109 for the Riverbend Park acquisition and expansion project associated with the Byron Bean property.

On November 21, 2016, the Board of Commissioners approved the purchase of the 209-acre Bean property abutting Riverbend Park for \$400,000. The County closed on the property on December 28, 2016. The County made an initial installment payment of \$100,000 on January 8, 2017, leaving a balance of \$300,000 to be paid annually over the next three years. On April 17, 2017, the Board of Commissioners authorized staff to apply for a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant (PARTF) for the purchase of the Bean property. On September 1, 2017, the County was notified that it was awarded a grant in the amount of \$414,109 to fund the Riverbend Park Expansion Acquisition Project.

The grant funds will be used as follows: Environmental Review - \$3,150; Appraisal - \$2,000; Survey - \$7,185; Title Insurance - \$1,774; and Bean Acquisition - \$400,000. TOTAL: \$414,109

Although the terms of the contract allow up to 36 months for the close out of the grant, staff anticipates being able to close the grant out and complete necessary requirements within four months. The following appropriations apply:

<u>Revenue</u>	
410-460100-630557	\$414,109

<u>Expenditures</u>	
410-460100-988000-18014	\$414,109

Vice-Chair Beatty asked if any commissioner wished for an item to be broken out of the consent agenda for individual consideration; none was requested. Commissioner Katherine W. Barnes made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Departmental Report.

Tax.

Tax Collector Lori Mathes requested the Board approve the Fiscal Report and Settlement of 2016 taxes for Fiscal Year July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. As required by GS 105-352, and GS 105-373, the Tax Collector is required to make an annual settlement for all taxes in the hands of the Tax Collector for collection. The Tax Collector reported that \$90,818,748 of the 2016 tax levy was collected by June 30, 2017. This is 98.19% of the \$92,499,312 adjusted 2016 tax levy. Commissioner Barnes made a motion to approve the Fiscal Report and Settlement of 2016 taxes for Fiscal Year July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Other Items of Business:

Vice-Chair Beatty announced that Commissioner Butler had been appointed to the Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force by Anna Bess Brown from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. The Task Force provides statewide leadership for the prevention and management of cardiovascular disease which partners legislators, health care providers, community leaders and other key stakeholder to develop a profile of the burden of heart disease and stroke in North Carolina.

12. Manager's Report: None.

13. Attorneys' Report: None.

14. Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Randy Isenhower, Chair
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Barbara E. Morris
County Clerk