

Regular Session, October 19, 2015, 7:00 p.m.  
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

**Appointments**

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**Awards**

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**Social Services**

Section 5310 Rural Grant Application	644	10/19/15
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The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, October 19, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Robert E. Hibbitts Meeting Room, 1924 Courthouse, 30 North College Avenue, Newton, 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 Assistant County Managers Mary Furtado and Dewey Harris, County Attorney Debra Bechtel, Assistant County Attorney Jodi Stewart and County Clerk Barbara Morris. County Manager J. Thomas Lundy was absent.

1. Chair Randy Isenhower called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and noted a quorum was present.
2. Commissioner Dan Hunsucker led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Vice-Chair Barbara G. Beatty offered the invocation.

4. Commissioner Katherine W. Barnes made a motion to approve the minutes from the Board's Retreat, Regular Meeting and Closed Session of October 5, 2015. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Recognition of Special Guests: Chair Isenhower welcomed everyone and specifically recognized John Marino and his service on the Lake Norman Marine Commission. Mr. Marino thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve. The Chair also welcomed Scout Will Wiebking who was working on a badge. Vice-Chair Beatty recognized the Hickory Crawdads for their recent Division win.
6. Public Comments for Items Not on the Agenda: None.
7. Presentations:
  - a. The Board received a County Government Partnership Award from the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Foundation. The award presented by NC Cooperative Extension Associate Director and Director of County Operations Sheri Schwab is one of five given regionally across North Carolina each year. The Catawba County Board won the award for the North Carolina Cooperative Extension's South Central District. Cooperative Extension Director George Place nominated the Board, saying that Catawba County has been incredibly supportive of the Cooperative Extension Service and helped tremendously to access needed resources and maintain departmental capacity in a time of State cutbacks and position losses in the organization. In addition to the awards that will be displayed in both the County Manager's Office and at Cooperative Extension, each commissioner received an individual award.
  - b. The Catawba County Library and Librarian April Green were recognized with a 2015 Local Government Federal Credit Union (LGFCU) Excellence in Innovation Award for the Community Garden Program, which was presented by North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Representative David Nicholson. The Program converted a vacant parking lot into a community garden. A primary objective of the Program is to provide fresh produce for meal production and distribution to local food assistance programs. The harvested produce is donated to The Corner Table in Newton to provide nutritious meals. With feeding the hungry as a goal, the community garden has proved to be a project that encourages participation across generational and socio-economic barriers, providing opportunities for learning and educational activity for all ages. The LGFCU Excellence in Innovation Awards program provides a total of \$10,000 in rewards to county employees who develop successful programs that help counties improve services to citizens. Cash awards of \$1,000 each are given to two or more programs in each of four categories - general government, health and human services, public information/participation and intergovernmental collaboration.
8. Public Hearing:

Social Services Director John Eller requested the Board hold a public hearing to receive citizen comments and approve the submission of a grant for the enhanced mobility of seniors and individuals with disabilities (Federal Section 5310) to the North Carolina Department of Transportation. Mr. Eller recognized Bruce McCrory for his expertise in the filing of this grant. This application is for the grant year, July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017. 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 transportation grant in the amount of \$125,000 (federal, state and local funds) for a one-year grant ending June 30, 2016.

The request for urban funds was submitted to the Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization in September 2015. The grant application for trips originating in rural areas must be submitted to the NC Department of Transportation no later than November 6, 2015. Catawba County will continue to contract with the Western Piedmont Regional Transit 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 \$125,000 is being requested for trips originating in rural areas in Fiscal Year 2016/17. 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 \$25,000. If the State match is available the local match requirement will be 10% or \$12,500. Social Services will provide the match utilizing current local funding allocated for senior transportation. There will be no increased cost to the County. Approximately 70-120 individuals will receive transportation for the period of the grant (July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017). 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 choice to remain active and involved in the community.

No one came forward to speak during the public hearing. Commissioner Sherry Butler made a motion to authorize the submission of the grant, adopt the Public Transportation Program Resolution regarding the Federal 5310 grant and authorize John Eller, Director of Catawba County Social Services, to submit the grant application as outlined in the Resolution. The motion carried unanimously. The following resolution applies:

#### **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION 5310 PROGRAM RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, Article 2B of Chapter 136 of the North Carolina General Status 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 will apply for a grant from the US Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration and receives funds from the North Carolina General Assembly to provide assistance for public transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Section 5310 program is to enhance mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities throughout the country, by removing barriers to transportation services and expanding the transportation mobility options available. Toward this goal, FTA provides financial assistance for transportation services planned, designed, and carried out to meet the special transportation needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities in all area.

WHEREAS, NCDOT has been designated as the State agency with principle authority and responsibility for administering the Section 5310 Program for small urbanized and rural areas; and

WHEREAS, (Legal Name of Applicant) Catawba County hereby assures and certifies that it will comply with the federal and state statutes, regulations, executive orders, and all small administrative requirements related to the applications made to and grants received from the Federal Transit Administration, as well as the provisions of Section 1001 of Title 18, U.S.C.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the (Authorized Official's Title)\* John Eller, Director, Catawba County Department of Social Services of (Name of Applicant's Governing Body) Catawba County Board of Commissioners is hereby authorized to submit a grant for federal and state funding, provide the required local match, make the necessary assurances and certifications and be empowered to enter into an agreement with the NCDOT to provide public transportation services.

I ( Certifying Official's Name)\*Barbara Morris (Certifying Official's Title) County Clerk do hereby certify that the above is true and correct copy of an excerpt from the minutes of a meeting of the (Name of Applicant's Governing Board) Catawba County Board of Commissioners duly held on the 19th day of October, 2015.

9. Appointments:  
 Vice-Chair Beatty recommended the reappointment of Rita Beaver for a second term, Larry Johnson for a sixth term and Richard Thompson for a eighth term on the Catawba County Board of Adjustment. These terms will expire November 30, 2018. Vice-Chair Beatty also recommended Tommy Luckadoo be reassigned from an alternate to a full position and Troy Sigmon from a full position to an alternate position on this Board. Commissioner Barnes recommended the appointment of Jeff Kerley for a first term on the Hickory Regional Planning commission. This term will expire June 30, 2018. These appointments came in the form of a motion, which carried unanimously.

10. Consent Agenda:  
 Assistant County Manager Mary Furtado presented the following three items on the consent agenda:

a. A request from Catawba County Schools to transfer \$63,980 from an existing St. Stephens HVAC Piping project to a new Banoak Elementary School Elevator Repair project and multiple projects included in a recent CBSA Inc. settlement. The elevator at Banoak Elementary School is not working and needs repair to be compliant with ADA accessibility requirements. Additionally, a settlement has been reached in a dispute (spanning several years) with CBSA Inc. for work on multiple projects. Final payment due to the architect in the amount of \$51,413.60 was withheld due to the dispute, which was recently settled for \$31,480. With the exception of a Webb Murray Elementary School project, all of the projects impacted by the settlement were previously closed.

The following appropriations apply:

Transfer of Appropriations

From:

420-750100-863200-31121-4-03	\$63,980
St. Stephens HS-HVAC Piping	

To:

420-750100-863200-31104-4-01	\$32,500
Banoak Elementary Elevator Repair	

420-750100-863200-31101-3-02	\$5,125
Arndt Middle School Roof	

420-750100-863200-31103-3-02	\$5,855
Bandys High School Roof	

420-750050-995423-30050-9-02	\$20,500
Transfer to Schools Construction Fund	

Supplemental Appropriation

423-740100-863200-31101-2-01	\$1,624
Arndt Middle School Gym	

423-740100-863200-31124-3-02	\$14,239
Webb Murray Elementary School	

423-740100-863200-31121-3-05	\$4,637
St. Stephens High School Cafeteria	

423-740050-695420  
From Schools Capital Fund

\$20,500

b. A request to accept grant funds in the amount of \$16,904 from the U.S. Department of Justice, State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP). There are no matching funds required for this award; it is 100% Federal funding. SCAAP is a formula-based grant program that provides agencies with reimbursement for some of the costs associated with incarcerating undocumented criminal aliens who have committed serious crimes in the U.S. The goal of this program is to enhance public safety in communities throughout the nation. These grant funds are based on individuals held in the Newton Detention Center and those held for Catawba County at the Burke Catawba District Confinement Facility during fiscal year 2013/2014. Funds under this program can be used for correctional purposes only. Staff has determined the best application would be for medical services in the jail. This expense is unpredictable during the year as it is dependent on the inmates' presented medical conditions. The need fluctuates as the population changes.

c. A request for the Board to approve the donation of a 2009 Dodge Charger, as requested by the Catawba Rescue Squad. This vehicle will be used primarily to run medical first response calls and may at times be utilized to transport Rescue members to squad meetings and training classes. This vehicle will replace a current vehicle the department is using and will not be an expansion to their fleet. The approximate value of the vehicle is \$5,500. The vehicle to be donated is a 2009 Dodge Charger with 123,991 miles.

North Carolina General Statute 160A-279 authorizes the County to convey personal property to a nonprofit organization without monetary consideration as long as the property will be used for a public purpose. The process begins with the governing board adopting a resolution authorizing the conveyance of the property and a ten-day public notice. The following resolution applies:

**RESOLUTION No.  
DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY AND DONATION TO THE  
CATAWBA RESCUE SQUAD**

WHEREAS, Catawba County owns a 2009 Dodge Charger that is no longer needed for any governmental use; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute 160A-279 authorizes a county to convey personal property by private sale to a nonprofit organization; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute 160A-279 authorizes the conveyance without monetary consideration if the recipient ensures the property will be used for a public purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Catawba Rescue Squad is a nonprofit organization that provides a public service.

THEREFORE, the Catawba County Board of Commissioners resolves that:

1. A 2009 Dodge Charger is declared surplus property.
2. The property will be donated to the Catawba Rescue Squad without monetary consideration.
3. The Purchasing Manager shall be authorized to conduct the transfer of property and shall publish a notice summarizing the contents of this resolution and the property shall be conveyed anytime after ten days after the notice publication.

This the 19<sup>th</sup> day of October 2015.

Chair Isenhower asked if any Commissioner wished for an item to be removed from the consent agenda for individual consideration. None was requested. He made a motion to approve the consent agenda and motion carried unanimously.

11. Other Items of Business:

Chair Isenhower reported on the attainment of the Board's Fiscal Year 2014/15 Goals.

Under the Board's first goal, "In partnership with the private sector, support a coordinated effort to create jobs and property tax base by investing in infrastructure, the development of the County's quality of place and educational opportunities", the Board adopted the 2015 Unifour Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan to manage risks from hazards.

Under a strategy for this goal, "continuously monitor County regulations to ensure they supported orderly growth and business development", the County's Utilities and Engineering Department received a National Association of Counties (NACo) Award for the development of the Remote Access Permitting Terminal (RAPT) which provides real-time interaction between citizens in Hickory City Hall and the Permit Center in Newton. Also under this strategy, the Board approved Park 1764 rezoning in a partnership with the City of Hickory to create jobs through a high-end, high-tech industrial park, approved amendments to the Conceptual Site Plan and a development agreement for the Village at Sherrills Ford, and accepted a private offer to purchase 39 acres from the County to further enhance proposed development.

Under another strategy for the Board's first goal, "Partner with the private sector and municipalities to focus on framework to increase small and/or entrepreneurial businesses", the Board approved economic incentives for Blue Bloodhound, LP to bring 191 new jobs and investment in the Moretz Mill redevelopment.

Under a final strategy for this goal, "partner with private and public sectors to implement Innovate Catawba", the Board allocated \$10,000 in the Fiscal Year 2014/15 County budget for Innovate Catawba and committed \$20,000 per year, for five years, to facilitate Lenoir Rhyne University's development of a Health Services Center, which will develop medical programming and centralize and support current and future healthcare opportunities.

Under the Board's second goal, "increasing citizens' awareness of County programs and services and promoting healthy activities throughout the County by strengthening communications and outreach to citizens", the Board accepted Services and Technology Act Grant funds to develop a long-range strategic plan to prioritize library services, install and implement Radio Frequency Identification technology at the St. Stephens and Main branches of the Library and host a robotics camp for young adults to promote STEM careers. Also under this goal, the Public Health Farmers Market program received a NACo award for improving individual and community health by increasing access to fresh fruits and vegetables and the "Catawba Communities" TV program was recognized by the National Association of County Information Officers for being one of nation's best examples of a cost-effective information program. In line with this goal promoting healthy activities throughout the County, the Board approved an updated Parks Master Plan which provides quality passive recreation and wellness opportunities and included funding in the Fiscal Year 2015/16 County budget to increase park hours and adopt a six day per week park operating schedule.

Under the Board's third goal, "ensure transportation connectivity of Catawba County to the rest of the region, continue to advocate for completion of widening of HWY16", right-of-way and utility relocation was included by the North Carolina Department of Transportation for both sections of HWY 16 and the Board adopted 2015 Long Session legislative goals which included support of the widening of both HWY 16 and HWY 150.

Under the Board's fourth goal, "support the three school systems and Catawba Valley Community College as they work to increase educational attainment level in Catawba County", the Board

approved the transfer of \$480,000 from capital projects to current expense to mitigate State funding reversions for CVCC, which avoided the eliminations of seven positions and provided a letter of commitment to the college to fund \$890,000 to replace 1.5 miles of severely deteriorated underground piping on the campus. The Board approved the transfer of funds from a completed school project so that Hickory Public Schools could provide \$35,000 in local match for \$300,000 in federal E-rate funds to upgrade technology infrastructure. The Board also adopted the Fiscal Year 2015/16 budget and increased investment in public education to maintain the County's statewide rank of 15<sup>th</sup> in total public schools current expense funding and advance from 18<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> in statewide community funding for CVCC.

12. Attorney's Report:

County Attorney Debra Bechtel requested the Board consider approval of an amendment to an offer to purchase and contract between The Village at Sherrills Ford, LLC and the County for property located at 4251 Slanting Bridge Road, Sherrills Ford. The Buyer requested to extend the closing on this property for the purpose of securing a written agreement with CSX Railroad to allow the buyer to cross the railroad in approved locations. In order to properly engineer bridges that will cross the railroad, the buyer will need to conduct soil borings and allow sufficient time for CSX to review boring results and engineering designs prior to CSX approving the railroad crossings.

After a discussion, Commissioner Barnes made a motion to approve this amendment to the offer to purchase and contract with the conditions that the closing would occur by February 16, 2016, the \$20,000 in earnest money paid by the Buyer was now non-refundable, and the Buyer would provide 30-day updates on railroad approval process, starting from the date of this approved amendment. The motion carried unanimously.

County Attorney Bechtel then recommended the Board move into closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143.318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body. She expected no action to be taken upon return to open session.

13. Manager's Report. None.

Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to move into closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143.318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body. The motion carried unanimously. The Board moved into closed session at 7:57 p.m.

11. Adjournment. The Board returned to open session at 8:42 p.m. and Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to adjourn, which carried unanimously.

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Randy Isenhower, Chair  
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

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Barbara E. Morris  
County Clerk