

Regular Session, October 20, 2014, 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 20, 2014, 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 Chair Katherine W. Barnes, Vice-Chair Randy Isenhower and Commissioners Dan Hunsucker, Lynn M. Lail, and Barbara G. Beatty.

Also present were County Manager J. Thomas Lundy, Assistant County Manager Dewey Harris, County Attorney Debra Bechtel, Assistant County Attorney Jodi Stewart and County Clerk Barbara Morris. Assistant County Manager Mary Furtado was absent.

1. Chair Katherine W. Barnes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Vice-Chair Randy Isenhower led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Commissioner Barbara G. Beatty offered the invocation.
4. Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to approve the minutes from the Board's Regular Meeting of October 6, 2014. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Recognition of Special Guests: County Attorney Debra Bechtel introduced Tamta Tsotshalashvili, Tamta is an attorney from the country of Georgia who is working with the County's legal office for three weeks under the American Councils for International Education Program.
6. Public Comments for Items Not on the Agenda:

Mr. Gerald Bennett came forward and voiced his concerns regarding the fees charged by Republic Services for those people who transported their garbage to the landfill rather than utilizing curbside pick-up. He made several suggestions regarding recycling waste. He went on to question whether Federal laws regarding the separation of church and state were being violated by having voting precincts located in churches. County Attorney Debra Bechtel advised that the United States Supreme Court had ruled that this practice was not a violation of Federal laws.

7. Presentation:

Mr. Jonathan Bledsoe, Immediate Past President of the North Carolina National Emergency Number Association (NENA), presented the Association's Communications Team of the Year Award to Telecommunicator Shift Supervisor Tammy Saunders and Radio Communicators Greg Holland, Matthew Sparks and Cynthia Short. Ms. Saunders and Ms. Short were present to receive the award, along with Telecommunications Administrator Jerry Boggs. The Team was honored for their work on the morning of August 14, 2013, when a woman called the Catawba County Communications Center and the telecommunicators heard mostly shouting and the woman screaming. She was kidnapped from her home and driven to Gaston County, where she escaped from her kidnapper but was then struck and killed by vehicles on Highway 321. Team members worked diligently to locate her and obtained the suspect's phone number and tried calling him. They were eventually able to convince him to return to Catawba County, where he surrendered without incident.

8. Public Hearings:

a. Planner Chris Timberlake came forward and requested the Board hold a public hearing to receive citizens' comments, and consider approval an application from Catawba Management LLC to rezone four parcels totaling 17.31 acres from R-30 Residential to General Industrial (GI) district. The properties are located along Botanical Drive in the St. Stephens/Oxford Small Area Planning District. The R-30 Residential District is a medium-density district allowing one home per 30,000 square feet (approximately 3/4 acre) and generally used for single family housing and agricultural production. The General Industrial (GI) district provides for intensive manufacturing, processing, and assembly uses. The subject parcels were zoned R-30 Residential, with a residence located on one parcel and older accessory structures located on another two. Parcels to the north are zoned R-30 Residential and contain single-family homes, an accessory structure, and some are undeveloped. Parcels to the south are zoned GI General Industrial and undeveloped, with some zoned R-30 Residential with single-family homes. One parcel to the east is zoned R-30 Residential and is undeveloped and two parcels are in Claremont's zoning jurisdiction and zoned for residential use. One parcel to the west is within Claremont's zoning jurisdiction and zoned for residential use and there is another parcel zoned R-30 Residential that contains a single-family home. The four subject parcels are within the WS-IV Watershed Protected Area established to offer protection of surface water from pollutants. The WS-IV Watershed Protected Area allows 36% built upon area if a curb and gutter system is not constructed. A small portion of one of the parcels is located within the floodplain. Each of the parcels is located within the Doublewide Manufactured Home-Overlay district, which allows for manufactured housing.

A public sewer line exists near Mull Creek to the east of one parcel. A sewer pump station is located on one parcel. Public water exists along North Oxford Street, which is designated a minor thoroughfare in the 2035 Greater Hickory Urban Area Transportation Plan. It extends from US Highway 70 in Claremont to Rock Barn Road. No road improvements are recommended for the road north of I-40. Traffic counts taken in 2011 on North Oxford Street just south of Keller Street measured 4,400. Based on design and construction, the road should handle at least 8,000 cars per day without any loss to traffic service. Development of the property should not overburden the existing roadway. Botanical Drive is a local residential gravel road. With this rezoning, Botanical Drive cannot be used to access non-residential development.

The St. Stephens/Oxford Small Area Plan serves as the current land use plan for this area. Map 6, titled "Future Land Use Recommendations," does not depict the properties being located in an area for future industrial use. However, the properties are directly adjacent and in close proximity to

property recently zoned for General Industrial use as well as property zoned M-1 (industrial, manufacturing, and warehousing district) in Claremont's planning and zoning jurisdiction.

Staff recommended the four parcels totaling 17.31 acres be rezoned from R-30 Residential to GI General Industrial based on the request being in harmony with the existing adjacent industrial land use and the property being in close proximity to Interstate 40, a major transportation facility.

The Planning Board held a public hearing on August 25, 2014, to consider the request. Mr. Dan Barnes was available to speak on behalf of the applicant. There were no questions from the Planning Board, which voted 9-0 to submit a favorable recommendation to the Board of Commissioners, to rezone the four parcels totaling 17.31 acres from R-30 Residential to General Industrial (GI), based on the reasons stated above.

Chair Barnes opened the public hearing, noting it had been duly advertised. Mr. Keller and his son Junior Keller came forward to express their concerns regarding increased truck traffic leaving the Cargo Transportation facility. The owner of the property, Robert Miller, came forward to relay assurances Catawba Management made to him regarding trucks not using Botanical Drive and that only six of the seventeen acres would actually be developed.

Chair Barnes closed the public hearing. Vice-Chair Isenhower clarified that there would access restrictions to the rezoned property and that the truck traffic could not use Botanical Drive. Chair Barnes clarified that due to the fact that all this property was in a watershed area, only a limited portion of the property could be developed and about 1/3 of the total acreage would be undeveloped.

Vice-Chair Isenhower made a motion to rezone the four parcels totaling 17.31 acres from R-30 Residential to General Industrial (GI), based upon: The request being in harmony with the existing adjacent industrial land use; and he property being in close proximity to Interstate-40 (freeway), a major transportation facility; adopt the inconsistency statement and the ordinance amending the Catawba County Zoning Map. The motion carried unanimously. The following inconsistency statement and ordinance apply:

ZONING MAP AMENDMENT CONSISTENCY STATEMENT

On October 20, 2014 the Catawba County Board of Commissioners conducted a public hearing for the purpose of considering a zoning map amendment to PINs 3762-05-17-1665, 3762-05-07-6825, 3762-05-07-8825, and 3762-05-07-0685 (Case #RZ2014-03). The applicant is Catawba Management LLC. The property owners are Robert and Lisa Miller.

Upon considering the matter, the Catawba County Board of Commissioners finds the request to be inconsistent with Map 6 titled "Future Land Use Recommendations" of the Catawba Small Area Plan. However, the request is consistent with the guiding principal within the plan of: "Targeting industrial growth within the study area to specific, appropriate sites. The Board of Commissioners therefore finds the request reasonable for rezoning based upon:

- 1) The request being in harmony with the existing adjacent industrial land use; and
- 2) The property being in close proximity to Interstate-40 (freeway), a major transportation facility.

The Catawba County Board of Commissioners therefore approves the zoning map amendment. This approval was affirmed by a vote of ____ - ____ of the Catawba County Board of Commissioners.

Presiding Officer

Ordinance No. 2014-_____

AMENDMENT TO THE CATAWBA COUNTY ZONING MAP

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, that the Catawba County Official Zoning Atlas is hereby amended by rezoning the following described properties from R-30 Residential to General Industrial (GI) district.

Four parcels totaling approximately 17.3 acres located on Botanical Drive in the St. Stephens/Oxford Small Area Planning District, Clines Township, and further identified by Parcel Identification Numbers 3762-05-17-1665, 3762-05-07-6825, 3762-05-07-8825 and 3762-05-07-0685.

PLAN CONSISTENCY STATEMENT:

Pursuant to NCGS 153A-341, the Catawba County Board of Commissioners finds the request to be inconsistent with Map 6 titled "Future Land Use Recommendations" of the Catawba Small Area Plan. However, the request is consistent with the guiding principal within the plan of: "Targeting industrial growth within the study area to specific, appropriate sites. The Board of Commissioners therefore finds the request reasonable for rezoning based upon:

- 3) The request being in harmony with the existing adjacent industrial land use; and
- 4) The property being in close proximity to Interstate-40 (freeway), a major transportation facility.

This, the 20th day of October 2014.

b. Planner Chris Timberlake came forward and presented a request for the Board to hold a public hearing to receive citizen comments and consider amending the Catawba County Official Zoning Overlay Map to remove the Maiden and Allen Creek WS-II Critical and Balance Area Watersheds. County watershed regulations, which aid in protecting surface water from pollutants, became effective on January 1, 1994, in response to State regulations. A watershed is a topographic area that collects precipitation and distributes it to a location such as a lake, pond, river or water collection point such as Maiden's former Water Treatment Facility, which was in service until 2003-2004 when the City of Hickory began serving Maiden with public water.

A portion of Maiden's water supply originated from Maiden Creek and Allen Creek watersheds prior to Hickory providing public water to Maiden. In January and February 2013, the State's Environmental Management Commission and Rules Review Commission, respectively, approved the declassification of both the WS-II Critical Watershed and WS-II Balance Watershed. The State's declassification was effective on March 1, 2013. The State's decision did not modify the County's Zoning Overlay Map. Because of the State's decision, staff requested the County's Official Zoning Overlay Map be amended to remove the WS-II Critical and WS-II Balance Watershed.

The WS-II Critical Area Watershed and WS-II Balance Area Watershed require minimum lot sizes for residential development and allow a maximum built-upon area for non-residential development. There are 77 parcels in the WS-II Critical Area Watershed and 1,478 parcels in the WS-II Balance Area Watershed. All of the properties in the WS-II Critical Area are zoned R-40 Residential. The vast majority of parcels (1,465) within the WS-II Balance Area are zoned R-40 Residential (with a minimum lot size of 40,000 square feet, approximately 1 acre). There are seven non-residential properties in the WS-II Balance Area limited to 12%-70% built-upon area.

Removing the WS-II Critical Watershed and WS-II Balance Watershed will offer opportunity for additional built-upon area (flexibility) on non-residential properties and allow smaller lot sizes (1 acre instead of 2 acres where the WS-II Critical Watershed exists) based on the residential zoning district. Staff recommended amendment of the Catawba County Official Zoning Overlay Map to remove the Maiden and Allen Creek WS-II Critical and Balance Watersheds consistent with the State’s decision in 2013, declassifying both watersheds.

The Planning Board held a public hearing on September 29, 2014, to consider the request. There were a few general questions from the public including (1) If approved, will there be a change to the map? (the Maiden and Allen Creek Watershed would no longer appear on the map); (2) What was the required lot size? (if approved, the minimum lot size would depend on the zoning district but, in most cases, would be 40,000 square feet or approximately one acre. Smaller lots are non-conforming/grandfathered); and (3) Could the current watershed boundaries be clarified? (the boundaries were identified for the public.)

The Planning Board voted 8-0 to submit a favorable recommendation to the Board of Commissioners to amend the Catawba County Official Zoning Overlay Map to remove the Maiden and Allen Creek WS-II Critical and Balance Watersheds consistent with the State’s decision in 2013, declassifying both watersheds.

Chair Barnes opened the public hearing, noting it had been duly advertised. No one came forward to speak. Chair Barnes closed the public hearing. Commissioner Beatty confirmed with Mr. Timberlake that a Mrs. White had called in her opposition to the this rezoning. Commissioner Lynn M. Lail made a motion to adopt the consistency statement, the ordinance amending the Catawba County Zoning Map to remove the Miden and Allen Creek WS-II Critical Area and WS-II Balance Area Watersheds. The motion carried unanimously. The following consistency statement and ordinance apply:

ZONING MAP AMENDMENT CONSISTENCY STATEMENT

On October 20, 2014 the Catawba County Board of Commissioners conducted a public hearing for the purpose of considering an Official Zoning Overlay Map amendment by removing the Maiden and Allen Creek WS-II Critical Area and WS-II Balance Area Watersheds.

Upon considering the matter, the Catawba County Board of Commissioners finds the request to be consistent with the guiding principal of the Balls Creek Small Area Plan; “The quality of water is a vital concern for the public and should be protected” based upon:

- 1) The overall density pattern is not changing because it is also limited according to the existing zoning districts.
- 2) Stormwater regulations, enforced by the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, remain in effect.

The Catawba County Board of Commissioners therefore approves the zoning map amendment. This approval was affirmed by a vote of ____ - ____ of the Catawba County Board of Commissioners.

Presiding Officer

Date

Ordinance No. 2014-_____

AMENDMENT TO THE CATAWBA COUNTY ZONING MAP

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, that the Catawba County Official Zoning Overlay Atlas is hereby amended by removing the Maiden and Allen Creek WS-II Critical Area and WS-II Balance Area Watersheds.

PLAN CONSISTENCY STATEMENT:

Pursuant to NCGS 153A-341, the Catawba County Board of Commissioners finds the request to be consistent with the guiding principal of the Balls Creek Small Area Plan; "The quality of water is a vital concern for the public and should be protected" based upon:

- 1) The overall density pattern is not changing because it is also limited according to the existing zoning districts.
- 2) Stormwater regulations, enforced by the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, remain in effect.

This, the 20th day of October 2014.

9. Appointments: None.

10. Consent Agenda:

County Manager J. Thomas Lundy presented the following two items under the consent agenda:

a. A request for the Board to authorize the sole source exemption for the purchase of an access control system for the Justice Center/Public Safety expansion project. The system will be an expansion of an existing Sonitrol Security Services, Inc. badge system for a cost of \$73,131. This expense is in the Justice Center/Public Safety project budget.

The County has been using Sonitrol Security Services access control system for the Justice Center, Government Center, Social Services, Animal Services and Public Health buildings for several years. The access control system operates with employee ID badges to allow access into buildings and authorized areas within a building. Card access will be required in multiple areas throughout the new expansion.

North Carolina General Statute 143-129 allows an exemption from bidding for purchase contracts when performance or price competition for a product are not available; when a needed product is available from only one source of supply; or when standardization or compatibility is the overriding consideration. This exemption requires governing body approval and a record must be maintained of purchases made under this exemption.

b. A request for the Board to consider entering into an agreement with Burke County regarding the closing of the Burke-Catawba Regional Jail Facility, which sets forth the provisions for the termination of the jail Operating Agreement. Burke and Catawba Counties entered into an agreement entitled "Burke-Catawba Regional Jail Agency Operating Agreement" on March 19, 1996 (effective July 1, 1995), for the purpose of operating a Regional Jail Facility and to provide for its finance and operation. The counties have operated and financed the facility since that date. The debt to fund construction of the facility has been paid in full. Each county anticipates building new confinement facilities in their counties by the end of the decade and both wanted to make provisions

for the termination of the Operating Agreement and the closing of the Regional Jail Facility. Highlights of the agreement include: 1) Burke anticipates its new facility will be complete in approximately four years, at which time Burke will move all of its inmates out of the old facility; 2) Burke will make 88 beds available to Catawba at the new facility until Catawba County completes its jail addition. The bed rental rate will be based on the then-prevailing rate for jail beds; 3) After Burke completes its new facility, either county has the option of maintaining inmates at the old facility provided one year's notice is given, although no inmates shall remain at the old facility after December 31, 2022; and 4) Once the facility is closed, Burke will purchase Catawba's interest at a depreciated amount pursuant to the Operating Agreement. The following agreement applies:

NORTH CAROLINA

FACILITY CLOSING AGREEMENT

BURKE COUNTY

THIS AGREEMENT, made and entered into this the _____ day of _____, 2014, by and between BURKE COUNTY (Burke) and CATAWBA COUNTY (Catawba), which are both bodies politic and corporate of the State of North Carolina;

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the parties did, on March 19, 1996 (effective July 1, 1995) enter into an agreement entitled "Burke-Catawba Regional Jail Agency Operating Agreement (the "Operating Agreement") by which the parties agreed to form a Regional Jail Facility for the use of the two parties pursuant to N.C.G.S. §153A-219 (the "Regional Jail Facility"), and to provide for its finance and operation; and

WHEREAS, the parties have operated and financed the Regional Jail Facility since that date, and are currently operating the Regional Jail Facility; and

WHEREAS, *the debt issued* to fund the building of the Regional Jail Facility has been now completely paid and satisfied; and

WHEREAS, the parties both anticipate building new confinement facilities in their counties by the end of the decade, and wish to make provision for the termination of the Operating Agreement and the closing of the Regional Jail Facility on a timely basis;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises, the parties agree as follows:

1. Burke will begin construction on its new confinement facility (the "Burke Facility"), with construction to begin as soon as reasonably possible, and to be diligently prosecuted until completed.

2. The process of designing and building the Burke Facility is anticipated to take between 36 and 40 months and will create a facility with an estimated 250 beds for inmates; during this time the Regional Jail Facility will continue to operate as it is at present under the Operating Agreement.

3. Upon the completion of the Burke Facility and its certification for opening, all inmates then being held at the Regional Jail Facility will be moved into the Burke Facility. A total of 88 beds will be made available to Catawba for rental at the Burke Facility.

4. Upon the transfer of inmates, the the Regional Jail Agency provided for in the Operating Agreement shall then be dissolved. The Regional Jail Facility will then be closed, unless either Burke or Catawba desires to maintain inmates (in excess of the number provided in the Burke Facility) at the Regional Jail Facility. If a County should elect to maintain inmates at the Regional Jail Facility after the expected transfer date, it will notify the other County no later than one (1) year before the expected transfer date, and will be responsible for all costs and liabilities of operation, and all maintenance and repair, thereafter. Should Catawba give notice of such intent to maintain inmates in the Regional Jail Facility for the purpose of maintaining State of North Carolina confinement facility certification, then any number of Catawba inmates (above the 88 being held in the Burke facility) may be kept by Catawba at the Regional Confinement Facility to insure that State certification shall not lapse. In any event, no inmates shall remain in the Regional Confinement Facility after December 31, 2022.

5. Upon such closure, Burke will purchase the interest of Catawba in the Regional Jail Facility at the depreciated amount as computed in Section VIII of the Operating Agreement as of the time the purchase is made.

6. For the rental of the 88 beds in the Burke Facility, Catawba will pay to Burke an amount equal to what Catawba is then currently paying for the operation of the Regional Jail Facility under the Operating Agreement. In determining this amount, the parties will exclude those amounts that each County is independently responsible for, such as medical care for, and transportation of, inmates; and will exclude capital items; and will include all expenses for which payment is made directly to the Regional Jail Agency under its annual budget. Such payment shall be made in monthly installments, until such rental terminates as provided in Section 8 hereof.

7. Should Catawba desire any additional beds, Burke shall rent such beds as may be available to Catawba at the then-prevailing rate for additional beds. The "then-prevailing rate" is defined as the rate paid by the State of North Carolina when holding inmates in county facilities.

8. This rental arrangement shall continue until Catawba completes its new confinement facility (the "Catawba Facility"), or until December 31, 2018, whichever may first occur.

9. If Burke should fail to build or complete the Burke Facility on a timely basis (on or before August 31, 2018), or should Burke determine not to build the Burke Facility, then this Agreement shall terminate and be null and void. Should the Burke Facility be under construction but not completed before August 31, 2018 because of circumstances beyond Burke's control (weather, Acts of God, unavailability of materials), then Burke may, upon sixty (60) days' written notice, extend this date up to an additional six (6) months.

10. Should Catawba complete its Catawba Facility before Burke shall complete its Burke Facility, then Catawba may move out its inmates and transfer them to the Catawba Facility, sell its interest in the Regional Jail Facility to Burke as provided in Item 5, above, and be free of any further obligations under the Operating Agreement.

11. Should any provision of this Agreement conflict with a provision of the Operating Agreement, then the provisions of this Agreement shall control.

12. Whatever notice shall or may be given to either of the parties by the other, each such notice shall be made by registered or certified mail with return receipt requested, at the respective addresses of the parties as contained herein or to such other address as either party may from time to time designate in writing to the other. Any notice shall be deemed received upon evidence of receipt by certified mail return receipt requested. Notice may also be given via facsimile and may be proved by the sending parties' fax report generated by the sending parties' fax machine showing the time and telephone number to which the designated fax was sent and indicating that the transmission was received by the receiving parties' fax machine without an error message being generated by the sender's fax machine. Notices shall be given to the following:

Burke County:
Burke County Manager
P. O. Drawer 219

Catawba County:
Catawba County Manager
P. O. Box 389

Morganton, NC 28680
828-764-9353
828-764-9352 (fax)

Newton, NC 28658
828-465-8201
828-465-8392 (fax)

13. If any term or provision of this document/agreement shall be invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of this agreement shall not be affected thereby.

14. Whenever used herein, the singular shall also apply to the plural and vice versa, and words of any gender shall also apply to the other gender, as the context may reasonably require. This Agreement shall be governed by the Laws of the State of North Carolina.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have set their hands and seals, in duplicate, the day and year first above written.

BURKE COUNTY

By: _____ (SEAL)
Johnnie Carswell, Chairman

ATTEST:

_____ (SEAL)
Kay Honeycutt Draughn, Clerk to Board

CATAWBA COUNTY

By: _____ (SEAL)
Chairman

ATTEST:

_____ (SEAL)
Clerk

Chair Barnes asked if any Commissioner wished for an item to be broken out of the Consent Agenda for individual consideration. None were requested. Vice-Chair Isenhower made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Departmental Report:

Tax Administrator Mark Logan came forward and requested the Board formally adopt the Schedule of Values, Standards, and Rules, including the Present-Use Value Manual for Agricultural, Horticultural and Forestland, for Catawba County's 2015 Revaluation as prescribed by North Carolina General Statute 105-317. Pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Board on October 3, 2011, Catawba County's next countywide revaluation will become effective on January 1, 2015. Catawba County has approximately 87,000 separate parcels of land which are required by State law to be appraised at 100% of market value as of the effective revaluation date. To that end, Catawba County staff has worked for many months analyzing data derived from real estate sales, building cost data, and income and expense statements from income producing properties in the County. This culminated in the formulation of a proposed Schedule of Values, Standards, and Rules to be utilized to generate market value appraisals for all real property in Catawba County.

The Schedule of Values is a set of standards and rules that are used as an appraisal manual by the County appraisal staff to assure properties are valued in an accurate and consistent manner. The schedule contains information on methods used to determine land and building values based on criteria such as: location, age, type of construction, zoning, income potential, cost, etc.

Also included in the Schedule of Values is a special schedule for appraising eligible agricultural, horticultural, and forest land at its "present use" value. This schedule is a statewide schedule formulated by the North Carolina Department of Revenue. Properties whose owners qualify for "present use" assessment will receive two values: a market value mandated by law and a "present use" value.

Adoption of the Schedule of Values is an important step in the revaluation process. After the adoption, property owners will have 30 days to challenge the Schedule of Values by appeal to the North Carolina State Property Tax Commission. Now that the Board has adopted the schedule, a series of four newspaper notices must be published stating that the Schedule of Values has been adopted and that property owners have 30 days from the date of the first publication to challenge the Schedule of Values by appeal to the North Carolina State Property Tax Commission on grounds that the Schedule of Values does not adhere to the appropriate statutory valuation standard (that it will produce values that are too high, too low, or inconsistent). The North Carolina State Property Tax Commission has the power to order the Board of Commissioners to revise the Schedule of Values if they do not adhere to the statutory valuation standard. The North Carolina State Property Tax Commission's decision may be appealed to the North Carolina Court of Appeals. With the October 20, 2014, adoption, property owners will have until Wednesday, November 19, 2014, to challenge the Schedule of Values.

Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to adopt the proposed Schedule of Values, Standards and Rules, including the Present-Use Value Manual for Agricultural, Horticultural and Forestland. The motion carried unanimously.

12. Other Items of Business:

Chair Barnes reported on the Board's attainment of its Fiscal Year 2013/14 Goals.

The Board's first goal read, "Prepare a Fiscal Year 2013/14 budget which provides needed County services within available revenues, including no property tax increase, ensuring that the County addresses its short term needs while planning for long term growth, and maintaining the Board of Commissioners' policy of two months of operating expenses." The Board's FY 2013/14 budget kept the property tax rate stable at 53 cents per \$100 of property valuation (fifth lowest among North Carolina's urban counties and 26th lowest among all 100 counties), the seventh consecutive year without a property tax increase. EMS crew was added as well as three replacement ambulance purchased to ensure response time well below the Board's goal of 8 minutes. Five new road patrol deputies were added to improve officer safety, address increasing call volume, and provide the ability to conduct community meetings and residential/church checks. Detention officers were

added to address overcrowding at the Detention Facility and just below three months of operating expense was maintained, exceeding the FY 2013/2014 goal of two months of operating expense.

The Board's second goal read "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." In FY 2013/14, the County extended the Old Shelby Road water line, improving quality of life by bringing water to 131 people in 63 households. The Board adopted a resolution in support of the completion of the Highway 16 widening project and maintaining project funding. The Board defined solar farms, setting specific standards that protect the community's aesthetics while preserving property owners' rights to use their property as they deem fit. And the Board partnered with the City of Claremont and EDC Committee of 100 in the development of a shell manufacturing building.

The Board also entered into an Economic Development Agreement with HSM Solutions and the State for expansion of several HSM facilities in the County, creating 162 new jobs and a target investment of \$3.3 million in the facilities and equipment. The Board entered into an Economic Development Agreement with GKN Driveline and OHM Holdings for expansion of existing industry, creating 278 new jobs and ensuring that GKN Driveline remains in the county, with guarantees of \$130 million in investment construction and personal property. And the Board continued support of the Chamber's Edison Project recognizing creativity and entrepreneurial spirit. In the County FY 2014/15 budget, adopted in June 2014, the Board allocated funds for Innovate Catawba, supporting the initiative to keep young people in Catawba County and ensuring the community has jobs for them.

Under this goal, the Board also approved a LEED certified design for a new Sherrills Ford-Terrell Library, which opened on September 29, 2014; awarded a bid for the Justice Center/Public Safety Expansion Project, which will provide much needed space for court services, 911 Communications and an Emergency Operations Center; and finalized construction of a new County Animal Shelter, which opened on June 26, 2014.

The Board's third goal read, "Review recommendations of the Food and Farm Sustainability Committee and work to implement strategies consistent with the County's area of responsibilities." Strategies and actions that are on schedule include the Public Health's Farmers Market, which continued for a second year with a goal, in partnership with the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program, to improve individual and community health by increasing access to fresh fruits and vegetables. Steps toward this goal also include the successful Eat, Drink & Be Local Event with farm tours, gardening and cooking classes, a local foods feast, local beer and wine tasting and local restaurants featuring local foods. And, in March 2014, the Board adopted an ordinance to ensure the County's definition of a bona fide farm was consistent with North Carolina General Statutes, with local farmers in support of this amendment.

The Board was also shown a new format for reporting the goals, designed to be understood and received by younger audiences, called an Infographic. The Board's Fiscal Year 2013/14 Goals Infographic may be seen at

<http://www.catawbacountync.gov/pio/BOCgoals.jpg>.

13. Attorney's Report: None.
14. Manager's Report: None.

15. Adjournment. Commissioner Beatty made a motion to adjourn at 8:05 a.m. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned.

Katherine W. Barnes, Chair
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Barbara E. Morris
County Clerk