

Regular Session, October 21, 2013, 7:00 p.m.
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Appointments

Nursing and Rest Home Advisory Board 81 10/21/13

Finance

Awarding base bid for construction of the Justice Center/Public Safety Expansion Project 81 10/21/13

Utilities and Engineering

Waiving Permit Fees for 2013 Hickory & Catawba Valley Home Builders Assn Playhouse Showcase 83 10/21/13

The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, October 21, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in the Robert E. Hibbits Meeting Room of the 1924 Courthouse, 30 North College Avenue, Newton, North Carolina.

Present were Chair Katherine W. Barnes, Vice-Chair Barbara G. Beatty and Commissioners Dan Hunsucker and Randy Isenhower. Commissioner Lynn M. Lail was absent.

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

1. Chair Katherine W. Barnes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Commissioner Randy Isenhower led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Vice-Chair Barbara G. Beatty offered the invocation.
4. Vice-Chair Beatty made a motion to approve the minutes from the Board's Regular Meeting of October 7, 2013.
5. Recognition of Special Guests: Chair Barnes noted that Commissioner Lail and County Manager J. Thomas Lundy were absent and introduced Assistant County Managers Dewey Harris and Mary Furtado. She then welcomed the many St. Stephens High School AP Civics students and their parents who were in the audience. Chair Barnes then went on to explain various aspects of local government and Mr. Harris explained the concept of the consent agenda. Chair Barnes explained while the agenda for the evening was light, the items on the agenda were very important and involved decisions regarding major expenditures. Throughout the meeting, Commissioners and staff addressed the students regarding County procedures and policies to ensure they understood the process of how items came before the Board.
6. Public Comments for Items Not on the Agenda: None.
7. Appointments.
Commissioner Hunsucker presented a recommendation of Commissioner Lynn Lail for the reappointment of Peggy Woods for a fifth term on the Nursing and Rest Home Advisory Board. This term will expire October 21, 2016. Chair Barnes stated that this recommendation came in the form of a motion which carried unanimously.
8. Departmental Reports:
A. Finance:
Finance Director Rodney Miller came forward to request the Board award the base bid for the construction of the Justice Center/Public Safety Expansion Project to Hickory Construction Company in the amount of \$23,634,000. He introduced Purchasing Manager Debbie Anderson, Construction and Project Manager John Cameron, and Project Administrator Tammy Austin. Mr.

Miller started out explaining to the students that this item had come to the Board's Finance and Personnel Subcommittee on the Monday prior to this meeting and further explained the subcommittee process. He then went on to say that in December 2012, the Board authorized County staff to move forward with the expansion of the existing Justice Center. The project consists of two wings and a front expansion that will provide an additional 125,650 square feet of fit-out space and 13,550 square feet of shell space for future needs.

The Catawba County Justice Center is more than thirty years old. Since its opening, there have been only minor interior renovations and one expansion to the building, the jail expansion in 2005. Courtroom space is no longer adequate to accommodate the growing number of caseloads. A new 911 Communications Center is needed due to inadequate space for equipment, lack of electrical power and limited options for remodeling. The County's Emergency Operations Center is inadequate when activated for emergency situations. The County was cited by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in September 2006 for inadequate space at the Emergency Operations Center.

With the expansion of the facility, the County will lose approximately 175 existing parking spaces. Plans are to replace 45 of those spaces directly across from the new front entrance, which includes ample parking for the disabled, along with 13 spaces in an underground parking garage for elected officials using the building. With the existing parking spaces remaining on campus, the County will have a deficit of approximately 300 spaces per City of Newton zoning requirements. To address this, the Board approved the construction of a table-top concrete parking deck with 331 spaces in February of this year. Construction of the parking deck is underway and expected to be completed in January 2014.

Eight general contractors were prequalified to participate in the bid process for the Justice Center/Public Safety Expansion Project. In addition, seven millwork subcontractors were prequalified to submit bids to the general contractors. The bid included five preferred items that were previously approved by the Board of Commissioners: 1) Shaw Carpet – the existing courtrooms were recently carpeted using Shaw Carpet so the decision was to use Shaw for the conceptual design selections; 2) Trane equipment and controls – the existing Justice Center uses Trane equipment and controls; 3) Corbin Russwin H2 locksets door hardware – The existing Justice Center uses Corbin Russwin H2 locksets; 4) Tate Access Flooring – The Tate PosiTile System is a patented access flooring product that provides an integrated snap-in carpet tile sized to each access flooring panel; and 5) Grace Florprufe Vapor Barrier – which was selected to increase the concrete floor slab protection from moisture penetration and protect the moisture-sensitive interior floor finishes.

On October 2, 2013, seven construction bids were received (the eighth prequalified contractor, MB Kahn, did not submit). Hickory Construction was the lowest responsive bidder at \$23,634,000 for the base bid, which includes a 4% contingency. Funding for the project consists of revenues from a ¼ cent sales tax increase approved by voters in 2007. These funds, along with 911 funds, have been accumulating since then to be used towards the project. The balance needed to complete the project will be financed in early 2014 using sales tax revenues to repay the debt over the life of the loan.

The base bid includes the completion of two new courtrooms and court support functions, a new 911 Communications Center with ten consoles, a new Emergency Operations Center, expanded Clerk of Court space and offices for Emergency Services, District Attorney and Community Corrections. The first step of the project will consist of creating a new temporary entrance to the Justice Center beside the existing Sheriff's Office consisting of ramps, sidewalks, etc. This process is expected to take 2-3 months while the existing front entrance remains operational. After the new temporary entrance is complete, building occupants will enter/exit at the south side of the building near the current ATM and the existing front entrance will be blocked off as the project continues over the next 24 months until completion. The bid also included ten alternates that will be reviewed along with other options to consider at one of the Board's November meetings, within the 60-day allowance included in the

bid. These alternates and the five preferred items listed above are not included in the base bid amount.

Vice-Chair Beatty asked about renovations to the Sheriff's Office and Mr. Miller explained that some members of the Sheriff's Office had already moved into to new spaces (old snack bar area) in the Justice Center and when this project was finished the Sheriff's Office spaces would be further renovated. Mr. Miller also explained that staff was looking into the sliding doors vs. swinging doors option that Vice-Chair Beatty had inquired about at the subcommittee meeting. Commissioner Isenhour confirmed this amount was for the base bid and no alternates and no preferred items were included. Mr. Miller confirmed this and said staff would be coming back to the Board in November to address the alternates. Commissioner Isenhour also confirmed that the bids provided for the alternates were good for 60 days. For the students' benefit, the funding source (the ¼ sales tax) was explained and how it was adopted. Commissioner Isenhour made a motion to award this bid to Hickory Construction Company in the amount of \$23,634,000. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Utilities and Engineering.

Utilities and Engineering Director Barry Edwards came forward and requested the Board waive the permit fees applicable to the Catawba County Fee Schedule, Building Permit Fees section, for the 2013 Hickory & Catawba Valley Home Builders Association Playhouse Showcase. The County received a request from Lee Bogle, Executive Director of the Hickory & Catawba Valley Home Builders Association, to waive the permit fees for the 2013 Playhouse Showcase. The Playhouse Showcase will be held on Saturday, December 14, 2013, in the parking lot of Catawba Valley Community College.

Participating schools in Catawba County are: Hickory High School, Newton-Conover High School, Maiden High School and St. Stephens High School. Each of the schools has already had the basic framing package for their playhouses donated by area businesses. It is anticipated that each playhouse will require an electrical permit and associated inspections for the interior wiring. These electrical permits are \$50 each, for an anticipated total fee waiver of \$200. Vice-Chair Beatty made a motion to waive these permit fees. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Other Items of Business: None.
10. Attorney's Report: None.
11. Manager's Report: None.
12. Adjournment. Vice-Chair Beatty made a motion to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned.

Katherine W. Barnes, Chair
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Barbara E. Morris
County Clerk