

Regular Session, November 17, 2014, 7:00 p.m.
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

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Awards

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The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, November 17, 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 Lynn M. Lail, Barbara G. Beatty and Dan Hunsucker.

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

1. Chair Katherine W. Barnes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m
2. Commissioner Barbara G. Beatty led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Chair Barnes offered the invocation.
4. Commissioner Dan Hunsucker made a motion to approve the minutes from the Board's Regular Meeting of November 3, 2014. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Recognition of Special Guests: Chair Barnes welcomed everyone present and recognized Leroy Lail, of the State University System Board of Governors and Brad Lail from Hickory City Council.
6. Public Comments for Items Not on the Agenda:
Monroe Pannell of Conover came forward and encouraged the Board to consider opening and fully staffing county parks seven days a week.

7. Presentations:

A. The Board honored 2014 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award Winner Angie Sigmon for her passion for teaching children for the past thirteen years. Her goal to inspire her students to embrace technology, try new things, help one another and always believe in themselves culminates in students leaving Shuford Elementary School with confidence, self-respect and a can-do attitude.

B. The Board received an update on the activities of the Catawba County Youth Council as well as appointed new members and reappointed standing members to this council. The students have selected a theme of Teen Health & Safety for the school year with plans to work on projects and programs related to teen suicide and depression, safe driving and volunteerism. The Council has also joined with the United Way Youth Council to work on the Youth Grant Allocation process for 2015.

The following appointments were made: Brian Karmian/Bandys HS; Jarrett Mull/Maiden HS; Tarcus Tyran Williams/Maiden HS; Luke Lowry/Hickory Christian; Joshua Holsclaw/Challenger HS; Rubie Medina/Challenger HS; Katelynn Bruno/Bunker Hill HS; Ian McPherson/Hickory HS; Kaleb Hewitt/Hickory HS; Annie Haunton/Fred T. Foard HS; and Skylar Yoder/Fred T. Foard HS. The following reappointments were made: Leigha Williamson/Bandys HS; Sophia Sharp/Maiden HS; John Battiston/Hickory Christian; Jordan Howard/Hickory Christian; Kasey Boger/LR Scholars; Stephen Bechtel/Discovery HS; Mary Johnson/Home Schooled; Justin Setzer/Bunker Hill HS; Jessica Sigmon/Bunker Hill HS; Carmen Silva/Newton-Conover HS; Abigail Cox/Newton-Conover HS; Daniel Drum/Newton-Conover HS; Melissa Hirsch/Hickory HS; Cole Lackey/Hickory HS; Thomas McBrayer/Hickory HS; Samuel Evans/Hickory HS; Matthew Fleming/Fred T. Foard HS; Madison Alicardi/Fred T. Foard HS; Laney Rowe/St. Stephens HS; Darby Yates/St. Stephens HS, and Sophie Pruett/St. Stephens HS.

C. The Board issued a proclamation declaring the week of November 21-27 as Farm-City Week to foster cooperation and an exchange of information between two essential segments of our society: farmers and city dwellers. The proclamation urged citizens to participate in activities and events that have been designed to introduce people from both "worlds" to the lives and work of each other.

8. Appointments:

Commissioner Beatty recommended the reappointment of Trent Cloninger for a seventh term on the Town of Catawba Planning Board. This term will expire November 30, 2014. Commissioner Lynn Lail recommended the reappointment of Al King for a fourth term, Jeff Kerley for a first term, and Brian Lutz for a first term as a full member on the Catawba County Planning Board. Commissioner Lail also recommended the appointment of Scott Naylor, Becky Gladden and Danny Chapin for first terms as alternates on the Planning Board. These terms will expire December 31, 2018. Commissioner Lail recommended the reappointment of Charles Preston for a fourth term on the Equalization and Review Board, with a term expiration of December 1, 2017 and the appointment of Ronnie Hainor for a first term on the Region E Development Corporation Board, with a term expiration of September 30, 2017. Commissioner Hunsucker recommended the reappointment of Dr. Harry Cooke for a ninth term on the Dangerous Dog Appellate Board, with a term expiration of November 4, 2017. Chair Barnes recommended the reappointment of Don Coleman for a first full term on the Alcohol Beverage Control Board, with a term expiration of October 5, 2017.

These recommendations came in the form of a motion which carried unanimously.

9. Departmental Reports:

TAX

Tax Administrator Mark Logan presented a request for the Board to authorize the Tax Administrator, on an individual basis, to allow extensions for listing personal property. The extensions will not be granted beyond April 15, 2015. Businesses and corporations whose business year ends on December 31 of each year and some individuals can have difficulty in completing their listing

abstracts by January 31 of each year. This is due to the fact that they are unable to calculate an inventory taken on December 31 and submit this figure to the Tax Administrator.

North Carolina General Statute 105-307 allows the Board of Commissioners to grant individual extensions of time for the listing of personal property upon written request and for good cause shown. The request must be filed with the Tax Administrator no later than the ending date of the regular listing period. This means a letter must be written and postmarked no later than January 31, 2015, and this letter must provide the reason the extension is being requested. Extensions granted on an individual basis cannot extend beyond April 15, 2015. Commissioner Beatty made a motion to authorize the Tax Administrator to allow these extension on an individual basis. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Other Items of Business:

The Board, joined by Commissioners Lail's family and friends, honored her for her service to the community and to the Board of Commissioners as she prepares to retire after serving three terms on the Board.

Chair Barnes stated it had certainly been a privilege to have her as one of the county commissioners for Catawba County and went on to stress to the Catawba County Youth Council members in attendance that Commissioner Lail set a wonderful example of service and the Board hoped that they could learn lessons from her example, learn to network and be as giving as Lynn Lail has been to Catawba County."

Commissioner Lail was presented with a Distinguished Public Service Award as well as a work of pottery featuring the Catawba County Seal, created by Catawba County potter Kim Ellington, a statue of a mother and three children sitting on a park bench to be placed at Catawba County Social Services in honor of Commissioner Lail's service on the Board of Social Services and Board of Commissioners, and a tree to be planted in Commissioner Lail's honor on the grounds of the expanded Justice Center when that project is completed in approximately two years.

Commissioner Lail was also recently presented with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine by North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory during his visit to the County.

All Commissioners expressed that it had been an honor serving with Commissioner Lail and applauded her commitment to the citizens of the County.

Commissioner Lail thanked all for the recognition and comments and stated it had been an honor to serve the County for the past twelve years.

11. Attorney's Report: None.

12. Manager's Report: None.

13. Adjournment. Commissioner Beatty made a motion to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned.

Katherine W. Barnes, Chair
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Barbara E. Morris
County Clerk