

Regular Session, December 1, 2014, 9:30 a.m.  
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

**Appointments**

Organizational Appointments	395	12/01/14
Catawba County Board of Adjustment	396	12/01/14
Catawba Valley Medical Center Board of Trustees	396	12/01/14
Volunteer Fire Department Fireman's Relief Fund	396	12/01/14
Voting Delegate for NCACC Legislative Goals Conference	396	12/01/14

**Awards**

Distinguished Public Service Award to WPCOG Executive Director Dee Blackwell	396	12/01/14
2014 Distinguished Budget Presentation Award	396	12/01/14

**Board of Commissioners**

Oaths – Kitty Barnes, Randy Isenhower, Sherry Butler	395	12/01/14
Organizational Appointments	395	12/01/14
Board of Commissioners Goals FY15-16	400	12/01/14

**Closed Session**

Location or Expansion of industries or businesses	401	12/01/14
---	-----	----------

**Economic Development Corporation**

Resolution and Funding Commitment for Lenoir Rhyne Health Sciences Center	398	12/01/14
---	-----	----------

**Finance**

Independent Audit for FY2013/14 and Comprehensive Annual Finance Report	397	12/01/14
---	-----	----------

**Goals**

Board of Commissioners Goals FY15-16	400	12/01/14
--------------------------------------	-----	----------

**Juvenile Crime Prevention Council**

Risk and Needs Priorities	400	12/01/14
---------------------------	-----	----------

**Oaths**

Commissioners – Kitty Barnes, Randy Isenhower, Sherry Butler	395	12/01/14
Sherriff Coy Reid	395	12/01/14

**Public Comments for Items Not on the Agenda**

Cliff Moone	396	12/01/14
-------------	-----	----------

**Purchasing**

Sole Source Exemption for Motorola Position Consoles for E-911 Center	396	12/01/14
---	-----	----------

**Resolutions**

Resolution and Funding Commitment for Lenoir Rhyne Health Sciences Center	398	12/01/14
---	-----	----------

**Sheriff's Office**

Sheriff Reid's Oath of Office	395	12/01/14
-------------------------------	-----	----------

**Utilities and Engineering**

Bid Award for Construction of the Old Shelby Road Water Extension	397	12/01/14
---	-----	----------

The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, December 1, 2014, at 9:30 a.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 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 9:30 a.m.
2. Vice-Chair Randy Isenhower 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 17, 2014. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Oaths of Office:  
Commissioners:

1. NC State Representative Mitchell Setzer administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Katherine W. Barnes. Commissioner Barnes' husband was present for the occasion.
2. NC State Representative Mitchell Setzer administered the Oath of Office to Commission Sherry E. Butler. Commissioner Butler's family was present for the occasion.
3. NC District Court Judge/Superior Court Judge-Elect Gregory R. Hayes administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Randy Isenhower. Commissioner Isenhower's wife was present for the occasion.

Sheriff:

NC District Court Judge/Superior Court Judge-Elect Gregory R. Hayes administered the Oath of Office to Sheriff Coy Reid. Sheriff Reid's family was present for the occasion.

Retiring Commissioner Lynn Lail left the dais and Commissioner Butler was seated at the dais.

6. Organizational Meeting of the Board of Commissioners:  
Election of Chair and Vice-Chair – Chair Barnes turned the meeting over to County Manager J. Thomas Lundy to take nominations for Chair. Commissioner Hunsucker nominated Randy Isenhower as Chair. Board members voted on the nomination and the vote was unanimous. Chair Isenhower then opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chair. Commissioner Butler nominated Barbara Beatty as Vice-Chair. Board members voted on the nomination and the vote was unanimous.  
Chair Isenhower made the following organizational appointments:  
County Attorney – Debra Bechtel  
Counsel to the Board – David Hood  
Finance and Personnel Subcommittee – Commissioners Beatty and Hunsucker  
Policy and Public Works Subcommittee – Commissioners Barnes and Butler  
WPCOG Policy Board Delegate – Commissioner Barnes  
WPCOG Policy Board Alternate – Commissioner Beatty  
Hospital Board of Trustees – Vice-Chair Beatty  
Public Health Board – Commissioner Hunsucker  
Social Services Board and Community Service Block Grant Advisory Board – Commissioner Butler

Chair Isenhower thanked Commissioner Barnes, on behalf of the Board and the citizens of Catawba County for her leadership. He said he was excited about Catawba County and the positive work the Board would continue to do.

7. Recognition of Special Guests: Chair Barnes welcomed everyone present and recognized Leroy Lail, of the State University System Board of Governors and Hank Guess from Hickory City Council.

8. Public Comments for Items Not on the Agenda:  
Cliff Moone, former candidate for the NC House of Representatives, came forward and requested the Board recognize December 15, 2014 as Bill of Rights Day.
9. Presentations:
  - a. The Board recognized retiring Western Piedmont Council of Governments Executive Director Dee Blackwell for his contributions to the County and the region during his forty year career with the Council. Commissioner Barnes joined Mr. Blackwell at the podium and presented him with a Distinguished Public Service Award.
  - b. Commissioner Hunsucker, on behalf of the Board, presented the 2014 Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association to Budget Manager Jennifer Mace and Budget Analyst Barron Monroe. The award is given to local governments that prepare and publish a budget document judged to be both informative and understandable. Catawba County has won this award for 26 consecutive years.
10. Appointments:

Vice-Chair Beatty recommended the appointment of Adam Stewart for a first term, Rita Brittain for a first term as an alternate, and the reappointment of Tommy Luckadoo for a third term, now in an alternate position, on the Catawba County Board of Adjustment. These terms will expire November 30, 2017. Vice-Chair Beatty recommended the reappointment of Dr. Alan Forshey for a third term and the appointment of Brent Fiddler for a first term on the Catawba Valley Medical Center Board of Trustees. These terms will expire December 31, 2018.

Vice-Chair Beatty also recommended the reappointment of Robert Huffman for a fourth term, Allen Biggerstaff and Darrel Turbyfill for fifth terms, Danny Setzer for a sixth term, and Glenn Boston, Bill Hefner and Fizhugh Young for eleventh terms on the Volunteer Fire Department Fireman's Relief Fund. These terms will expire December 31, 2016.

Vice-Chair Beatty recommended the appointment of Commissioner Kitty Barnes as the voting delegate for the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Legislative Goals Conference in January 2015.

Chair Isenhower indicated that these recommendations came in the form of a motion, which carried unanimously.
11. Consent Agenda:

County Manager J. Thomas Lundy presented the two following items for consideration as part of the Consent Agenda:

  - a. A request for the Board to authorize the sole source exemption for the purchase of twelve MCC 7500 position consoles for the E-911 Center in the Justice Center/Public Safety Expansion from Motorola in the amount of \$989,516. Additionally, \$197,904 in E-911 funds were requested to be appropriated to the project budget to make this purchase.

The E-911 Center's current CentraCom Gold Elite Dispatch Consoles are at the end of useful life and replacements are planned for the new expansion. The MCC 7500 console system is Motorola's mission critical IP console and is the most advanced offering in their line of radio dispatch products. It will support the State's emergency radio communication system, Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders or VIPER P25. The County began migrating to the VIPER network about eight years ago with VHR and VIPER technology. The MCC 7500 is the only console that will connect directly into the VIPER IP master site. This will be an upgrade to what the County currently has and will be more robust.

If the equipment is purchased prior to December 15, 2014, the County will receive a discount of \$86,045, resulting in a final cost to the County of \$989,516. If available, Motorola has agreed to extend better pricing to the County at the time of installation. Further, Motorola is offering a one-year warranty from the time of installation. A twenty percent payment will be made to Motorola upon placing the order. The long-range E-911 Center plan allows for growth to twenty-one positions, but only twelve positions will be needed when the building opens. The purchase is part of the Justice Center/Public Safety Project, but is an allowable E-911 expense and it was therefore recommended that E-911 funds be appropriated to the project. According to Motorola, the new consoles will be at the 7.14 release level and in line with the VIPER system during the next two years. The State is currently at 7.11, but is preparing to upgrade to 7.14. The consoles must be at the same release level as the VIPER trunked system release and must be consistent with the VIPER trunked system release level. Motorola will guarantee in writing that the software will be the latest version and compliant with the VIPER system.

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; and 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 award the bid for construction of the Old Shelby Road Water Extension to Two Brothers Utilities, LLC of Shelby, North Carolina in the amount of \$589,968.24. On July 1, 2013, the County was awarded a Community Development Block Grant Infrastructure Grant from the North Carolina Department of Commerce in the amount of \$750,000 for the Old Shelby Road Water Line Extension. The project will extend water south on Old Shelby Road between JV Parker Road and Buff & Allen Road, beginning at an existing water line on Old Shelby Road that was part of the Advents Crossroad Water Project initially installed in 2003. As part of this project, the White Pine Drive, Hemphill Road, Salem Road, and Faith Olive Church Road neighborhoods and side streets will be served. This project will provide municipal water to 131 persons, of whom 123 (94%) are low to moderate-income (LMI). These 131 persons represent 63 households, of which approximately 90% are LMI. Of the 63 households being served, 52 show severe water needs and 6 show moderate water needs, illustrating a water need in 92% of the households. These needs include inadequate water supply, including dry wells, inadequate water pressure, or no well on property (shared with neighbor).

On November 4, 2014, the County received a total of six bids for the Old Shelby Road Water Project. Based on the review of the bids and qualifications, McGill Associates recommended that the bid be awarded to Two Brothers Utilities, LLC of Shelby, North Carolina in the amount of \$589,968.24. References for Two Brothers Utilities were checked prior to the award recommendation by McGill Associates.

From the date of a Notice to Proceed, the contractor will have 180 calendar days to substantially complete the project. Liquidated damages for this project will be \$750 per day for each calendar day that expires after the contract time.

Chair Isenhower asked if any commissioner wished for an item to be broken out from the consent agenda for individual discussion and consideration and none was requested. Vice-Chair Beatty made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

12. Departmental Reports:  
A. Finance:

The Board received a report on the County's independent audit for fiscal year 2013-2014 and on the County's Comprehensive Annual Finance Report for FY 2013-2014. Paula Hodges, Partner with Martin, Starnes and Associates, reported that the County continued to deliver services in a sound fiscal manner. County Finance Director Rodney Miller presented an overview of the County's Annual

Financial Report for the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2014, which showed that the County continued to deliver services in a prudent fiscal manner.

Mr. Miller and Ms. Hodges commended both Jeanne Jarrett and Kenneth Maynor for their efforts in ensuring the success of the audit process as well as all County staff for their budgetary efforts. Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to accept both the audit report and the Comprehensive Annual Finance Report . The motion carried unanimously.

**B. Economic Development Corporation:**

Economic Development Corporation President Scott Millar presented a request for the Board to adopt a resolution and approve an associated funding commitment of \$20,000 per year for five years, for a total of \$100,000, to facilitate the development by Lenoir Rhyne University (LRU) of a Health Sciences Center under certain conditions. This project is in partnership with Catawba Valley Medical Center, Frye Regional Medical Center, the City of Hickory, and Catawba County EDC Committee of 100 and the conditions require LRU to develop certain medical programming and undergo rigorous analysis in the consideration of further medical programming, including the consideration of a potential medical school.

Lenoir-Rhyne University Health Sciences Center (LRUHSC) will be a comprehensive, full health services center offering advanced training for medical and healthcare professionals. The Center will allow LRU to significantly expand its current graduate studies in health sciences and establish building tracks for undergraduates to matriculate into these programs, including a new 24-month Physician Assistant Program beginning in January 2016. The program will be open to 30 students, with that number increasing to 80 after the second year, and include the employment of 5 to 6 full-time faculty and staff members; establish clinical training centers for the Physician Assistant Program at LRU's three campuses in Hickory, Asheville and Columbia, S.C. (for second year studies); begin feasibility studies to review expanded options to possibly include Doctorate-degree programs in pharmacy, optometry, physical therapy, nursing and osteopathic medicine; and provide high quality internship and student practitioner opportunities to supporting partners on a priority basis.

The LRUHSC will be located near the campus at the corner of Highland Avenue SE and 8<sup>th</sup> Street Drive SE (across from The Crossing at Hollar Mill). Development of the Center will begin in February 2015, with a scheduled opening in January 2016 with the graduation of the first class of students in the physician assistant studies program. The development of the Center will provide numerous benefits to the students of LRU, the community and surrounding area and healthcare industry. The Center will help centralize and support current and future healthcare opportunities (an Innovate Catawba priority); create jobs for the City of Hickory, Catawba County and surrounding areas; attract business investors to the community as well as families and retirees; and establish Hickory as the preferred provider of trained healthcare professionals in Western North Carolina. The development of the LRUHSC will help position the area as a premier healthcare careers center, working in cooperation with current medical and training assets in our area, and provide support for the future redevelopment of the L-R Boulevard area south of Highland Avenue, the University City and Inspiring Spaces programs.

The Catawba County Property Development Corporation (PDC), a property holding entity developed by the Catawba EDC, will acquire and hold the real property housing the facility until lease payments and community support has funded the total cost of the facility. At the end of the lease, if it is determined LRU has diligently pursued the development of the medical programming and other conditions of the contract, the PDC will sell the facility to LRU for \$1.

Chair Isenhower who determines if the conditions in the contract are fulfilled and Mr. Millar indicated that would be the PDC.

Commissioner Barnes made a motion to adopt the applicable resolution and approve an associated funding commitment of \$20,000 per year for five years, for a total of \$100,000, to facilitate the

development by Lenoir Rhyne University (LRU) of a Health Sciences Center under certain conditions. The motion carried unanimously. The following resolution applies:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2014-\_\_\_**

**WHEREAS**, there are existing medical and health sciences facilities and institutions in Hickory including Catawba Valley Medical Center, Frye Regional Medical Center, Lenoir-Rhyne University and other important medical and healthcare providers and educators; and

**WHEREAS**, these institutions have an individual mission for the development of nursing and healthcare professionals and students and a collaboration and initiative will benefit every institution in the area by extending the reach and understanding of participants as well as providing additional medical training and programming; and

**WHEREAS**, the Catawba County Property Development Corporation was formed to engage in charitable and educational efforts and specifically to support economic development and property/community development in Catawba County, North Carolina (the "County") and the Catawba County Property Development Corporation ("CCPDC") was formed as a valid North Carolina non-profit corporation on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August, 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, the establishment of a Health Sciences program at Lenoir-Rhyne University, in collaboration with the CCPDC, will benefit the entire community and region economically by providing immediate and future health sciences faculty, staff and students and will further encourage the interchange of health sciences professionals among and between one another; and

**WHEREAS**, the establishment of an initiative, whereby the CCPDC will purchase land and a building and then Lease the building to Lenoir-Rhyne University to upfit, is intended to provide a direct access point for health sciences students, interns and graduates of the participating institutions; and

**WHEREAS**, this collaboration will increase the region's medical access by providing Physicians Assistants and other health sciences professionals to be cultivated over time by the collaborative agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, this collaboration will encourage opportunities for jobs and careers in the Health Sciences field by defining a clear pathway to future medical and health-related jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, this initiative establishes markets, brands and advertises Hickory and Catawba County as western North Carolina's center for advanced health sciences learning and career development; and

**WHEREAS**, NCGS 158-7.1 (a) authorizes the county to make appropriations for the purpose increasing business prospects and creating jobs and Catawba County and the City of Hickory are each committing a total of \$100,000 over five (5) years, starting January 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, this program will provide the opportunity for the development and future mid-level medical programming as well as the possible establishment of what will be the only advanced degree medical school in western North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, the CCPDC has entered into an Assignment of Option, First Amendment to Lease Agreement and Option to Purchase and First Amendment to Memorandum of Lease by and between Burton's WJ, LLC, a North Carolina limited liability company and Lenoir-Rhyne University, a North Carolina non-profit corporation in order to be in a position to purchase certain properties described in said Option and then enter into a Net Lease Agreement with Lenoir-Rhyne University for the purpose of development, implementation and conducting of a PA (Physician Assistant) program and such expanded course offerings consistent with health sciences undergraduate and graduate level programs and related uses ancillary thereto; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Catawba County Board of Commissioners supports the development and establishment of the Health Sciences collaboration as envisioned and hereby commits to establish a long-term partnership with the City of Hickory to achieve these collective goals and to that end does hereby commit to contribute \$20,000 per year for five (5) years to the Catawba County Property Development Corporation.

Adopted this the 1st day of December, 2014.

C. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council:

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Staff Member Debbie Bradley presented a request for the Board to approve risk and needs priorities for the Catawba County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC), as recommended by the Council after review of court data, with input from juvenile court counselors and funded programs.

The JCPC is an organization established by the State of North Carolina's Department of Public Safety. Membership is determined mostly by the North Carolina Statute establishing the JCPC. Representatives are those involved with youth. The JCPC is advisory to the Board of Commissioners, and exists to identify risks of youth in the community, prevent crime among at-risk youth, review court data and identify needed programs to provide intervention and prevention. Funding is allocated by the State, then distributed to the County and then to programs.

The JCPC must follow a process each year that begins with prioritizing risks and needs, with the final step being approval of a funding plan. The risks and needs priorities are determined in the fall/early winter, and the approval of the funding plan occurs in the spring. JCPC identifies risk factors, based on court data; develops a list of priorities to address the risk factors; and reviews and approves the priorities. Once priorities are developed, the JCPC advertises to invite programs to submit proposals to address risk factors, reviews proposals and recommends a funding plan to the JCPC. In the spring, and once proposals are received, the JCPC develops an annual plan and submits the plan to the Board of Commissioners.

Based on JCPC discussions over the past year, the list of priorities for funding for the next fiscal year are: 1) psychological services/comprehensive assessments; 2) counseling; 3) substance abuse; 4) restitution/community service; 5) mentoring; 6) mediation; 7) sexual offender; 8) crisis beds/emergency shelter; 9) home based services; 10) structured day; 11) parenting/family skill building; 12) interpersonal skills; 13) residential group homes; 14) tutoring, and 15) day treatment. Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to approve the proposed risk and needs priorities for the JCPC. The motion carried unanimously.

13. Other Items of Business:

Chair Isenhower explained the process of setting the Board's Goals for Fiscal Year 2015-16. The setting of goals is a prelude to the start in December of the County's annual budget process and culminates with the adoption of an annual budget in June. Board members individually submitted ideas for goals and were then asked to rank proposed goals for FY 2015-16. He set out the proposed goals as follows:

1. In partnership with the private sector and assistance from state government, support the creation of jobs and property tax base and the development of the County's workforce. Specific strategies include:

- a. Support the enhancement of workforce development programs and efforts, working with educators and the private sector to train the workforce for jobs from existing and new employers that will be available through the efforts of the EDC.
- b. Partner with the private sector to aggressively implement Innovate Catawba strategies.
- c. Review incentive guidelines to ensure they are competitive but reasonable in terms of return on investment.
- d. Develop, with the EDC and Hickory, parameters of investment for Park 1764.

e. Continuously monitor County regulations to ensure they support orderly growth and business development.

2. Review the County's emergency management program for improvements designed to provide efficient and effective pre-hospital emergency services, improve public safety, minimize property damage, and protect areas from disasters.

3. Continue advocacy for improvements to Highway 16 and Highway 150 as major corridors, in order to increase economic development and citizen and tourism access.

Commissioner Butler made a motion to adopt the above as the Board of Commissioners Goals for Fiscal Year 2015-16. The motion carried unanimously.

14. Attorney's Report: None.

15. Manager's Report:

County Manager Lundy requested the Board consider moving into Closed Session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(4) to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area serviced by the public body. Mr. Lundy did not anticipate any action upon return to open session. Commissioner Barnes made a motion to move into closed session pursuant to the stated General Statute. The motion carried unanimously. The Board moved into closed session at 11:10 a.m.

16. Adjournment. The Board returned to open session at 11:33 a.m. No action was taken. Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to adjourn at 11:33 a.m., which carried unanimously.

---

Randy Isenhower, Chair  
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

---

Barbara E. Morris  
County Clerk