

Regular Session, December 2, 2013, 9:30 a.m.
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

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The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, December 2, 2013, 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 Barbara G. Beatty and Commissioners Dan Hunsucker and Randy Isenhower. Commissioner Lynn M. Lail was absent.

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. Commissioner Dan Hunsucker led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Chair Barnes offered the invocation.
4. Commissioner Randy Isenhower made a motion to approve the minutes from the Board's Regular Meeting and Special Meeting of November 18, 2013. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Barnes noted that Commissioner Lynn M. Lail was absent.

5. 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 Katherine W. Barnes as Chair. Board members voted on the nomination and the vote was unanimous. Chair Barnes then opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chair. Commissioner Hunsucker nominated Randy Isenhower as Vice-Chair. Board members voted on the nomination and the vote was unanimous.
Chair Barnes made the following organizational appointments recommendations:
County Attorney – Debra Bechtel
Counsel to the Board – David Hood
Finance and Personnel Subcommittee – Commissioners Beatty and Hunsucker
Policy and Public Works Subcommittee – Commissioners Lail and Isenhower
WPCOG Policy Board Delegate – Chair Barnes
WPCOG Policy Board Alternate – Commissioner Beatty
Hospital Board of Trustees – Vice-Chair Beatty
Partners Behavioral Health Management Board – Commissioner Isenhower
Public Health Board – Commissioner Hunsucker
Social Services Board and Community Service Block Grant Advisory Board – Commissioner Lail

Chair Barnes noted these recommendations came in the form of a motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Recognition of Special Guests: Chair Barnes recognized Tiffany Fields, new reporter for the Observer News Enterprise and Sherry Butler, Chairman of the Catawba County Board of Education.

7. Public Comments for Items Not on the Agenda: None.

8. Presentations:
All the Board Members went to the podium to present the 2013 Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association to Budget Manager Jennifer Mace and Budget Analysts Paul Murray and 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 25 consecutive years.

Chair Barnes then recognized County Attorney Debra Bechtel for being selected to participate in a Local Government Credit Union Fellows program – 25 participants developed leadership skills that will be valuable in their roles in government.

9. Appointments.
Chair Barnes presented the recommendation of Commissioner Lynn Lail for the reappointment of Lynda Dehart for a fifth term and Linda Greenwell for a third term on the Equalization and Review Board. These terms will expire on December 2, 2016.

Chair Barnes stated that this recommendation came in the form of a motion which carried unanimously.

10. Consent Agenda:
County Manager J. Thomas Lundy presented the following four items on consent agenda, noting the first three items had been heard by the Board's subcommittees.
 - a. A request for the Board to authorize the sole source exception for the purchase of upgrades for the existing E911 Telephone System. A Sentinel Patriot VoIP E9-1-1 System will be purchased from Wireless Communications in the amount of \$163,452.45. This purchase will be funded entirely by State 911 funds. The current Sentinel Patriot System is operating on Windows XP, which Microsoft will no longer support beginning in April 2014. The operating system must be upgraded to Windows 7 to meet the minimal specifications of the Vesta/Sentinel 4.2 upgrade. North Carolina General Statute 143-129 allows an exception from formal bidding for purchase contracts when performance or price completion 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. Wireless Communication is, at the present time, the only company in North Carolina that has participated in implementing these systems and demonstrated technical proficiency in implementation and support. This exception requires governing body approval and a record must be maintained of purchases made under this exception.

b. A request for the Board to approve the donation of a 2008 Ford Crown Victoria to the Bandys Fire Department as requested by the Department. The vehicle would be used as a Quick Response Vehicle (QRV) for medical calls. Using this vehicle will reduce costs for response to medical calls because the fire department will no longer need to send a fire engine to medical calls. The cost of fuel and wear and tear on the QRV will be significantly less than that of a fire engine. The fire department will start a rotation for the officers of the department that will allow an assigned officer to take the QRV home during the evening and respond directly to medical calls. By allowing the officer to respond directly to the medical calls rather than going to the station to pick up a vehicle, response times should be positively impacted. Currently, firefighters who attend fire department classes throughout the County and region are driving privately-owned vehicles. This vehicle will be used to allow firefighters to use a department vehicle to attend a fire department class.

The vehicle to be donated to the Bandys Fire Department is a 2008 Ford Crown Victoria with 138,277 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
BANDYS FIRE DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, Catawba County owns a 2008 Ford Crown Victoria that is no longer needed for any governmental use;

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

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;

WHEREAS, the Bandys Fire Department is a nonprofit organization that provides a public service;

THEREFORE, the Catawba County Board of Commissioners resolves that:

1. A Ford Crown Victoria is declared surplus property.
2. The property will be donated to the Bandys Fire Department without monetary consideration.
3. The Purchasing Agent 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 2nd day of December 2013.

c. A request for the Board to approve a preferred alternate for Trane and Trane Tracer Summit controls for the existing Justice Center. In April 2013, the County engaged Sud Associates to conduct an energy audit of multiple County buildings. The first building selected was the Justice Center, which has experienced numerous heating and cooling issues and complaints from building

occupants over the years. The major recommendation from the report was to install an HVAC control system to add a new controller and actuator to each air handling unit and allow staff to remotely adjust temperature settings. The system will allow for time of day scheduling for heating and cooling so occupied and non-occupied temperature settings can be maintained separately. Estimated energy savings are more than 850,000 kilowatt hours per year, resulting in a savings of more than \$65,000 per year with a return on investment of 7.2 years.

In June 2013 the City of Newton issued a Request for Proposals for energy efficiency grants offered through ElectriCities from its customers that have a peak annual billing demand of at least 250 kilowatts. As a major utility user, the County submitted a proposal and was awarded an \$85,500 grant from the City to install the HVAC control system in the existing Justice Center. The County will receive \$50,000 as a credit to its electric bill once installation begins and the additional \$35,000 as a credit to its electric bill in February 2014. The project must be completed by June 2014. Trane and Trane Tracer Summit are the prominent equipment and building automation systems used in County buildings. Currently, HVAC control systems are being used in the Government Center, Public Health and Social Services buildings, with the Justice Center being the largest County building without one. County Maintenance staff works closely with Trane factory representatives on all installations and for training on all equipment and controls. Staff also uses Trane software to maintain and regulate the county HVAC systems, reducing time and expenses required to diagnose particular maintenance problems.

North Carolina General Statute 133-3 provides for free and open competition on public contracts. It states that specifications shall contain a performance specification or name at least three brands of equal and equivalent design characteristics. If the owner prefers a particular brand, product or material then such brand shall be bid as an alternate to the three items or equivalent design in the base bid, one of which may be the preferred brand. The specifications for the preferred brand must also identify the performance standards that support the preference. The owner shall publish a notice announcing an open meeting for the presentation of the performance standards. The open meeting may be held separately or in conjunction with the project pre-bid meeting. A designated official of the owner will conduct the meeting and the justification must either indicate a cost savings or maintain or improve the function of any process or system affected by the preferred product or both.

McKnight – Smith – Ward – Griffin Engineers Incorporated is preparing the plans and specifications for the project, which should be ready for bid in December. The estimated cost of the project is \$450,000, with the grant funds offsetting approximately 20% of the cost. Funding for the project will come from General Capital project fund balance, which was planned in the current budget in the event the grant request was approved. When bids are received on the project, a grant request and budget revision will be submitted, along with the bid tabulation, for the Board's consideration. The Trane and Trane Tracer Summit control system will be included in the bid notice and discussed at a pre-bid meeting for the project.

d. A request for the Board to approve a tax refund request by totaling \$1,006.50 made to the Tax Office. Records have been checked and this refund verified, and the Tax Collector is asking for approval of the refund request. Under North Carolina General Statute 105-381, a taxpayer who has paid his/her taxes may request a refund (in writing) for the amount paid through error.

Chair Barnes asked if any Commissioner would like an item broken out of the consent agenda for individual consideration. None was requested. Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Departmental Reports:

A. Planning, Parks and Development.

Planning, Parks and Development Director Jacky Eubanks presented a request for the Board to approve an amended Unifour Rural Planning Organization (RPO) Memorandum of Understanding which will include the RPO officially adding the northern portion of Iredell County to its planning boundaries. The RPO provides to rural areas the opportunity to work in partnership with the North

Carolina Department of Transportation toward development of sound short and long-range transportation planning for rural areas. Commissioner Beatty recommended the adoption of this amendment and made a motion to approve. The motion carried unanimously. The following amended MOU applies:

Unifour Rural Planning Organization

Memorandum of Understanding

10/9/2001

Amended 2/25/2004

Amended 9/24/2008

Amended 9/24/2013

AMENDED

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
FOR
COOPERATIVE, COMPREHENSIVE AND CONTINUING
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING
AND THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF A RURAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
FOR**

The County of Alexander and the following municipality therein: Taylorsville; the County of Burke; the County of Caldwell; the County of Catawba; the County of Iredell; and the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) hereinafter collectively, "the Parties".

WITNESSETH

Whereas, on October 9, 2001, the parties entered into a Memorandum of Understanding which created the Rural Planning Organization hereinafter, "RPO"; and

Whereas, the RPO provides rural areas the opportunity to work in partnership with the NCDOT toward development of sound, short and long-range transportation planning for rural areas; and,

Whereas, the Parties have agreed to amend the original Memorandum of Understanding.

Now, therefore, the following Amended Memorandum of Understanding is made on this the 24th day of September, 2013.

Section 1. Purpose and Responsibilities. It is hereby agreed, that the County of Alexander and the Town of Taylorsville; the County of Burke; the County of Caldwell; the County of Catawba; the County of Iredell; and the North Carolina Department of Transportation intend to establish and participate in a Rural Transportation Planning Organization created for the general purposes and responsibilities outlines in the following:

1. Develop long-range local and regional multi-modal transportation plans in cooperation with the Greater Hickory MPO and the North Carolina Department of Transportation.
2. Provide a forum for public participation in the rural transportation planning process.
3. Develop and prioritize suggestions for transportation projects which the Rural Transportation Planning Organization believes should be included in the State Transportation Improvement Program.

4. To provide transportation-related information to local governments and other interested organizations and persons.
5. To conduct transportation related studies and surveys for local governments and other interested entities/organizations.
6. To undertake mutually agreed upon transportation related tasks to enhance transportation system development, coordination and efficiency.

Section 2. Lead Planning Agency. It is hereby further agreed that transportation plans and programs and land use policies and programs for the Rural Planning Organization will be coordinated by the Western Piedmont Council of Governments, an agency selected on behalf of participating local governments and the North Carolina Department of Transportation, to be the administrative entity and to serve as the lead local planning agency for coordinating rural transportation planning in the five county planning area. The RPO hereby authorizes the Western Piedmont Council of Governments to be the recipient of any funds appropriated to the RPO by the North Carolina Department of Transportation pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 136-213(c), or otherwise obtained by the RPO.

Section 3. Establishment of Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC). A Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) is hereby established with the responsibility for serving as a forum for cooperative transportation planning decision making for the Rural Planning Organization (RPO). The RTAC shall have the responsibility for keeping local elected governing boards informed of the status and requirements of the transportation planning process; to assist in the dissemination and clarification of the decisions, inclinations, and policies of the local elected governing boards and NCDOT; and to help ensure meaningful public participation in the rural transportation planning process.

1. The Rural Transportation Advisory Committee will be responsible for carrying out the following:
 - A. Establishment of goals, priorities, and objectives for the transportation planning process.
 - B. Endorsement and review of changes to adopted transportation plans within the RPO.
 - C. Endorsement, review and approval of a Planning Work Program (PWP) for transportation planning which defines work tasks and responsibilities for the various agencies participating in the RPO.
 - D. Endorsement, review and approval of transportation improvement projects which support and enhance regional and local transportation within the five county RPO.
2. The membership of the TAC shall consist of the following:
 - A. One County Commissioner representing Alexander County and one municipal elected official from Taylorsville.
 - B. One County Commissioner representing Burke County.
 - C. One County Commissioner representing Caldwell County.
 - D. One County Commissioner representing Catawba County.
 - E. One County Commissioner representing Iredell County.
 - F. One member from the North Carolina Board of Transportation representing Divisions 11, 12, 13, or at-large.

3. Each voting representative on the TAC shall have one vote.
4. The elected official representing each county and municipality on the TAC shall be selected every two years by their respective boards. While individual representation may change at the discretion of the elected boards, each county and municipality shall have a seat on the TAC so long as the county is a member of the RPO.
5. An alternate for each TAC member shall be designated provided they meet the same qualifications as the appointee.
6. An RPO TAC membership roster will be compiled and updated at least annually, listing each attendee and alternate, if applicable, for each member county or municipality. Any member who fails to attend, or makes arrangements for an alternate to attend, two (2) consecutive meetings will be designated as occupying a vacant seat which will not count towards a quorum. Attendance at future meetings will reinstate the member.
7. A quorum is required for the transaction of all business, including conducting meetings or hearings, participating in deliberations, or voting upon or otherwise transacting the public business. A quorum consists of 51% of the active members of the TAC, plus as many additional members as may be required to ensure that 51% of possible votes are present. The TAC will meet as often as it is deemed necessary, appropriate and advisable. On the basis of majority vote of its membership, the TAC may elect a member of the committee to act as chairperson with the responsibility for coordination of the committee's activities.
8. Western Piedmont Council of Governments will provide staff to the TAC.

Section 4. Establishment of Rural Technical Coordinating Committee (RTCC). A Rural Technical Coordinating Committee shall be established with the responsibility of general review, guidance, and coordination of the transportation planning process for the Rural Transportation Planning Organization (RPO) and the responsibility for making recommendations to the respective local, state, and federal governmental agencies and the Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) regarding any necessary actions relating to the continuing transportation planning process.

1. The RTCC shall be responsible for development, review, and recommendation for approval of the planning work program (PWP) for the RPO, the State Transportation Improvement Program, and revisions to the State Transportation Improvement Program.
2. Membership of the Rural Technical Coordinating Committee (RTCC) shall include technical representatives from all local and state governmental agencies directly related to and concerned with the transportation planning process for the RPO planning area. Initially, the membership shall include, but may not be limited to, the following:
 - A. County Manager (or his designee) from Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba and Iredell Counties.
 - B. The Chief Administrative Official (or his designee) from the municipality of Taylorsville.
 - C. Planning Director from Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba and Iredell Counties.
 - D. Planning Director, Planner, Planning Board member or citizen from the municipality Taylorsville.
 - E. Division Engineer serving or his/her designated representative.
 - F. Division Engineer serving or his/her designated representative.
 - G. Division Engineer serving or his/her designated representative.

- H. Manager, Transportation Planning Branch or his/her designated representative.
- I. Area Traffic Engineer, Division of Highways, Traffic Engineering Branch, North Carolina Department of Transportation.
- J. Executive Director, Western Piedmont Council of Governments.
- K. Transportation Planner, Western Piedmont Council of Governments.
- L. Representative from the Chamber of Commerce from Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba and Iredell Counties.

3. Membership of the TCC may be altered on the basis of a majority vote of its membership and approval of the TAC of the RPO. One alternate may be designated for each member providing they meet the same criteria as the original appointee. Membership may be further defined in the duly adopted bylaws. An RPO TCC membership roster will be compiled, and updated at least annually, listing each attendee and alternate, if applicable, for each member county or municipality. The membership of a county or municipality member who fails to send the appointee or alternate to two (2) consecutive RPO meetings will be designated as a vacant seat and will not count toward the quorum. Attendance at future meetings will reinstate the member.

4. A quorum is required for the transaction of all business, including conducting meetings or hearings, participating in deliberations, or voting upon or otherwise transacting the public business. A quorum consists of 51% of the active members of the TCC, plus as many additional members as required to ensure that 51% of possible votes are present. The TCC shall meet when it is deemed necessary, appropriate and advisable. The TCC will be staffed by the Council of Governments. The TCC shall by majority vote of the membership elect one member to serve as a Chairman with the responsibility for coordinating the committee's activities. Membership of the TCC may be altered on the basis of a majority vote of its membership and approval of the TAC of the RPO.

5. Western Piedmont Council of Governments will provide staff to the TCC.

Section 5. Commitment to the Rural Planning Process. It is further agreed that all participating agencies will assist in the Rural Transportation planning process by providing planning assistance (where possible), data, and inventories in accordance with the approved work program.

Section 6. Staff Support and Coordination. Each county and its RPO member jurisdictions shall have the support of the RPO staff in developing local transportation projects and priorities. Each member agrees to coordinate its transportation plans with those of other RPO members. Additionally, by consensus, the RPO may identify projects of a regional nature for development and presentation to NCDOT for consideration.

Section 7. Parties to this Memorandum of Understanding may terminate their participation in the continuing transportation planning process by giving 90 days written notice to the other parties to the date of termination.

Section 8. This Amended Memorandum of Understanding supersedes and replaces any prior memorandum(s) of understanding between the Parties regarding the RPO.

Section 9. In witness whereof, the parties of the Memorandum of Understanding have been authorized by appropriate and proper resolutions, and/or legislative authority to sign this Memorandum of Understanding, this the 24th day of September, 2013.

B. Finance.

The Board received a report on the County's independent audit for fiscal year 2012-2013 and on the County's Comprehensive Annual Finance Report for FY 2012-2032. 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, 2013, which showed that the County continued to deliver services in a prudent fiscal manner.

Catawba County has traditionally had a goal to keep two months' worth of operating expenses in reserve in part because of cash flow issues since property tax bills are sent to taxpayers in July but revenues are slow to come in, as most taxpayers wait until near the January deadline to make payments. The reserve is also kept in case of emergency circumstances, and to insure adequate funds are available to meet urgent economic development opportunities that may arise during the course of the year. The audit report showed that the County has 23.7% in reserve for fiscal year 2012-13, which exceeds the statutory amount of 16%.

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. Chair Barnes stated she appreciated the efforts of both Martin Starnes and Associates and County staff. Vice-Chair Isenhower made a motion to accept both the audit report and the Comprehensive Annual Finance Report . The motion carried unanimously.

C. Economic Development Corporation.

Economic Development Corporation President Scott Millar presented a request for the Board to enter into a partnership with the City of Claremont and the EDC Committee of 100 to encourage the private development of a shell manufacturing building to facilitate the creation of new jobs and future tax base. This is a priority of the Innovate Catawba program. A recent competitiveness analysis performed by the Southern Growth Policy Board highlighted the lack of modern, high-ceiling manufacturing buildings in Catawba County as an impediment for new industry recruitment. Competitor counties inside the region and across the Southeast have located new jobs and increased tax base due to a focus on encouraging and developing shell buildings suitable for new and expanding industry location, with many of them having success as a result. Innovate Catawba, the County-wide effort to transform Catawba County's economic competitiveness, has a focused initiative to develop competitively priced sites and buildings in order to facilitate such opportunities, and this project is not only trying to result in that singular building but to serve as a model for other potential public and private partnerships that may result in the availability of one or more shell buildings at any given time within Catawba County, and the potential for more jobs and tax base generation.

BG&A Properties, LLC, owns an approximate 10 acre graded site in Claremont International Business Park which has been independently appraised at \$295,000, and has proposed the construction of an expandable, 51,200 square foot shell manufacturing facility with ceiling height of 30 feet. The agreed upon construction cost of this facility is \$1,442,000. The facility would be of an attractive, insulated, pre-cast concrete construction according to agreed upon specifications. BG&A would be responsible for financing and constructing the facility within a given timeframe and for the cost and risk associated with the facility should it not sell during the timeframe considered under this proposal.

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes, the County, the City of Claremont, and the EDC's Committee of 100 would all be participants in the agreement to share initial costs and carrying costs to encourage BG&A to take on the substantial risk associated with this speculative building.

Initial Building and Permitting Fees: The City and County agree to waive any soil and erosion permit fees and construction permitting fees under their control, as well as any impact fees or utility connection and tap fees that may be associated with the project.

Grants: The City of Claremont agrees to grant back an amount equal to any property taxes received on the building for the initial construction period and a period of up to 48 months from issuance of a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy or until the sale of the shell facility, whichever comes first. Catawba County agrees to grant back an amount equal to any property taxes received on the building for the initial construction period and a period of up to 36 months from issuance of a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy or until the sale of the shell facility, whichever comes first.

Carrying Cost Assistance by the EDC, Claremont, and Catawba County: “Carrying Cost Assistance” consists of facility interest costs, insurance, and electricity costs for the facility as described in the contract. The Catawba County Economic Development Corporation’s Committee of 100 agrees to provide \$10,000 in assistance for the project to defray facility costs for interest, electricity and insurance up to three times in months 1, 13, and 25 following issuance of a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy or until the sale of the shell facility, whichever comes first. The City of Claremont agrees to provide \$36,000 per year for a maximum of three years in assistance for the project to defray facility costs for interest, electricity and insurance following issuance of a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy or until the sale of the shell facility, whichever comes first. Catawba County agrees to provide \$36,000 per year for a maximum of three years in assistance for the project to defray facility costs for interest, electricity, and insurance following issuance of a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy or until the sale of the shell facility, whichever comes first.

If the building is sold during the first 36 months from the issuance of a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy, the proceeds from the sale will be distributed in the following order: 1) payment for the land in the amount of \$295,000; 2) payment for the shell facility in the amount of \$1,442,000; 3) any remaining proceeds will be distributed to the County, City of Claremont and the EDC proportionately to the percentage of Carrying Cost Assistance to date up to 100%; and 4) any remaining funds will be distributed to BG&A.

If the building is sold during months 37-42 as a result of marketing activities by the EDC, City, or County during the initial 36 months from the issuance of a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy, the proceeds from the sale will be distributed in the following order: 1) payment for the land in the amount of \$295,000; 2) payment for the shell facility in the amount of \$1,442,000; 3) any remaining proceeds will be distributed to the County, City of Claremont, EDC, and any costs BG&A has incurred during months 37-42 on interest, insurance, electricity and property taxes will be distributed proportionately to the percentage of Carrying Cost Assistance to date up to 100% of those expenses, and 4) any remaining funds will be distributed to BG&A.

Except under the special circumstance of a buyer in months 37-42, no Carry Cost Assistance reimbursement will be made after 36 months from the issuance of the Temporary Certificate of Occupancy to the City, County or EDC should the facility not be sold in that period of time.

Commissioner Hunsucker confirmed that the building would be similar in size to that of the Bed, Bath and Beyond building and that the appraisal of the property was conducted by an independent appraiser. Chair Barnes confirmed that the EDC would market the building but anyone interested in marketing it, could.

Vice-Chair Isenhower suggested two changes to the contract – one, under paragraph 10B – regarding the voting by parties to the agreement: voting would address sales price, terms and the number of jobs guaranteed by the end user. The second, under paragraph 11C – clearly defines those who would be reimbursed if the sale of the property occurs in the first 36 months of the contract. The Board approved the contract with these suggested changes. Vice-Chair Isenhower made a motion to enter into the proposed partnership **with the changes to the contract indicated above.** The motion carried unanimously. The amended contract is not yet available for inclusion in the minutes.

12. Other Items of Business:
Chair Barnes presented proposed Board goals for Fiscal Year 2014-15. 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 2014-15.

The Board’s proposed Goals for FY 2014-15 are:

1. 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.

Specific strategies include:

a. Facilitate spec building space in order to enhance the EDC's recruitment efforts for jobs and increased tax base.

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

c. Partner with the private sector and municipalities to focus on a framework to increase small and/or entrepreneurial businesses.

d. Partner with the private and public sectors to implement Innovate Catawba.

2. Increase citizens' awareness of County programs and services and promote healthy activities throughout the County by strengthening communications and outreach to citizens.

3. To ensure transportation connectivity of Catawba County to the rest of the region, continue to advocate for completion of the widening of Highway 16.

4. Support the three school systems and Catawba Valley Community College as they work to increase the educational attainment level in Catawba County.

Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to adopt these goals. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Beatty then thanked Sherry Butler and the Catawba County School Board for nominating the Catawba County Board of Commissioners as the North Carolina School Board Association's Board of Commissioners of the Year. The Board of Commissioners was awarded this honor on November 19, 2013. Commissioner Beatty also recognized Ms. Butler and Jeanne Jarrett for their individual awards by this Association.

13. Attorney's Report: None.

14. Manager's Report: County Manager J. Thomas Lundy requested the Board consider a closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6) to consider the qualification, competence and performance of an individual public officer or employee. Mr. Lundy did not anticipate any action to be taken upon return to open session. Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to move into closed session at 11:07 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.

15. Adjournment. The Board returned to open session at 11:15 a.m. No action was taken. Commissioner Beatty made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Katherine W. Barnes, Chair
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Barbara E. Morris
County Clerk