

Special Session, December 7, 2012, 8:00 a.m.
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Friday, December 7, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. in the Executive Board Room of Catawba Valley Medical Center, 810 Fairgrove Church Road SE, Hickory, North Carolina. The purpose of this special meeting was to hold a Board Retreat.

Present were Chair Katherine W. Barnes and Commissioners Dan A. Hunsucker, Barbara G. Beatty and Randy Isenhower.

Vice-Chair Lynn M. Lail was present for the meeting through teleconferencing starting at 1:30 p.m. and had copies of all materials pertaining to the meeting.

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

Agenda:

8:00 Breakfast was served for attendees. Chair Katherine W. Barnes started the day's agenda at 8:23 a.m.

8:23 Performance Dashboard. *Presented by Budget Analyst Paul Murray and Assistant County Manager Mary Furtado.*

Assistant County Manager Mary Furtado outlined the staff's efforts to launch a "Performance Dashboard", a program that will be the gateway for hundreds of pieces of data on dozens of topics related to the County government, demographics and quality of life. The Dashboard, which may be accessed on the County's website, offers users a choice of exploring data grouped into eight broad categories. Clicking on the button for each category allows the user to drill down into many other data sets within that content area. Ms. Furtado outlined the work that had taken place for over a year to research other counties' dashboards and to determine what data should be included in the program. The dashboard was described as a visual display of data which covers about five years and a broad range of services. Ms. Furtado stated the reason for such a program was for transparency and accountability and it would enable citizens to see how the County was doing at any time. It shows where and how tax dollars are spent, highlights the broad range of County services that are provided, and emphasizes the County's focus on generating results that improve quality of life for our community. The dashboard also allows the County to benchmark its performance against the State and its peers, and reports on the status of the various goals and objectives.

Program creator Budget Analyst Paul Murray then demonstrated the dashboard and walked Board members through the ease of obtaining data on General County Information, Education, Public Safety, Human Services, Economic and Physical Development, Culture, Environmental Quality and General Government. Mr. Murray worked with County departments and schools in what data should be included and how it should be displayed. He ensured the data was accurate and clear in its storytelling.

After discussions with Board members, the roll out date was changed to ensure that Board members had time to review the dashboard. It was determined that two charts on per pupil schools funding with charts on total schools funding be modified and the captions corrected. Commissioner Hunsucker suggested additional agricultural facts be included such as types of crops and the fiscal impact of farming in the County. A different, more descriptive title for the program was advised to make it more easily understandable by citizens when linking to it from the County home page.

Chair Barnes said it was a great tool for people to understand the board services provided by the County and it would be useful for people coming into the area.

- 9:15 Food and Farm Sustainability Plan. *Presented by Assistant County Manager Mary Furtado and Commissioner Barbara Beatty.*

Assistant County Manager Mary Furtado updated the Board on the Food and Farm Sustainability Plan. The objectives of the plan are to sustain agricultural land in the County, recruit younger farmers and provide tools for farm transitioning, focus on agricultural economic development and agri-tourism and to ensure local food sustainability by developing & marketing "Farm to Fork" initiative. To this end, a working committee was convened and discussions took place regarding agricultural trends in the County. Well attended community meetings took place to engage citizens in identifying opportunities and finally plan recommendations and strategies were drafted. Ms. Furtado reviewed the draft plan with Board members and outlined the next steps to be taken. In early 2013, community meetings will be held to share the draft plan and solicit feedback. That feedback will be reviewed and plan revisions will be made. In March 2013 it is anticipated that the draft plan will be presented to the Planning Board and thereafter, in April 2013, the draft plan will go to the Board of Commissioners for adoption, with implementation in May 2013.

Cooperative Extension Director Jeff Carpenter joined in discussions regarding the plan. Commissioner Hunsucker indicated it must be stressed that farming is a business and profit is not a guarantee. Both Ms. Furtado and County Manager Lundy stressed this was a community plan and not just an effort by County staff and Cooperative Extension and for the plan to be a success, all must participate. Vice-Chair Beatty commended everyone's efforts in developing this plan.

- 10:00 Break – Board members received an update on the new pavilion at CVMC and were given a short tour of the facility.

- 10:40 2013 Legislative Goals. *Presented by Assistant County Manager Dewey Harris.*

Assistant County Manager Dewey Harris reviewed proposed legislative goals for the 2013 Long Session. These proposed goals were as follows:

- Ensure adequate funding and services for vulnerable adults as mandated
- Retain "Electing" counties financial incentives
- Ensure adequate child protective services funding
- Ensure adequate funding for mental health services for vulnerable children
- Oppose legislation that would reduce direct childcare subsidy funding and administrative dollars
- Oppose the brokered system for Medicaid Transportation
- Expedite NCFAST automation and policy simplification
- Increase support for PH Accreditation Program
- Simplification of County Economic Distress Tiering System
- Retain state funding for accredited Child Advocacy Centers
- Allow local flexibility with Wagner-Peyser dollars
- Ensure anonymity of children working with Child Protective Service by using unmarked cars
- Oppose any bill that weakens the smoke-free restaurant and bar laws.

Social Services Director John Eller joined in these discussions. After discussions, the NCFAST goal was removed; the Wagner-Peyser goal was removed; the language in goals "ensure adequate funding" should be changed to "oppose overall decrease in funding"; "Electing" county goal reworded to retain flexibility; remove PH accreditation ; reword Tiering goal to include State must be at the table; need further study on the use of unmarked cars for Child Protective Services; remove smoke-free restaurant goal.

- 11:55 CVCC's Vision on Seamless Education Workforce Development. *Presented by CVCC President Garrett Hinshaw.*

Dr. Garrett Hinshaw updated the Board on efforts at CVCC.

- 12:30 Lunch - Exchange between Board Members about boards and committees on which they serve.

Commissioner Lynn Lail joined the meeting by teleconferencing at 1:30 p.m.

December 7, 2012, MB#52
Board Retreat

- 1:30 Justice Center Project Update. *Presented by Finance Director Rodney Miller.*
Finance Director Rodney Miller updated the board on the Justice Center Project. He advised that the County had an opportunity to obtain a used generator for the project which would result in a \$600,000 savings. Commissioner Hunsucker wanted to know the age (8 years old) and the life left on the generator (18 to 22 years remaining). Commissioner Hunsucker directed that the number of hours on the generator should be known and that staff physically look at the equipment.
- When discussing the parking deck, Commissioner Lail said the appearance was very important and Commissioner Hunsucker said motion lights should be looked into rather than using steady lights.
- Mr. Miller indicated they were still studying whether some oak trees could be saved in the proposed parking area but it had not yet been determined.
- 2:00 Southern Growth Economic Competitiveness Report. *Presented by Ted Abernathy, Southern Growth Policy Board.*
Mr. Ted Abernathy presented the Southern Growth Economic Competitive Report. Department Heads Mark Logan, Barry Edwards, Jacky Eubanks, Terry Bledsoe, Scott Millar and Donna Spencer as well as Catawba County Schools Superintendent Dan Brigman joined the meeting for this presentation.
- ntation, Chair Barnes noted it had been a long struggle to determine who we are and how we identify ourselves to others.
- Department Heads, Superintendent Brigman and Mr. Abernathy left the meeting.
- 3:43 Closed Session – County Attorney Debra Bechtel requested the Board consider moving into closed session Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege. No action was anticipated after return to open session. Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to move into closed session for the above stated reason. The motion carried unanimously
- 4:50 The Board returned to open session. No action was taken. The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Katherine W. Barnes, Chair
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Barbara E. Morris
County Clerk