

Catawba County Board of Commissioners  
 Regular Session, Monday, July 7, 2008, 9:30 a.m.

**Animal Shelter**

Appropriation for heating and air improvements 139 07/07/08

**Appointments**

Criminal Partnership Advisory Board 137 07/07/08  
 Public Health Board 137 07/07/08  
 City of Conover Board of Adjustment 137 07/07/08  
 City of Maiden Board of Adjustment 137 07/07/08  
 Juvenile Crime Prevention Council 137 07/07/08  
 Area Board for Mental Health Partners 137 07/07/08  
 Voting Delegate for NCACC Annual Conference 137 07/07/08

**Awards**

NACo Achievement Awards 137 07/07/08

**Catawba County Schools**

Donation of 1994 F-250 truck 139 07/07/08

**Government Center**

Appropriation for replacement of chiller 138 07/07/08

**Greater Hickory Classic**

Waiving building permit fees 140 07/07/08

**Hickory City Schools**

Advance funds/transfer funds to complete renovation at Hickory High School 140 07/07/08

**Purchasing**

Donation of 1994 F-250 truck to Catawba County Schools 139 07/07/08

**Reinventing**

Social Services – personnel changes 140 07/07/08

**Resolution**

Declaring Surplus Property 139 07/07/08

**Social Services**

Reinventing – Personnel changes 140 07/07/08

**Utilities and Engineering**

Waiving of building permit fees for Greater Hickory Classic 140 07/07/08

The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, July 7, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. in the 1924 Courthouse, Robert E. Hibbitts Meeting Room, 30 North College Avenue, Newton, North Carolina.

Present were Chair Katherine W. Barnes, Vice-Chair Lynn Lail and Commissioners Dan Hunsucker, Barbara G. Beatty and Glenn E. Barger.

Also present were County Manager J. Thomas Lundy, Assistant County Manager Lee Worsley, County Attorney Debra Bechtel, Deputy County Attorney Anne Marie Pease and County Clerk Barbara Morris.

1. Chair Katherine W. Barnes called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

2. Commissioner Glenn Barger led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Vice-Chair Lynn Lail offered the invocation.
4. Commissioner Dan Hunsucker made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Session and Closed Session of Monday, June 16, 2008 and the Special Meeting of Wednesday, June 25, 2008. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Recognition of Special Guests: Chair Barnes welcomed everyone present and specifically Sarah Talbert from the Hickory School Board, Superintendent Dr. Ric Vandett, Hickory Mayor Pro Tem Jill Patton, Town of Catawba Manager Jonathan Kanipe and Lewis Woods.
6. Comments for Items not on the Agenda. None.
7. Presentations:
  - a. Commissioner Barger presented Jo Sloan, Family Support Program Manager, with a National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Award to the Department of Social Services' Expedited Paternity Testing Program. NACo Achievement Awards give national recognition to significant and innovative programs that improve county organization, management and service delivery. Catawba County has won 186 awards over the history of the NACo program and has been honored during each of the program's 39 years. This program expedited the paternity testing process for families appearing before the court in child welfare matters. Juvenile Court judges who hear cases relating to child abuse, neglect and dependency frequently require paternity testing to verify the paternity of children whose cases are before the court, and ensure the court is addressing the rights of biological parents. This previously required scheduling an appointment with an independent testing lab. Many parents are difficult to locate and even more difficult to motivate to appear at a lab for a paternity test. As a result of the program, staff were trained to do paternity testing, and now attend court sessions and perform the tests as soon as the order for paternity testing is given.
  - b. Commissioner Hunsucker presented Barry Edwards, Utilities and Engineering Director, with a National Association of Counties Achievement Award to the County's Regional EcoComplex and Resource Recovery Facility. The EcoComplex was designated "Best of Category" in the Environment Protection and Energy category of the NACo Awards program. The EcoComplex, in and near the Blackburn Landfill, is designed to promote economic development and create new jobs in the green energy, green business, agricultural and environmental sectors. It will accommodate research involving all aspects related to biologically-derived energy recovery and use, as well as the research of alternative fuels and minimization of greenhouse gases for environmental, agricultural and energy use.
8. Appointments.

Vice-Chair Lail recommended the following reappointments to the Criminal Partnership Advisory Board: Vanessa Anderson for a first term; Kathy Clay for a second term; Janet Crump for a second term; John Hardy for a fifth term; Kelly Isenhour for a third term; Pam Knuckles for a second term; Phillip Pruett for a second term and Brent Whitener for a third term. These terms will expire on June 30, 2011.

Commissioner Hunsucker recommended the appointment of Dr. William Geideman for a first term in the physician category on the Public Health Board to succeed Dr. William Pekman who was not eligible for reappointment. Dr. Geideman's appointment will expire June 30, 2011. Commissioner Hunsucker also recommended the reappointment of Ray Hilderbran for a fourth term and Harvey Lee Sipe for a third term as perimeter members on the City of Conover Board of Adjustment.

Commissioner Barbara Beatty recommended the reappointment of Roger Isenhour for a first term and Lewis Parlier for a fourth term as perimeter members of the City of Maiden Board of Adjustment. These terms will expire on June 30, 2011.

Chair Barnes recommended the appointment of the following individuals to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council: Ronn Abernathy for a third term; David Abernathy for a second term; Bobby Boyd for a fifth term; Jennie Connor for a third term; Mac McLeod for a second term; Judy Ikerd for a fifth term (both as the County Manager's and Chair Barnes designee); Brandi Tolbert for a second term and Paul Holden for a second term. These reappointment terms expire June 30, 2009. She also recommended the reappointment of Dr. Barry Redmond for a second term that expires on June 30, 2010. Chair Barnes recommended the following appointments to this Board: Heather Reedy for a first term as the District Attorney Designee, expiring June 30, 2010; Jay Jackson for a first term as a Police Chief Designee, expiring June 30, 2009; Jennifer Fulkerson for a first term in the Juvenile Court Attorney category, expiring June 30, 2010; Tara Conrad for a first term as the Mental Health Director designee, term expiring June 30, 2010; Rhonda Stikeleather for a first term as the Public Health Director's designee, expiring June 10, 2010, and Kathy Isenhour for a first term as the Hickory Schools Designee, expiring June 2010.

Chair Barnes recommended the following appointments to the newly formed Area Board for Mental Health Partners. Terms to be effective on July 1, 2008: John Dayberry (openly declared consumer in recovery from addiction) – one year term expiring on June 30, 2009; Ray Von Beatty, Ph.D. (Member at Large) – two year term expiring on June 30, 2010; Danny Graves – (family member or individual from citizens' organization composed primarily of consumers or their family members representing the interests of individuals with developmental disabilities) – two year term expiring on June 30, 2010; Joseph Beaman, Jr. (individual with financial expertise) – three year term expiring on June 30, 2011; Cynthia Houser (family member or individual from citizens' organization composed primarily of consumers or their family members representing the interests of individuals with developmental disabilities) – three year term expiring on June 30, 2011; Michele Hamby (clinical professional from the fields of mental health, developmental disabilities or substance abuse) – three year term expiring on June 30, 2011; and Katherine W. Barnes – (County Commissioner) – ex-officio.

Chair Barnes recommended herself as voting delegate to the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Annual Conference held in Craven County on August 21-24, 2008.

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

9. Consent Agenda:

County Manager Lundy presented the following items for Board consideration under the Consent Agenda. All of these items had been reviewed by Subcommittees and recommended for Board approval:

a. A request to appropriate \$203,300 from the General Capital Projects Fund for replacement of the chiller at the Government Center in Newton, and associated costs. On May 26, 2008, the air conditioning at the Government Center stopped working. Staff determined that the motor that operates the chiller unit had stopped working and the manufacturer was called in to inspect. A rental chiller was ordered, placed at the rear of the building, and put in operation the following day. The existing chiller and motor were installed when the Government Center was built in 1990. Damage to the chiller itself could not be determined, and the useful life of the chiller with a new motor was unknown. The chiller operates year round due to the heat load on the building. Staff engaged two engineering firms to provide mechanical and electrical design work for a new chiller, in addition to the price for a new motor. Brittain Engineering was selected, based on the lowest fee of \$8,800 and the company's experience on past County projects. The cost to replace the motor alone was \$58,000, and would require tearing down the unit and installing the new motor. Pricing for replacement chillers and installation included several options: 1) a water-cooled 192 ton chiller to be located in the basement of the building (approximate cost \$150,000), an air-cooled 200 ton chiller located on a concrete pad behind the building (approx. cost \$175,000), or a new MultiStack chiller, to be located in the basement (approx. cost \$175,000). After reviewing all options, staff recommended the MultiStack chiller system for several reasons. The system uses two 80-ton Turbo-Core compressors bolted together for 160 ton capacity so, if one goes out, the other compressor will provide some backup cooling for the building. Secondly, the Turbo-Core is the most efficient of the chiller options and uses a more environmentally friendly coolant. The

MultiStack is also much quieter than the other models. Several reference checks on the MultiStack were favorable, with little or no maintenance problems associated with it.

110-440151-985000	Other Equipment	\$183,800
110-440151-857900	Contracted Services	\$19,500
110-190050-695410	Transfer from General Capital Projects	\$203,300

410-460100-995110-19940	Transfer to General Fund	\$203,300
410-460100-690100	Fund Balance Appropriated	\$203,300

b. A request to appropriate \$125,500 from the General Capital Projects Fund Balance for heating and air conditioning improvements at the Animal Shelter. The North Carolina Department of Agriculture recommends an ambient temperature in shelters of between 50 and 85 degrees Fahrenheit. Ambient temperatures above 85 degrees create an environment that encourages bacterial growth and the spread of disease, posing a threat to animals housed under those conditions. These improvements were originally included in the County's Fiscal Year 2009/2010 Capital Improvement Plan. After reviewing the Department of Agriculture regulations, County staff determined the current system is not able to adequately meet these requirements, so the project was expedited. The current kennel area has hanging gas heaters and wet fans that do not maintain the minimum ambient temperature requirements on extremely hot days. Also, the quarantine building does not have hot water, another new requirement of the Department of Agriculture for sterilization purposes. Plans and specifications were prepared by Brittain Engineering and informal bids were received on May 29, 2008. Ingold Company of Hickory is the lowest responsible bidder for a total bid of \$125,500, including a hot water heater in the quarantine building with a heater unit.

Appropriation Increase

<u>Revenue</u>		<u>Expense</u>	
410-460100-690100	\$125,500	410-460100-988000	\$125,500
		Building Structures & Improvements	

c. A request for the Board to adopt a resolution to donate a vehicle to the Catawba County Schools. A 1994 Ford F-250 truck used by the County's Maintenance Department has 136,000 miles. It is of no further use to the County and has an approximate value of \$3,000. Catawba County Schools requested the truck for use by summer cleaning crews and as a spare on a regular basis. Under North Carolina General Statute 160A-274, a governmental unit may transfer personal property to another governmental unit with or without monetary consideration, upon action by a governing body. The resolution read as follows:

**Resolution #2008-  
DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY AND DONATION TO CATAWBA COUNTY  
SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, the County has the authority to declare property no longer needed as surplus and donate said property to another governmental unit account to the precepts of NCGS 160A-274; and

WHEREAS, the following property is no longer needed for any governmental use by Catawba County:

1994 Ford F250 Service Truck

WHEREAS, said vehicle shall be given to Catawba County Schools to be used for a governmental purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners hereby declares said property as surplus and authorizes the vehicle to be donated to Catawba County Schools.

This the 7<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2008.

d. A request for the Board to waive building permit fees for the 2008 Greater Hickory Classic. On May 29, 2008, the County received a request from Peter Fisch, Tournament Manager of the Greater Hickory Classic at Rock Barn, to waive permit fees for the 2008 Greater Hickory Classic, scheduled to be held at the Rock Barn Golf and Spa in Conover from September 8-14, 2008. Building permit

fees have been waived for all previous Greater Hickory Classic events. The approval to waive permit fees is applicable only to the Catawba County Fee Schedule, Building Permit Fees, and will not negate permit issuance and inspections to protect the safety, health and welfare of the citizens of, and visitors to, Catawba County. The waived permit fees are estimated to be less than \$5,000. The Greater Hickory Classic at Rock Barn brings thousands of visitors to the County and has significant impact on the local economy.

Chair Barnes asked if any Board member wished to have an item broken out of the consent agenda and none were requested. Commissioner Barger made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Departmental Reports.

A. Hickory City Schools.

Dr. Ric Vandett, Superintendent of Hickory City Schools, came forward and asked the Board to approve a request from the Hickory Public Schools to advance funds originally planned for fiscal year 2011/12, transfer funds remaining from a completed Fitness and Wellness Center Project, and use the system's fiscal year 2006/07 lottery proceeds to complete a renovation project at Hickory High School. In fiscal year 2007/08, the Board set aside two cents of the property tax rate to finance school construction over a four-year period. Projects included in the first year funding cycle were a new Snow Creek Elementary School and improvements and/or additions to Bunker Hill, Bandys, Newton-Conover and Hickory High Schools. Construction has begun on all of these projects except Hickory High. The Hickory High project consists of a complete replacement of the existing heating, venting and air conditioning system; restoration of the ceiling, lights and electrical systems; removal of asbestos and replacement of fire rated ceiling tiles; and replacement on the roof of the building built in 1970. Bids for the project received in June totaled \$7,647,577. Funding approved in fiscal year 2007/08 for this project was \$3,940,000. Funds originally planned in fiscal year 2010/11 in the amount of \$2,750,000 would be advanced to supplement the project, and financed this fall.

On April 7, 2008, the Board approved the issuance of 2007 Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZABs) in the amount of \$700,000, through the State of North Carolina. These funds were combined with County funds to construct a Fitness and Wellness Center at Hickory High School. After accounting for legal and financing fees, \$680,000 in QZAB funds were applied to the project. The County funds originally dedicated for the wellness center project will be transferred to the Hickory High School Renovation Project. Finally, the Hickory Public Schools has requested to use its fiscal year 2006/07 lottery funds, totaling \$277,577 including interest, for the renovation project. The other two school systems used their lottery proceeds earlier this year. Hickory Public Schools officials are aware that this advance of funds will exhaust all funds in the four year construction cycle for the school system.

Budget revision:

420-750100-865200-32104-3-09	HHS-Fitness & Wellness Center	\$680,000
420-750050-995423-30050-9-02	Transfer to School Construction	\$680,000
423-740100-865200-32104-2-02	Hickory High School Renovation	\$3,707,577
423-740050-695420	Transfer from School Capital Fund	\$680,000
423-740050-630501	Proceeds from Lottery Funds	\$277,577
423-740050-690450	Proceeds from Installment Purchase	\$2,750,000

Commissioner Beatty made a motion to approve this request. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Other items of Business.

Section II F of the 2008-2009 Budget Ordinance states: "Reinventing Departments may create or abolish positions which impact the outcomes approved by the Board of Commissioners and within available revenues upon summary approval of the Board of Commissioners. Approval will come at the next regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners' meeting and will be attached and approved as part of the minutes."

Under this provision of the Budget Ordinance, the following personnel changes have been made to Social Services' budget:

7.1 Family NET Outpatient Therapists:

In order to address the continuing decrease in reimbursement rates from Medicaid as well as State Mental Health funds - we have reorganized our outpatient therapy units. Our focus will be to more effectively utilize enhanced services to address consumer needs while ensuring a capacity to address general outpatient needs.

1 Work First Human Services Coordinator II:

This reduction is aligned with the decrease in Work First caseloads and the need to reduce cost for budget considerations.

1 Adult Services Social Worker II:

As a result of reorganizing our intake unit this vacant position is no longer needed. Some duties will move to existing Work First staff.

.5 Family NET SW II (QP)

Reduction of vacant position due to the reorganization of Community Support Services and need to reduce expenses due to limited/reduced revenue.

1.5 Human Resource Aides:

As a result of the reorganization of the transportation unit, these vacant positions will be eliminated as we move from full time staff to hourly part time as a cost cutting measure.

1 Program Manager:

As a result of our outpatient reorganization at Family NET this vacant position will be eliminated in order to better align staffing with supervisory duties and needs and reduce cost.

.5 Physician:

As a result of updated State Mental Health reform requirements we will not need a staff MD. Additionally, the reorganization of therapeutic services will allow for contractual arrangements to cover the psychiatric need.

1 Accounting Specialist III

Elimination of vacant position due to efficiencies created by implementation of new computer system and associated reorganization of administrative staff.

12. Attorneys' Report. None.
13. Manager's Report. None.
14. Adjournment: Chair Barnes adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

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Katherine W. Barnes, Chair  
Board of Commissioners

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Barbara E. Morris, County Clerk